



The CASA Voice

CASA: Putting Children First March 2016 Issue

CASA For the Highland Lakes Area: Serving Blanco, Burnet,
Lampasas, Llano and San Saba Counties
1719 Ridgeview
Kingsland, TX 78639

CASA Quick Stats

Number of children being served by our CASA program today:

199

Number of Active Volunteers at CASA for the Highland Lakes Area:

71

Number of children currently being served from each of our counties:

Blanco - 15

Burnet - 78

Lampasas - 33

Llano - 49

San Saba - 24

Headline Story: Boots and BBQ was a HUGE Success!

Calendar of Events

- March 11th and 12th: Offroad Zomboree Fundraiser for CASA, more info on pg 3.
- April 1st: Ad Litem Training in Kerrville, more info on pg 3.
- April 8th: National Go BLUE Day for Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month.
- May 2nd: New Advocate Training Begins.
- May 21st: CASA Classic Golf Tournament at Lighthouse Country Club. See pg 4
- July 2nd: Garage Sale benefiting CASA. Pg 4



BOOTS & BBQ

benefiting CASA for the Highland Lakes

Thanks, once again, to all of our Boots and BBQ Sponsors!!

Title Sponsor: Johnson Sewell
Lincoln

Stetson Sponsors: Paceline Collision and
First State Bank Central Texas

Branding Iron Sponsors: Nightscenes
Landscape Lighting Professionals,
Ken McDaniel with Edward Jones in
Lampasas and KBEY Radio/Picayune

Horseshoe Sponsors: Lake Country Dental,
Wayne and Dottie Anderson,
Don and Anita Cruver, Dave and Debbie Johnson,
Vicki Strevey, Buttery Company, Benchmark
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Spurs Sponsors: 2 Bits a Dollar Bookkeeping, Frank
Reilly, Alan's Wrench, Mills Tree Service,
Dr. Mary Kelly Green



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BOOTS & BBQ



CASA for the Highland Lakes Area

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Beverly Bowmaster - Office Manager

Michele Boshears - Advocate Supervisor

Glenda Hartman - Advocate Supervisor

Amy Masuda - Advocate Supervisor

Kim Singleton- Advocate Supervisor

Thank you to everyone who supported CASA at our Boots and BBQ event! Thanks to all of our sponsors and to everyone who showed up to help. Also, we are so appreciative to all of our patrons! Each and every person involved with this event contributed and helped us raise more than \$35,000!!! This money will enable us to continue providing quality advocacy for abused and neglected children from our local area. Thanks again and see you all at Boots and BBQ next year!!!!

Boots and BBQ Highlights



Guests enjoyed a BBQ dinner cooked by JP Wilson and dancing to the music of Les Hartman!

Raffle prizes and a silent auction were also part of the fun. Far left: Manny and Cheri Trinidad are excited about their raffle prize. Above: the Blue Lacy Puppy donated by Calvin Boyd, was the most wanted silent auction prize! It brought \$900.

CASA For the Highland Lakes Area



April is Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month. Consider helping CASA "Stomp Out Child Abuse" by making a \$20 tax deductible donation in exchange for a t-shirt to wear on National Go Blue Day, showing your support of child victims! Contact our office for more information!!

Training Opportunity for Volunteers

6th Annual Child Protection Court Ad Litem Seminar

When: April 1st, all day event

Where: Kerrville, St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Tucker Hall

What: This training is sponsored by Hill Country CASA and the Child Protection Court Judges of the Hill Country Area.

The training agenda is full of great information to include legislative and case law updates. A panel of youth who have aged out of the foster care system will also be part of the training and these youth will share their perspective of foster care and what attorneys and CASA volunteers can do to help them successfully navigate the child welfare system.

Pricing: the cost to register is \$50, but scholarships are available, so contact our office.

Pre-registration is required and closes March 18th.

Volunteer Spotlight

Meet Vicki Strevey, a Volunteer Advocate and a member of our Board of Directors!

Vicki has been a volunteer advocate for 7 years and she has served 6 during that time. When asked why she responded that when she first attended "there is volunteer activity and there is up at that point that she wanted her that CASA would be just that. She drawn to disadvantaged and under-



with CASA for the Highland Lakes Area families with a total of 11 CASA kids chose to volunteer with CASA, Vicki a program about CASA the speaker said, volunteer service". She made her mind time to be volunteer service and she knew also said that she loves children and is privileged children.

The most surprising thing Vicki says when she was working with a teenage She reported that everyone involved in he was successful, but he, unfortunately, rejected the help. Vicki recalls that he ran away shortly before turning 18 and she recalled this to be heartbreaking because many disadvantaged teens would have welcomed the opportunities that this young man was being offered.

that she's encountered as a volunteer was boy whose parents were not involved. this case worked very hard to ensure that

As a member of our board, Vicki recently chaired our Boots and BBQ fundraising event. She was delightfully surprised at how staff and volunteers all worked together to make the event a success. Vicki did an excellent job in chairing this event and the reality is that it came together because of her willingness to step up to the task and recruit competent help!!!

Little-Known Tidbits about Vicki: She is a proud Vietnam war veteran! When you see her, ask her more about this! Her stories are amazing! She also is a very proud mom of 3 and grandmother of 10!!!!

Vicki had some advice for potential volunteers that I think is most helpful: She says "So often, I have people tell me that they could never be a CASA volunteer because they could not bear to see children abused or hurting. I try to tell them that you learn to overlook how you feel and begin to think about how the child feels". Those words are very encouraging because our work as CASA's is to step outside of our comfort zone and provide hope to a child, something that Vicki knows a lot about! Thanks, Vicki, for everything that you do for CASA, both as an advocate and as a member of our board! We appreciate you more than you will ever know!!!



Sincerely, CASA Staff and Board Members

OFFROAD ZOMBOREE
MARCH 11-13, 2016

\$100 Per Rig
INCLUDES
WHEELING • CAMPING
1 FISH FRY TICKET • 1 RAFFLE TICKET

Fish Fry
\$15 PER PLATE

Raffle
\$5 PER TICKET
OR 5 FOR \$20

FISH FRY, RAFFLE, AND AUCTION SATURDAY NIGHT!

FOR MORE INFORMATION
325.388.3440

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Sponsors: 4 WHEEL PARTS, DISCOUNT TIRE DIRECT, Chick-fil-A, 5.11, GUNS+, HYPERTECH, DEEZEE, MAGNAFLOW, D Industries, SUDFACTORY.COM, Outfitters

Applause to Advocates!!!!!!!



Our Advocates do amazing things each and every day. Here are just a few things that we at the CASA office have been amazed about over the past month!!!!!!! Let's give each of these volunteers a great BIG round of APPLAUSE!!!!!!

- Our first applause goes out to **Jimmie Rushing** for standing strong with one of her CASA youth. She has been assigned as his CASA worker since 2008 and has truly been the one stable factor in this young man's life. This child went through multiple foster homes, several CPS case workers and his case was reviewed by more than 1 judge while he was in foster care. However, **Jimmie** provided stability and continuity during this young man's life. This CASA kid is no longer a "kid", as he turned 18 in November and his case was dismissed last month. **Jimmie** served with this youth for a total of 2734 days! Thanks, **Jimmie**, for seeing this young man through to the end! Your commitment to him is a great example of what a difference CASA volunteers make.
- Our next applause goes out to **Sandra Chapman**. **Sandra** has also been with her CASA kid for a very long time, as she's been serving on his case for the past 4 years. **Sandra's** CASA youth has also seen many foster home placements, several CPS caseworkers and more than 1 judge. However, **Sandra** has done a great job of sticking with him as well. **Sandra's** CASA youth is nearly 17 years old and has had some ups and downs. She helped to ensure that he completed his required treatment plan, which makes his future much brighter! Thanks, **Sandra**, for your tenacious spirit and for remaining steadfast in your advocacy for this youth! You have really made a significant difference for this young man!!!
- Our next round of applause goes out to a few of our newest advocates: Thank you to **Leo Boutte** and his wife **Janelle Boutte**. These two have jumped right in to their CASA cases after graduating with our most recent class of advocates last month. **Leo** hit the ground running and took a new case that was set for a hearing just 2 weeks after he graduated. He managed to talk to all of the family members, visit the children, talk to their teachers, write his first court report and advocate in court in this short time and **Janelle** is handling her case with just as much gusto! Way to go, guys! Thanks so much for stepping up to the plate so quickly!
- One more round of applause is in order for **Dave Hartig**. **Dave** is currently working with 4 CASA kids on 2 different cases. One case includes a teenage boy who is really struggling, emotionally, because of his situation. **Dave** does a great job of working with this boy and his teachers to ensure he has the emotional support he needs to succeed in school. **Dave** knows that the next several months are crucial to the future of this young man and he does a great job of ensuring his CASA youth that he's not alone. Thank you, **Dave**!!!!!!

Happy Birthday To Our Volunteers!



Chris Bussell
March 11th

Mary Beth Read
March 13th

Dave Hartig
March 20th

Betty Dove
March 21st

Debbie Massey
March 22nd

Special Announcements

- In-service Training for all of our volunteers is scheduled for March 31st at our office. We hope you all can make it! We will have a soup bar for lunch and will have Kelly Adams, the Special Education Director from Lampasas ISD here to provide Surrogate Parent Training. Contact Galyn at the office with questions or for more information.
- The 2nd Annual CASA Classic Golf Tournament is scheduled to occur on May 21st at Lighthouse Country Club in Kingsland. Last year this golf tournament was a lot of fun and a very successful fundraiser for CASA, as well. This year we want to fill the course again, so save the date and contact our office if you or your business are interested in sponsoring the event! More information to come!
- On July 2nd CASA for the Highland Lakes Area plans to host a garage sale at our office in Kingsland. This is a charity garage sale benefiting CASA and donations for the event will be accepted. Please consider holding on to any household items that you are looking to donate until we are ready to collect donations. We will be providing more information for donors in the coming months, but wanted to get the word out now about this event. Our garage sale will be occurring during Kingsland's annual Aqua Boom Festival, so we are hoping for a great response from the community!
- Like us on Facebook! We have a lot of other events coming up for Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month, but the details have not been finalized. We update Facebook regularly, so if you like our page you will be able to stay informed about what is happening with CASA for the Highland Lakes Area!!!!!!

CASA For the Highland Lakes Area



Thank You to All of Our Donors!!!! With Special Thanks to the Following:

Gina Laird
Anonymous
The Church at Horseshoe Bay
Hal and Sue Harton
Christ Redeemer Fellowship
The United Way
Flat Creek Enoteca

Boots and BBQ Sponsors:

Title Sponsor: Johnson Sewell Lincoln

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Buttery Company, Benchmark Business Solutions

Spurs Sponsors: 2 Bits a Dollar Bookkeeping, Frank Reilly, Alan's Wrench,
Mills Tree Service, Dr. Mary Kelly Green

If you wish to support CASA for the Highland Lakes, monetarily, it is now easier than ever! You can simply make a donation with your credit or debit card on our website at <http://highlandlakescasa.com/ways-help/donate/>. If every person in our 5 county service area donated just \$10 to CASA, we could provide advocacy for over 800 children in foster care!!!! Check out our website for other ways to get involved with CASA for the Highland Lakes Area as well!

Our Mission:

The mission of CASA For the Highland Lakes Area is to recruit, train and supervise court appointed volunteers to advocate for children who come into the court system as a result of abuse and neglect. Those volunteers, who serve as

Guardians *ad Litem*, will make recommendations to the court, based on fact finding and investigation, in the best interest of the child.

Our Goal:

That every child that enters into foster care in our 5-County Area continue to be able to be served by our CASA Program. No child should go without a CASA to advocate for their needs!!

Become a CASA today!!!!

Be In The Know: Get the CASA Voice Newsletter!!!!

We are pleased to provide this CASA newsletter each month to all of our CASA Volunteers, Board Members, CASA Friends and supporters!

If at any time you decide that you want to be removed from our email list, please send an email to the following email address and you will be removed from our list:

kristen@highlandlakescasa.com

If you or someone you know would like to be added to our email list, please send a request to the same email address.

We have every respect for your privacy, and we will not share your information with any person on business.