



The CASA Voice

CASA: Putting Children First September 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:

197

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

77

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

Blanco - 10

Burnet - 65

Lampasas - 40

Llano - 51

San Saba - 31

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Headline Story: CASA for the Highland Lakes Area Focuses on Volunteer Recruitment and Training

Calendar of Events

- September 17th at 2:00PM: In-Service Training for volunteers. The topic will be on locating great foster placements!
- September 22nd at 6:00PM: CASA Volunteer Informational Session at the Methodist Church in Llano
- September 30th: CASA Day at the DoubleHorn Brewery in Marble Falls. 10% of all food and drink sales go to CASA for the Highland Lakes Area!
- October 24th: Offroad Zomboree Fundraiser (more info on pg. 4)



Consider volunteering as a Court-Appointed Advocate for a child in need through our program! We have new volunteer trainings coming up in October and plenty of seats to fill!

If you are interested in hearing more about our volunteer opportunities you can contact our office or attend the informational session scheduled on September 22, 2015 at 6:00PM at the Methodist Church in Llano, Texas.

We look forward to hearing from you!!!!!!



Interested in helping CASA, but can't be an advocate???

Here are some more ways you can help our organization:

1. Help us spread the word about our volunteer program.
2. Donate items from our wish list, or make a monetary donation to CASA. We can now take donations on our website, so check it out! Even \$10 helps more than you know!
3. Help us with a fundraiser.
4. Consider serving on our board of directors. Contact the office for more information.

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!

CASA for the Highland Lakes Area Focuses on Volunteer Recruitment and Training

Here at CASA we understand that our volunteers are our backbone. CASA for the Highland Lakes Area truly is a volunteer-based organization and we simply could not make the difference that we do without our wonderful volunteer advocates! Because we know this, we understand that recruiting and training volunteers has to be a priority if we are going to be successful in making lives better for children in foster care.

Over the past year our CASA program has trained 22 new volunteer advocates. Our goal in the coming year is to train at least 30 new volunteers and ensure that at least 90% of our CASA kids have a volunteer on their case with our staff. We have made this our goal because we know that children with a CASA volunteer are more successful in life and have better outcomes than their counterparts who have no CASA volunteer speaking up on their behalf. Because recruiting is such a focus for us, you may see us in the community ensuring that people know who we are and what we stand for.

We have a couple of outreach opportunities coming up this month. First, an informational meeting is planned for September 22nd at the Methodist Church in Llano. The Llano County Child Welfare Board has been instrumental in helping us to spread the word about CASA in their community and in preparing for this event. Also, on September 30th the Double Horn Brewery and Restaurant in Marble Falls will host CASA as their chosen charity. On that day 10% of all sales will be donated to CASA for the Highland Lakes Area. This is a great way to promote our program to the patrons of the establishment and also raise some funds for the benefit of the children we serve.

If you are interested in joining our team of volunteers, please contact our office to learn more or come to one of the events listed above. We hope to hear from you!

Sincerely,

Kristen K. Harris, Executive Director

CASA for the Highland Lakes Area

FY2016 Board of Directors

Colleen Davis - President
 Cheryl O'Marley - Vice President
 Trudy Kelley Holden - Treasurer
 Don Cruver - Secretary
 Chuck Lacallade - Legal Counsel
 Charles Sugg
 Vicki Strevey
 J.P. Wilson



Become a superhero to a child in need and help spread strength and hope! Contact our office to learn about volunteering!

CASA For the Highland Lakes Area



CASA Wish List

**Visa Gift Cards for
Teens in Care**

Paper Products

Snack Items

Table Top Podium

Conference Table

Used Jet Ski

Trailers - 2 trailers
in good condition for
mobile billboards
that we plan to have
made.

**See full wish list on
our website!**

**Congratulations to
our Newest
Advocates!!!!!!**

**Our newest
volunteer advocates
were sworn in by
Judge Mabray on
August 20th!**

**Congratulations and
welcome to our
team!!!**

Doris Allen

Michele Hicks

Georganna Sherbert

Penny Wimberly

CASA is Welcoming New Staff Member, Kim Singleton

Please join us in welcoming employee at CASA for the the new advocate and she comes to us with a Kim worked at the CASA Longview for a combined supervisor. She worked specialized in locating placements for children



adopted, but had not yet found their forever home!! Kim is very passionate about advocating for ALL children and is not afraid to challenge the status-quo, when necessary, in order to find the most positive outcome for a child. Kim describes herself as one who has always advocated for the "underdog" and she is excited to be working as a CASA advocate again after nearly 2 years of working in other areas. Even when Kim left CASA due to her grant expiring she kept in touch with many of her CASA kids and has continued to be a source of strength for them!!!! Kim, we are so happy to have you as part of our CASA team!!!! Please say hello to Kim when you see her and welcome her to our CASA community!

Kim Singleton as the newest Highland Lakes Area! Kim is supervisor here in our offices wealth of advocacy experience! programs in Tyler and total of 7 years as an advocate under a grant program and permanent, adoptive who were legally free to be

CASA Happenings!!!!!!



Left: Lake Area Rods and Classics Club made a donation to CASA for the Highland Lakes Area. We appreciate your support!!!!!!

Right: Louise Hancock with Marble Falls Trinity Episcopal Church presented CASA with a generous donation to help support CASA in recruiting and training quality volunteer advocates! Thank you, Trinity Episcopal Church, for your support!



Below: New volunteers are sworn in by Judge Mabray as local attorneys observe.



CASA For the Highland Lakes Area



CASA Happenings (continued)!!!!



Left: A CASA child, whose identity is protected, enjoys an exhibit at a motorcycle show in Dallas, which he attended with his CASA advocate, Mike Lubawski!



Right: Judge Mabray swears in our newest advocate supervisor, Kim Sin-

*Support your local
CASA Program!!!!*

Upcoming Fundraisers



Supports CASA for the Highland
Lakes Area

September 30, 2015

Come join us for delicious food and drinks and
support our cause!!!!

10% of EACH sale will be **DONATED** to benefit CASA
for the Highland Lakes Area, an organization
dedicated to helping abused children find **SAFE &**
Permanent Forever Homes

DoubleHorn is located at 208 Avenue H in Marble
Falls, TX

A family-friendly restaurant serving both lunch
and dinner.



OFFROAD ZOMBOREE

OCTOBER 23RD-25TH

HIDDEN FALLS ADVENTURE PARK

**TRAIL RIDES
CAMPING
RAFFLE
AND DINNER**



BENEFITTING CASA FOR THE HIGHLAND LAKES

REGISTRATION:
35 DOLLARS PER VEHICLE
15 DOLLARS PER PERSON

RAFFLE TICKETS:
20 DOLLARS

TO REGISTER CALL 325 388 3440



Applause to Advocates!!!!!!!



Happy Birthday to Our Advocates and Staff!



Betty Knowles
July 14th

Alexis Saint
July 14th

Cathy Howard
July 15th

Judith Williams
July 21st

Gail McMillan
July 25th

Jay Carey
July 29th

Christa Collins
August 2nd

Sherri Peacock
August 6th

Emily Johnson
August 26th

Mike Lubawski
September 8th

Dusty Durst
September 10th

Susan Bundrick
September 17th

Amy Masuda
September 21st

Dave Johnson
September 22nd

Paula McGregor
September 27th

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 **Mack Carroll**, who went above and beyond to help some relatives who are providing a home to some of our CASA kids. **Mack** helped them in many ways and even mowed their lawn on multiple occasions so that the kids would have a well-maintained yard to play in! Way to go, **Mack**!!!!
- Another applause is in order for **Mike Lubawski**, who always goes the extra mile on his CASA cases. **Mike** is currently working with 6 CASA kids and committed to mentor one of these children in a 17.5 month program in the Dallas area, which required him to attend a training in Dallas. **Mike** also was able to get another CASA kid to fly a plane with a flight instructor, which was a dream of this child's. **Mike** handled all of the details, including permission from all parties, flight scheduling and getting this youth to the Burnet airport. **Mike** even rode in the plane as a passenger! Thank you, **Mike**, for providing this youth with a very memorable event!!!! Yet another example of **Mike** going the extra mile.... He took another of his CASA kids to Dallas for a motorcycle show! See page 4 where this child is enjoying one of the exhibits!!!
- Please also give **Derek Fortin** a round of applause for his commitment to CASA! **Derek** recently accepted a CASA case where the youth is placed with family members in Oklahoma! **Derek** is planning a trip at the end of this month to visit this youth in his home. This youth is very involved in Scouting and **Derek** is committed to getting this young man to Philmont next summer! Thank you, **Derek**, for helping shape this child's life! **Derek** also has another youth assigned to him through CASA. This young man told **Derek** on his first visit that he wanted a job. **Derek** found this young man a job in just 1 day and now the boy is happy to have a little extra cash in his pocket! Thanks, **Derek**, for helping to put a smile on his face and providing him with an opportunity to demonstrate good work ethic!!!!
- One last applause is in order for **Ms. Paula McGregor**! **Paula** is on a trip with **Amy Masuda** as we speak. They drove out to Lubbock to pick a child up and take her to her aunt's home in Little Rock, Arkansas! This is a long road trip, but **Paula and Amy** were both committed to seeing this young girl arrive safely to her aunt's home and the little girl didn't want anyone to take her except her CASAs! What a nice tribute to these two ladies that a 9 year-old girl stated that she only wanted to spend 10.5 hours in a car with her CASA advocates!!!!

Special Announcements

- Pre-Service Training for new volunteer advocates will begin in October. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer advocate with our program, please contact our office immediately so that we can start the process of getting you approved for training! Also, if you are interested in supplying snacks or a meal for this class, let us know!
- 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!



CASA For the Highland Lakes Area

Thank You to All of Our Donors!!!!

With Special Thanks to the Following:

White Family Foundation
Christ Redeemer Fellowship, Marble Falls
The Church at Horseshoe Bay
Flat Creek Enoteca, Marble Falls
Hal and Sue Harton
Harry Janek
Dale and Debbie Kane
Marble Falls Massage Therapy Center
A.G. Nichols
Fred Owen
PEC United Charities
Daybreak Rotary, Marble Falls
Sovern Group, Marble Falls
Sunrise Beach Federated Church
Susan Urban
Emily Johnson
Lake Area Rods and Classics
Anonymous
Richard Rantzow
St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church, Horseshoe Bay

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.