



The CASA Voice

CASA: Putting Children First February 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:

196

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 - 75

Lampasas - 31

Llano - 48

San Saba - 25

Headline Story: Support CASA at Boots and BBQ, February 20th

Calendar of Events

- February 10th: New Volunteer Advocates graduate and are sworn in by the Judge at our CASA office!
- February 15th: The CASA office is closed in observance of President's Day.
- February 20th: Boots and BBQ Fundraiser at Lakeside Pavilion in Marble Falls. Contact the office for your tickets!
- February 23rd: The Child Welfare Primer occurs in Austin.
- February 25th: Volunteer In-service at the CASA office, pg. 5



benefiting CASA for the Highland Lakes



FEBRUARY 20, 2016

LAKESIDE PAVILION

307 BUENA VISTA

MARBLE FALLS TEXAS

6:30 TO 11:30 PM

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Plans for our annual Boots and BBQ Fundraiser are in full swing and tickets are still available! This event is a LOT of fun and it includes a BBQ dinner, dance, raffle prizes, silent auction and other games! There is something for EVERYONE at this event, so get your tickets today!!

Tickets are available on our website or by contacting our office.

Thank you to all of our sponsors, but especially to Johnson Sewell Lincoln, our title sponsor!



A full list of sponsors is available on page 3 of this issue.



BOOTS & BBQ

benefiting CASA for the Highland Lakes



CASA

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



CASA for the Highland Lakes Area

Board of Directors

Colleen Davis - President

Cheryl O'Marley - Vice President

Trudy Kelley Holden - Treasurer

Don Cruver - Secretary

Chuck Lacallade - Legal Counsel

Susan Potts

Kathryn Stephenson

Vicki Strevey

Charlie Sugg

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Staff

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Karon Justice - Program Director

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Glenda Hartman - Advocate Supervisor

Amy Masuda - Advocate Supervisor

Kim Singleton - Advocate Supervisor



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Ken McDaniel, AAMS, CFP
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Lampasas, TX 76550
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First State Bank
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*Still First!*SM



THE PICAYUNE



BOOTS & BBQ

Even if you cannot attend the event on February 20th you can still purchase chances to win our wonderful raffle prizes! The raffle tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20. You can purchase event tickets and raffle tickets online or contact our office, a staff member or a board member for more information!

RAFFLE PRIZES

1. A pair of custom made HIS and HERS kidskin boots! Donated by Adam Garcia at AG Leather and America Bank
2. Two Annual Passes to Copperhead Creek Gun Club, donated by Brooks Blake
3. Weekend Getaway to New Braunfels for up to 14 people, donated by David Griffith
 4. YETI Cooler with Custom Decal, donated by JP Wilson
 - YETI Tundra 45, donated by Jacoby Feed and Seed
 5. Chandelier valued at \$400, donated by Lights and Such
 6. Certificate for a Rifle valued at \$350, donated by Cody Henson
7. "Spirit Wagon" - a wagon filled with liquor to stock your cabinet, donated by the board of directors
 8. Zoom Whitening, donated by Lake Country Dental
 9. Catered Dinner for 10, donated by Dabbs/Griff's Catering
 10. Char-Griller Smoker Grill, donated by Clayton Odom

SILENT AUCTION AND PRIZE ITEMS

Listed here are just a few of our silent auction and prize items:

48 hour use of a Lincoln vehicle and \$50 toward date night by Johnson Sewell Lincoln; Western-inspired décor, including lamps donated by Discount Beds and More; Artistic Drawings donated by the talented Weldon Holden; Western-inspired jewelry; a Concealed Carry Purse; Fire Pit, donated by Scott Poole Electric; Overnight stay at Horseshoe Bay Resort with a round of Golf for 2; Legal Preparation of Will by Attorney, Natalie Bennett; Income Tax Preparation by 2 Bits a Dollar; Decorative Mirror by Marble Falls Glass and Mirror; Facial donated by Skin2ition; Painting class for 4 donated by Painting with a Twist; 6 tickets to Hill Country Community Theater; Mosaic valued at \$250, donated by Amy Winningham; massage donated by Kingsland Massage.

Thank You to our Sponsors!!!!

Sheriff's Posse Title Sponsor - Johnson Sewell Lincoln, Marble Falls

Stetson Sponsors - First State Bank, Central Texas and Paceline Collision

Branding Iron Sponsors - Edward Jones, Ken McDaniel of Lampasas, Nightscenes Landscape Lighting Professionals, KBey Radio/Picayune

Horseshoe Sponsors - Dave and Debbie Johnson, Don and Anita Cruver, Wayne and Dottie Anderson, Lake Country Dental, American Bank, 2 Bits a Dollar Book Keeping, Vicki Strevey, Buttery Company, Benchmark Business Solutions, Inc.

Spurs Sponsors - Judge Frank Reilly, Alan's Wrench, 2 Bits a Dollar Book Keeping, Mills Services

CASA For the Highland Lakes Area



CASA FACT

There are great stories to tell, not all of them with happy endings. But statistics show that a child who has a CASA volunteer has the best chance of thriving in a safe, permanent home. The call to action is that the CASA approach works – but nationally, we only reach about 1/3 of the kids who need us. Since 1978 more than 6.5 million kids went through the system without a CASA advocate. By choosing to support your local CASA program you are giving a voice to a child that is unsure of their future.

Tip from the Trainer: Courtroom Etiquette

CASA's presentation in court can have a profound effect on the outcome of our cases. Our volunteers do a great job of presenting themselves in a professional manner. However, it's good to keep these tips in mind when preparing for court:

1. Wear appropriate business attire to court. Jeans are not generally recommended, as this is not considered business attire;
2. Arrive on time;
3. Turn cell phones on silent or vibrate prior to entering the courtroom;
4. Wait your turn to address the Judge;
5. Direct all concerns to the Judge, not to opposing counsel or other witnesses



Volunteer Spotlight

We are featuring 2 volunteers this month, our newest board members! Board members volunteer their time with CASA by serving on our board of directors and helping to ensure that the organization is running smoothly and meeting its mission. Being on our board of directors is a very important job and these folks are not paid to do it! Some of our board members also serve as volunteer advocates as well.

This month we would like to introduce you to 2 of our newest board members, Kathryn Stephenson and Susan Potts. Kathryn joined our board in January. She was on staff with us at CASA for the Highland Lakes Area, but took a job with the Llano County Attorney's office last summer. Kathryn continued to be involved as a CASA advocate and she is currently assigned as the advocate to one child. Kathryn is always willing to help CASA in any way that she can and we are so blessed to now have her as part of our board of directors! Susan Potts has also been an asset to our board and she joined the team in October. We are a little late in welcoming her to the board through our newsletter, but rest assured that Susan is a welcomed member and has contributed in many ways, already. If you see these two ladies give them a warm welcome because they are doing a great job!!!



Left: Kathryn Stephenson



Right: Susan Potts



CASA CORNER



CASA CORNER is a special section of our newsletter reserved for crafting ideas that our supporters can do with the kids in their lives. This might be your CASA kid, if you are an advocate, but it also might be your own kids or grandkids. We don't have CASA Corner in every newsletter, so consider this a rare treat!!

What you will need for these easy cookies:

Pink Wafer Cookies
White Melting Chocolate
Valentine's Day Inspired Sprinkles
Wax Paper

Directions:

Melt the white chocolate according to package directions. Generally you can even do this in the microwave! Dip the wafer cookies in the chocolate, as seen in the photo and then add sprinkles, as desired. Place decorated wafer cookie on wax paper to dry.

And there you have it!!!! Fun for kids and easy too!!!

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 to **Cindy Lomicka**, an advocate who is assigned on a CASA case that just ended up in a week-long jury trial. **Cindy** has been a dedicated advocate for this child since the start. When **Cindy** determined that returning to the parents would not be appropriate she worked hard with all of the others involved in the case to ensure that this child was protected. After sitting an entire week in court and testifying on the stand the desired outcome was achieved. This little girl is in a wonderful foster home and the plan is for her foster parents to adopt her! **Cindy** worked so hard on this case and testified so well that a juror was even moved to make a significant donation to our CASA program and has expressed interest in volunteering with our program as well! Thanks, **Cindy**, for being such a fierce advocate for this child! Termination trials are always bitter-sweet, but you've made a profound difference in the life of this little one!!!!
- The second applause is for **Faye Payne**, who advocates for children on several CASA cases and never turns us down when we ask her for help. **Faye** has graciously volunteered to help us with our Boots and BBQ fundraiser by soliciting donations and preparing the silent auction items for display. This is a big assignment in addition to all that she already does on her CASA cases! Thank you, **Faye!!!** Also, BIG thanks to **Vicki Strevey**, who is an advocate and also on our board of directors. She has done a GREAT job of chairing our Boots and BBQ event! Thank you, **Vicki!!!!!!**
- Our next applause goes out to **Mary Ann Davison!** **Mary Ann** has been an advocate with our program for a year now and has been assigned to 3 CASA cases during this time. She's made a difference in each case, but most recently she was able to be a part of 2 children successfully returning home to their parents. **Mary Ann** was a huge source of support for these kids, making sure that they always had someone in their corner who they could count on. As the parents progressed and demonstrated that they were making positive changes in their lives **Mary Ann** also came to their assistance in many ways. She offered the parents transportation, encouragement and support and showed that she believed in their ability to create a positive home environment for their kids. The parents and kids have been reunited and are doing well and **Mary Ann** still maintains contact even though her assignment with them is complete! Thanks, **Mary Ann**, for supporting this family and showing them that there are dedicated people in this world who truly want families like theirs to succeed!
- Our next applause goes out to **April Bergstrom**, who is currently working with a CASA kid in Lampasas. He is struggling in reading and **April** is driving to Lampasas weekly to help tutor him and get him caught up. Thank you, **April**, for helping this young man!
- Another applause goes out to **Emily Johnson!** **Emily** is an advocate for a 16 year old boy who is living in the Dallas area. **Emily** goes above and beyond for this young man to ensure that his needs are met. She's helped to provide prosocial activities for him, she speaks regularly with his therapeutic team and she holds him accountable when he needs some tough love! **Emily** has been instrumental in ensuring that he is provided with braces and driver's education and she helps to keep him focused on his school work too! Even though he is not in a local home, **Emily** has not let distance stop her from meeting his every need! Thank you, **Emily!!!**

Happy Birthday To Our Volunteers!



Mary Benedict
February 4th

Lee Ann Johnson
February 23rd

Georganna Sherbert
February 24th

“Everybody can be great because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love”

~Martin Luther King, Jr.

Special Announcements

- In-service Training for all of our volunteers is scheduled for February 25th at our office. We hope you all can make it! We will have a soup bar for lunch and will be talking about updates for our program that volunteers need to be aware of. Lunch and socializing start at 12:30PM. More information will be sent out to our advocates, but please save the date and plan to attend!
- Boots and BBQ!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! February 20th at 6:30PM. Get your tickets today!!! More information on previous pages!



CASA For the Highland Lakes Area

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

**Karan Ackerman
Nettie Blair
Tina Burgess
Darla Campbell
Marilyn Greene
Hal and Sue Harton
Walter Jones
David and Judith McAlister
Christine Nicknish
Judy Pullen
William Reid
Flat Creek Enoteca
The Bourgeois Living Trust
Burnet Presbyterian Church
Church at Horseshoe Bay
Christ Redeemer Fellowship, Marble Falls
Kingsland Lions Club
Pleasant Hill-Rocky Community Club**

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.