



The CASA Voice

CASA: Putting Children First January 2015 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:

196

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

68

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

Blanco - **11**

Burnet - **81**

Lampasas - **38**

Llano - **28**

San Saba - **38**

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Headline Story: A Glance to 2014!!!!

Upcoming Events

- January 22nd - Inservice Training- Dealing with Secondary Trauma, by Amy Seguno.
- January 27th - New Advocate Training begins . The course will occur during the evening hours and will be held in San Saba.
- February 12th - CASA Day at the Capital
- March 3rd - Raise a Glass for CASA Fundraiser at Flat Creek Enoteca in Marble Falls. More information to come!



We would like to wish each and every one of you a Happy and Prosperous 2015!!!!!!



Save the Date!

On **March 3, 2015** CASA will host a benefit at Flat Creek Enoteca in Marble Falls. This will be a wine and food tasting event and it's sure to be a lot of fun! More information will be available in the February newsletter, but mark your calendars now!

Interested in Sharing CASA With Your Group or Organization?

Contact the CASA office and we will be happy to come and share what we do. We have spoken to church groups, civic organizations, bible study groups and social groups and we would LOVE to do more! No group is too small!!!! We can also help you plan a "Party with a Purpose"! Contact us!

A Glance at 2014

For most, the end of a year brings a time of reflection. We reflect on the events of the previous year and on the special gift of time. At CASA we are also reflecting on our previous year and the accomplishments that our organization has achieved in the past 12 months. This kind of reflection helps us develop goals for CASA as we move into the New Year. This month we are celebrating the promise of a new set of months to accomplish even more for the benefit of the children we serve! At CASA, we are looking forward to 2015 with hope and inspiration!!! Thank you all for supporting CASA in 2014 and we are so grateful to call you all Friends of CASA as we move into this New and Exciting Year!!!!

Reflecting on 2014.....



Left: Volunteers of the Year - Faye and Jim Payne, pictured with staff, Glenda Hartman.

Below: Adoption Day, November 2014

Below: CASA is an Incredible Team! September, 2014



Left: Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon, April 2014

CASA For the Highland Lakes Area



CASA Grows in 2014!!!! We had many new volunteers in the past year and we continue to grow!



Advocates, don't forget that we still have tickets to the circus for your CASA kids! These tickets are available for CASA children and adults who are taking a CASA child to the circus, which will be in Cedar Park on January 16th, 17th and 18th. Call the office today to reserve tickets!!!



Above and Left: Civic support is also growing! Thanks to all of the groups that support CASA!

Left: Legislative Advocacy is in full swing! See you at the Capital on February 12th for CASA Day at the Capital!!!!!!

**Make a Difference!
Support your local CASA program!**

Raise a Glass for CASA

A Wine and Food Tasting Event to Benefit CASA Kids!

March 3rd at Flat Creek Enoteca in Marble Falls

You can show your support by becoming a

SPONSOR!!!!

Sponsorships are available now and sponsorship levels start at just \$250. This is a good opportunity to advertise your support or your company's support for CASA.

Ticket sales for this event are available by contacting our office. More information to come!



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!!!!!!

Happy Birthday to Our Advocates and Staff!

Jim Payne
January 8th

Evelin Martinez-Valdez
January 12th

Louise Hancock
January 24th

Sue Wieland
January 28th

- Let's give a round of applause to **Vicki Strevey**, who went above and beyond in her case by making sure that two siblings who are separated in their placements by more than 150 miles were able to visit one another throughout the case, including driving them herself to meet near Dallas, so that they could maintain their relationship. When access to telephone visits with the mother became a problem with one caregiver, Vicki advocated for a cell phone for the teenage child so that she could maintain regular contact with her mother. When it looked like the case was not going to be resolved, **Vicki** advocated for mediation and worked with all of the parties to get them in the frame of mind for the mediation to be successful. The mediation took less than 3 hours from start to finish resulting in a written settlement agreement that all parties were happy with. And while she was wrangling with parents, caregivers, lawyers, and CPS, she was a calming and nurturing influence on both children, gaining their trust and reassuring them that their voices were heard. Kudos Vicki! Way to make a difference!
- Another round of applause is in order for **Theresa Sivells**, who drove the mother on her case to Brownwood to get her driver's license renewed. This mother has had difficulties getting to and from services that were ordered in her case because she did not have a valid license. **Theresa** went above and beyond to help this mother get her license, thus removing a barrier to her success! Also, we want to thank **Theresa** for making a wonderful sign for Boots and BBQ, which we plan to use for years to come! Thank you, **Theresa**, for your involvement with CASA. You are making a huge difference!

CASA WISH LIST

Gift Cards for Teens in Care

Hand Soap for the Office

Paper Products for our training classes, including plates, plastic cutlery, and paper towels

Snack Items for our training classes, including drinks, nuts, chips, etc.

Monetary donations are also always accepted by CASA and can be delivered to our office in person or via mail.

Special Announcements

- In-service training will be held at the CASA office on January 22nd from 2-3:30pm. Please contact Galyn to reserve your spot. The topic will be Managing Secondary Trauma.
- We have a new volunteer training class beginning on January 26th. This class will be held in San Saba during the evening hours, so if you are interested in our volunteer opportunity and want to get enrolled in this class, please contact our office today!
- CASA Day at the Capital will be held on February 12th. This is a great opportunity for CASA programs across the state to meet with legislators about the importance of CASA and creating laws that will make services to abused and neglected children more accessible. If you are interested in attending this event with us, please contact the office and we will coordinate the day.
- On Tuesday, March 3rd, 2015 CASA will be at Flat Creek Enoteca in Marble Falls from 7-9pm for our "Raise Your Glass for CASA" benefit event. This event is a wine and food tasting and tickets will be available soon. Mark your calendars and contact our office if you want to reserve your spot!



CASA For the Highland Lakes Area

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

Kenneth Hasenbeck; Herb and Doris Lewis;
Hal and Sue Harton; Tommy Kepner; Richard Rantzow;
Pleasant Hill Civic Group; Hill Country Blenders;
The Church at Horseshoe Bay;
St. Charles Men's Group - Kingsland;
St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church - Horseshoe Bay;
Trinity Lutheran Church of Blanco;
Trinity Episcopal Church - Marble Falls;
Christ Redeemer Fellowship - Marble Falls;
Michael Pickering; Derik Fortin; Robert Cuddie; Peggy Jones;
Jerald Edwards; Debbie Pennington; Debra Hartgrove;
Larry McVay; Tony Koby; Mario Gonzales; Cheryl Smith;
Lawrence Harper; Walker Trudeau; Felicia McGee;
Norman Baugh; Kent Leighton; Jennifer Gately;
Ken's Heating and Air; Lizzy Dunn; Emil Studinka; W.M. Jones;
Jack Hopper; and Wayne and Dottie Anderson

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.