



The CASA Voice

CASA: Putting Children First January 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:

206

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

72

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

Blanco - 17

Burnet - 77

Lampasas - 33

Llano - 55

San Saba - 24

Headline Story: New Year, New You? What's Your New Year's Resolution???

Calendar of Events

- January 18th:
Preservice Training
Starts for new
volunteers.
- January 19th:
Community Meeting
hosted by CASA in
Lampasas at 5:30PM at
the Common Grounds
Building.
- January 25th:
In-service Training for
volunteers. See pg. 3
for more information.
- February 20th: Boots
and BBQ Fundraiser at
Lakeside Pavilion in
Marble Falls. Contact
the office for your
tickets!



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Consider Becoming
a CASA in 2016!!

**We Love
Our Volunteers!**



**Interested in supporting CASA?
Here are just a few ways to help:**

1. Volunteer
2. Help us spread the word about our volunteer program.
3. Donate items from our wish list or make a monetary donation to CASA.
4. Help us with a fundraiser.

Meal Donations Needed!!!!

We have a training class that begins the evening of January 18th and will be held each Monday and Thursday evening through February 11th. We are looking for meal donations so that those who attend these training sessions will not go hungry! If you are interested in helping our training program by providing a meal for 12 CASA representatives, please contact our office for details.

New Year, New You?

What's Your New Year's Resolution???

Well, 2016 is here, whether we are ready for it or not! We hope that everyone is rested and ready for this new year that has been given to us! We've hit the ground running here at the CASA office and are busy with everything that this new year has brought with it!

This time of year is always a good time to reflect on what has occurred over the past year and set goals for the year ahead. At CASA for the Highland Lakes Area we are always setting goals and working to achieve even more for the children we serve. Some of our goals for 2016 include expanding community awareness of CASA in our service area, recruiting more volunteers for our program and strengthening and diversifying our funding stream.

I know that each of you have probably thought about goals that you would like to achieve in 2016 as well. Perhaps you want to pay off your mortgage, or maybe you want to spend more time with family. I know that many people make goals for weight loss and, because of that, I bet the treadmills at the gym have a waiting line right now! However, have any of you thought about how you can make a difference to others? Perhaps becoming a CASA volunteer should be your New Year's Resolution!

If you are interested in learning more about becoming an advocate for a child in need, please contact our office. I promise that if you open your heart to a CASA child you will experience the "new you" that you might be looking for!!! Our advocates always say things best and today I received an email message from one of our volunteer advocates who stated within her message that, "I will never be able to repay what CASA and my cases have done for me". You see, we become involved in organizations like CASA because we want to do something for someone in need, but we remain involved in organizations like CASA because of the rewarding feelings that we get, knowing that we've touched the life of someone. It's difficult to explain that feeling, but it's one that you won't want to give up once you feel it. So, consider becoming a volunteer with CASA in 2016! Do it THIS year. Don't wait until 2017 to make a difference when you can do it now! Contact our office for more information!



Thank you to these Marble Falls Middle School students with the 8th Grade Student Council! This young group of students decided that they wanted to raise money for CASA in order to help us provide Christmas to the CASA kids, so they sold candy canes at the middle school. When candy cane sales were complete they presented CASA with nearly \$300 in donations! It's so refreshing to see students giving back to those in need!!!!



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

CASA FOR THE
HIGHLAND LAKES AREA

CASA Wish List

Paper Products

Snack Items

Table Top Podium

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!



In-service Training this month is being held in Belton and will include CPS, member of the legal community and CASA. The topic will be on how we can work together as a multidisciplinary team to address concerns for permanency for older youth who are lingering in the system. This training will be held on January 25th and you are required to preregister. Contact the office if you need the information sent to you again or need assistance registering.

CASA Christmas Happenings!!!!!!



Christmas for our CASA kids was a huge success! The Christmas Party was lots of fun! The kids enjoyed food, games, picking out toys and, of course, a visit from Santa! There were plenty of Santa hugs to go around!!!! Thank you to everyone who participated!!!!





CASA FACT

Statistics show that CASA volunteers contribute positively to a child's placement stability, educational performance and length of time that a child spends in the foster care system!!

To learn more about how CASA helps change the lives of the children we serve, contact our office or check out our website and our Facebook page!!!

CASA for the Highland Lakes Area

Board of Directors

Colleen Davis - President

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CASA For the Highland Lakes Area



benefiting CASA for the Highland Lakes



Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

CASA FOR THE
HIGHLAND LAKES AREA

FEBRUARY 20, 2016

LAKESIDE PAVILION

307 BUENA VISTA

MARBLE FALLS TEXAS

6:30 TO 11:30 PM

*BBQ DINNER 6:30 TO 8PM
 *BEER & WINE INCLUDED
 *BOOT SCOOTIN' & TWO STEPPIN'
 TO THE MUSIC OF LES HARTMAN



Reservations \$40/per person
Raffle \$5/ticket or \$20 for 5



**RAFFLE ITEMS TO INCLUDE: CUSTOM "HIS & HER" BOOTS
YETI COOLER, RIFLES, WEEKEND GETAWAY AND MUCH MORE!**

FOR TICKETS CALL 325*388*3440

YOU CAN ALSO PURCHASE BOOTS AND BBQ TICKETS ON OUR WEBSITE!

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 Volunteers!



Jim Payne
January 8th

**Evelin Martinez-
Valdez**
January 12th

**Mary Ann
Davison**
January 23rd

Mack Carroll
January 31st

Stephanie Suggs
January 31st

Someone wise once said that the Titanic was built by professionals, but the Arc was built by volunteers.... Volunteers can do amazing things and our CASA advocates are the prime examples of this!!!

- Our first applause goes to **Mike Lubawski**, who always goes above and beyond for his CASA kids. **Mike** has put in hundreds of miles for his CASA kids over the past couple of months and is always there when they need his support!!!! **Mike** was recently present for the birth of a baby that one of his CASA youth had, so you might say that **Mike** is a CASA grandpa!!!!!! Thank you, **Mike**, for all that you do to show your support!!!!
- The second applause is for **April Bergstrom**! **April** is currently advocating for multiple children on several cases, but her newest case involves 5 children who are all placed locally with family. **April** has been an amazing source of support for these kids and caregivers. She was just assigned to the family on December 10th and, already she has assisted with transporting the children to multiple medical appointments and to daycare on a regular basis. **April** has some strong feelings about what is in the best interest of these children and we are confident in her ability to meet their needs as their advocate! Thank you, **April**!!!!
- Our next applause goes out to **Mack Carroll**, who has been a CASA volunteer for 12 years and is our longest standing advocate at CASA for the Highland Lakes Area!!!! **Mack** always provides great advocacy for his CASA kids and helps us in many other ways as well. This applause is because **Mack** loves to woodwork and, knowing that, we assigned him a special project for our upcoming fundraiser! **Mack** teamed up with us and created a large box full of wooden discs to decorate for our Boots and BBQ event. Speaking of Boots and BBQ, tickets are now on sale on our website or by contacting our office! Buy some tickets and support our program and volunteers!!! Thanks, **Mack**, for partnering with us to make Boots and BBQ a success!
- One last applause is in order for **Betty Dove, Cindi Turner and Faye Payne**! These ladies are all amazing advocates for their CASA kids, but they also recently answered the call of duty at our office. When we received all of the amazing toy donations for our CASA kids for Christmas, these wonderful ladies came into the office to organize the donations and help ensure that volunteers were able to come in and get the Christmas gifts for their kids in an organized manner. Thank you, ladies!!! We appreciate all that you do!

Special Announcements

- Our new training class starts Monday evening in Marble Falls! We can still work people in if anyone is interested in volunteering with us, so give us a call and we will make it happen!
- 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:

Paceline Collision Centers; Anne Holt; Sovren Group - Marble Falls;
Bonilee Key Garrett; Don and Anita Cruver; Douglas and Cynthia Peoples;
St Charles Men's Club; Wayne and Dottie Anderson;
Trinity Episcopal Church - Marble Falls; Kathy Kasperek; James Marquess;
William Lung; Susie's Travel Time; 2 Bits a Dollar Book Keeping; Michael
Pickering; Hal and Sue Harton; Ken's Heating and Air; Jeffrey and Shelli
Rowland; Church at Horseshoe Bay; Robert and Elizabeth Cuddie; SPAAR
Enterprises; Kenneth Hasenbeck; CSL Corp; White Family Foundation; Jess
Claiborn; Carol Parker; BBVA Compass Bank - Marble Falls; Catholic Life;
Patricia Ann Ritz; Finn Family Foundation; Edwards Risk Management;
Christ Redeemer Fellowship; Bruce and Gloria Lomax; Richard Rantzow;
David Hartig; Vicki Strevey; First State Bank, Central Texas; Quick Chek;
James Jordan; Virgil Musslewhite; Maris Long; Jack Hopper;
Pleasant Hill Rocky Mountain Club; Barbara and Walter Jones;
Burnet Presbyterian Church; Madeline and Edward Manigold;
Flat Creek Enoteca; Johnny and Tina Burgess; Darla and Jerry Campbell;
Karan Ackerman; Christine Nicknish; David and Judith McAlister;
Bill and Nettie Blair; Arthur or Marilyn Greene; Herb and Doris Lewis

One-time and recurring donations can also be made on our website at
<http://highlandlakescasa.com/ways-help/donate/>

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.