



The CASA Voice

CASA: Putting Children First March 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:

184

Number of Active Volunteers who are currently serving on a case at CASA for the Highland Lakes Area:

65

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

Blanco - 12

Burnet - 72

Lampasas - 43

Llano - 29

San Saba - 28

Headline Story: Volunteer Recruitment in Full Swing!!!

Upcoming Events

- March 24th - In-service training for volunteers and interested parties (see pg 3 for more information)
- March 31st - Spring Open House at the CASA office from 4:30-6:30PM. All are welcome to attend!
- April 6th - New Volunteer Training begins this week.
- April 23rd - CASA Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon



Galyn Woerner, Volunteer Coordinator, and Kristen Harris, Executive Director, participated in a promotional interview on KBEY radio on February 26th. The purpose of the interview was to inform KBEY listeners about our CASA program and the volunteer opportunity that we provide to the community.

If you missed the morning radio show, but want to listen to the interview, go to our Facebook Page or the Facebook Page of KBEY FM and click on the hyperlink to the interview.

Our next volunteer training course begins the week of April 6th, so contact our office today for an application if you are interested in becoming a volunteer advocate for a child in foster care!!!!

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Save the Date!



CASA Golf Tournament

This charity golf tournament will be held at the Lighthouse Country Club in Kingsland on May 30th, so get your team together and mark your calendars! More information to come!!!!

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.

Volunteer Recruitment is in Full Swing!!!!!!

Here at the CASA office we are ALWAYS discussing volunteer recruitment and trying to think up new and innovative ways to ensure that everyone in each community we serve knows what CASA is and understands the volunteer opportunity that we provide. Our volunteer opportunity enables normal, everyday people to become advocates of abused and neglected children. It empowers these volunteer advocates to stand up for their "CASA kid" and become a part of the solution in finding a safe, stable and permanent home for children who might otherwise linger in the foster care system.

Spreading the CASA message is both a joy and a challenge. It is a great joy because recruitment always leads us to find those in our communities with a passion to help children and a willingness to serve their community. It can also be a challenge, but a challenge that we accept. The challenge comes because we struggle to reach every citizen within our 5 counties. We know that there are people living right here in our service area that do not know about CASA, but we are committed to finding those people and reaching out to them. You might see us at local events, church services or civic meetings talking about CASA. We do quite a bit of that! You might even read an article or see an advertisement in the local paper about CASA (we do quite a bit of that too!). However, it's where you do not see us that perhaps is where we need to be, and this is where you come in!

The month of April is Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month. This time of year we really hit recruitment hard! We have speaking engagements already on the calendar and would love to add more! If your civic organization, church or small group wants to hear about CASA and our mission to advocate for abused and neglected children, please contact us! We would love to schedule a time to meet with you! Even if you yourself cannot become a CASA advocate, odds are you know someone who would be a fantastic advocate for children! Consider becoming a CASA Ambassador and helping us with recruitment by telling your friends about us!

People in the community learn about our volunteer opportunities largely from their friends and acquaintances. When community members tell others about our program, there is an ability to reach far more people than any newspaper article or public speaking event can do on its own. So, if you want to help us in some way, but you are not quite sure how you might be able to assist, consider becoming a CASA Ambassador and helping us spread the word! We can help get you any materials you might need in order to share our volunteer opportunity with others in your community!

We also would like to see all of you at our Open House on March 31st from 4:30-6:30pm. We will be kicking off Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month with a come and go afternoon. Bring your friends for a fun and inviting Open House. There will be plenty of chocolate and other snacks to spare! See more information about the Open House on page 3.



CASA For the Highland Lakes Area

Special Announcements

- In-service on Tuesday, March 24th. We will have guest speakers from Kinship Services, PAL Services and Adoptions. They will be talking about the various benefits available in each program for our CASA kids!!!!
- Open House at CASA will be on March 31st and will include food, drinks and door prizes!!!!
- Our next training for new volunteers will begin the week of April 6th. Contact our office to get on the list.
- All Volunteers are invited to an Appreciation Luncheon on April 23rd. We will have a special guest speaker, the CEO of Texas CASA, Vicki Spriggs. More details to come, but save the date!!!
- CASA will host a golf tournament at the Lighthouse Country Club in Kingsland on May 30th, so save the date!!!!

**CASA & CHOCOLATE
OPEN HOUSE**

**IT IS ALL IN THE MIX FOR
THIS FUN EVENT**

**Meet our Staff and find out what a
CASA does while enjoying an assortment
of Chocolate Treats**

Bring a friend to introduce to CASA
for the Highland Lakes for the many
Volunteer Opportunities we have available!

WHEN:
March 31, 2015 4:30pm - 6:30pm

WHERE:
CASA for the Highland Lakes 1719 Ridgeview
Kingsland, Texas 78639 • 325-388-3440

Come and Go

**Already a CASA? Bring a Friend.....show them
what CASA is all about!**

**RSVP: galyn@highlandlakescasa.com
or call 325-388-3440**

Board of Directors

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Kathryn Stephenson, Office Manager
Beverly Bowmaster, Advocate Supervisor
Amy Masuda, Advocate Supervisor



Applause to Advocates!!!!!!!!!!



Our Advocates do amazing things 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 BIG APPLAUSE!!!!!!



Advocates, don't forget about in-service training this month! It's on Tuesday, March 24th, instead of our normal Thursday training. The guest speakers are going to be VERY informative. See page 3 for details!!!!

Happy Birthday to Our Advocates!



Sharon Drake
March 11th

Christopher Bussell
March 11th

Mary Beth Reed
March 13th

Elizabeth Wnorowski
March 19th

David Hartig
March 20th

Betty Dove
March 21st

Debbie Massey
March 22nd

Pat Moore
March 28th

Theresa Sivells
March 31st

- Let's give a round of applause to **Dave Johnson**, who has 2 teenage boys in 2 different residential treatment facilities. **Dave** has spent numerous hours driving to and from these facilities to visit with his CASA youth. 1 of these boys has a bicycle and **Dave** has become quite the bicycle repairman, which is a task that he has taken on in addition to his normal advocacy duties! Thank you, **Dave**, for being a stable male role model for your CASA youth and for helping him to remain happy!!!!
- **Mary Beth Reed** continues to shine on her CASA cases. This month we are giving **Mary Beth** a round of applause for advocating successfully for two adorable girls who were removed from a horrific situation. These two girls have found their loving and forever home and their adoption was completed in February. Congratulations, **Mary Beth**, and thank you for all of your hard work on all of your CASA cases!!!
- Thank you, **Sandra Chapman**, for all of your case advocacy and also for donating two lovely Madame Alexander Dolls to CASA. The two young girls on **Mary Beth Reed's** case (mentioned above) received these dolls as a memorable keepsake for their special adoption day!!
- Thank you, **Dave Hartig**, for working with your 15 year old CASA youth, who recently made the baseball team! We appreciate your willingness to spend an entire Saturday teaching him the fundamentals of baseball!!! What a great bonding experience and way to encourage pro-social activities too!!!!
- One last applause is in order for our newest Volunteer Advocates and thank you to these advocates, and to all of our advocates, for volunteering to make a difference in the lives of the children that we serve. Our new advocates are: **John and Alexis Saint, Judith Williams and Mary Ann Davison!!!!!!** Welcome to the CASA community!!!!!!

Tip From the Trainer: Courtroom Etiquette

CASA's presentation in court is of the utmost importance in our cases because the impression we make can have a profound effect on how we are perceived by the Judge, jury and other professional parties involved in our cases. Our volunteers do a great job of presenting themselves in a professional manner. However, it is good to review common court etiquette from time to time to serve as a reminder for us all. Here are some simple tips:

- Wear clothing that is appropriate business attire. Jeans are not generally recommended, as this is not considered business attire;
- Arrive to court on time;
- Turn cell phones on silent or vibrate prior to entering the courtroom and leave the courtroom if you have to make or take a call;
- Wait your turn to address the Judge;
- Direct all concerns to the Judge, not opposing counsel or witnesses.



CASA For the Highland Lakes Area

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

Leon Jamison
Bonita Friesenhahn
2 Bits a Dollar Bookkeeping in Marble Falls
Peggy Jones
Anonymous
Blue Haven Area Foundation
Robert Ruff and the Sovern Group, Inc. of Marble Falls
Trinity Episcopal Church of Marble Falls
Flat Creek Enoteca
Christ Redeemer Fellowship of Marble Falls
The Church at Horseshoe Bay
Hal and Sue Harton

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!!

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.