



The CASA Voice

CASA: Putting Children First April 2016 Issue

CASA For the Highland Lakes Area: Serving Blanco, Burnet,
Lampasas, Llano and San Saba Counties
1719 Ridgeview
Kingsland, TX 78639

DONATE to CASA for the Highland Lakes Area as part of Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month!!! If each person reading this newsletter donated just \$10 to our CASA program we would see more than \$2,000 in honor of child victims everywhere. Donate on our website or send in a check today!!!

In This Issue

Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month	2
Coffee with CASA	2
CASA Golf Classic	2
Awareness Event Info	3
Charity Garage Sale	3
Applause to Advocates	4
Special Announcements	4
Thank you, Donors	5
CASA Mission/Vision	5
Our mailing list	5

Upcoming Events

- April 8th: Go Blue Day – wear blue to help raise awareness about the issue of child abuse!
- April 18th: Bell-Ringing Ceremony – join Daybreak Rotary and CASA at Johnson Park in Marble Falls for an awareness event, more info on pg 3
- April 21st: Training for volunteers – Communicating with Children in a Trauma-Informed Way, 12–2PM, pg 4
- April 29th: Advocate Appreciation Dinner
- May 2nd: New Volunteer Training Class begins.

Headline News:

Let's Stomp Out Child Abuse: April is Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month.



The month of April is a time to draw attention to the issue of child abuse and neglect in our society. On any given day there are 30,000 children in Texas' foster care system and many do not have a caring adult in their lives.

Wear blue in support of child victims on April 8th, which is "NATIONAL GO BLUE DAY"!

To find out more about the significance of the month of April on page 2 of this newsletter.

**APRIL IS NATIONAL CHILD
ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH**

Give a child a chance at

BecomeACASA.org



CASA For the Highland Lakes Area

Let's Stomp Out Child Abuse:

April is Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month

Last year 47,348 children were in the Texas foster care system and over 66,000 children in Texas were confirmed as victims of abuse or neglect. 59% of these victims were under the age of 6 and all of these children need someone in their lives who will be their advocate.

As an individual, addressing the issue of child abuse and neglect can seem like an unattainable goal. A person can quickly become overwhelmed by the statistics because even in our local area over 200 children are currently in foster care and many more are victims that have not been legally removed from their parents. Each of the counties that our CASA program serves - Blanco, Burnet, Lampasas, Llano and San Saba - have growing numbers of confirmed victims and these numbers are compounded by stresses in society that have a profound effect on families. These stresses include the economy, the ease of accessibility to drugs in today's world and the lack of attainable mental health care, to name just a few. Today's problems seem so much more profound than the problems of yester-year. So, how can we possibly make a difference? Where do we begin?

I am a firm believer that if we are going to change the course of our society and address issues that affect people today, then we have to work together. We cannot rely on someone else to do the job or on our government to solve the world's problems, but where do we begin? Everyone can make a lasting difference by becoming involved in a nonprofit organization in some way. Organizations like CASA need volunteers, donors and people who we can call upon to fill a variety of roles. Will you answer the challenge and become involved? Let's ban together and stomp out child abuse and neglect once and for all, because the future of Texas relies on the healthy growth and development of our children.

This April, as we mark National Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month, we call upon all citizens, community agencies, faith groups, schools, government agencies and businesses to increase their participation in efforts to support families and prevent child abuse, thereby strengthening our entire community. Contact our office to learn more about our volunteer opportunities and DONATE now by going to www.highlandlakescasa.com or sending in your donation to CASA at 1719 Ridgeview Dr., Kingsland, TX 78639.



COME JOIN US FOR COFFEE WITH CASA

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 2016

12:00 PM - 2:00 PM

FUEL COFFEE HOUSE

106 EAST MAIN STREET IN LLANO

**HAVE A CUP OF COFFEE AND LEARN ABOUT
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES!**

Save the Date for the
2nd Annual CASA Golf Classic

May 21, 2016

Lighthouse Country Club in
Kingsland, TX

4 person scramble with a
shotgun start at noon

More information to come!





CASA For the Highland Lakes Area

CASA for the Highland Lakes Area

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April is Child Abuse Prevention Month



Calling all community members, you are cordially invited to attend a ceremony in honor of all child victims of abuse and neglect. Come and show your support for these vulnerable children and help us raise awareness in our community!

Information will be available at this event to people interested in becoming foster parents or CASA volunteers.

**When: Monday, April 18, 2016
from 5:30PM–6:00PM**

Where: Johnson Park in Marble Falls at the Amphitheatre

This event is sponsored by CASA for the Highland Lakes Area and Marble Falls Daybreak Rotary.



Rummage Sale Benefiting CASA - 4th of July Weekend!!!

CASA will be hosting a charity rummage sale to benefit our program!! Mark your calendars and save your donations for us!!

When: July 2nd during Aquaboom in Kingsland

Where: The CASA Office at 1719 Ridgeview, Kingsland, TX

Donation drop-off dates will be June 23rd and 24th all day. Contact our office if you have a donation and are in need assistance getting the items to our office.



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!

Derek Fortin
April 5th

Susan Gonzalez
April 6th

Kathryn Stephenson
April 10th

Beverly Bowmaster
April 21st



CASA WISH LIST

Visa Gift Cards for Teens in Care

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

Snack Items for our Training Classes, including nuts, chips, candy, etc.

Table Top Podium

New or Used Jet Ski Trailer to build a mobile billboard for CASA

CASA for the Highland Lakes Area also accepts monetary donations via our website or mailed to our office.

- The first applause that is in order is to **Jay Carey!** Jay has been an excellent advocate for the 6 CASA kids that he's been assigned to over the years, but he doesn't stop advocating for these kids when their case is done. Jay has maintained contact with one young man and continues to see him regularly and give him guidance. Jay also is currently assigned to a young man who is interested in golf. Jay went above and beyond the call of duty by purchasing left-handed golf clubs for this CASA youth so that they could spend quality time together on the course. Jay has a big heart and he just keeps on giving! Thank you, Jay, for all that you do! There is no doubt that you are making an impact on the lives of the CASA kids that are blessed to have you!
- Our next applause goes out to **Dave Johnson.** Dave is always looking for opportunities to help where he is needed and he is willing to do just about anything for his CASA kids. Dave often works with teenage boys and all teenagers can be a challenge. However, Dave is up to a challenge and is always in their corner. Dave was recently able to witness the adoption of one of his CASA kids, a 17 year-old boy. Dave stood by this young man and spoke up on his behalf since becoming a CASA advocate 3 years ago. This young man had an uphill battle, but Dave did a lot of leg-work to ensure that this young man was set up to succeed. As if that were not enough, Dave is doing it again! Another young man who is now 17 entered into foster care nearly 2 years ago. Dave was assigned as his CASA advocate and has made a world of difference for this young man as well. Dave has provided stability and encouragement all along the way and this 17 year-old has made leaps and bounds of progress. Dave has been an integral part of the team of people who are working to ensure that this young man has a bright future. An adoptive home has been identified for this 17 year-old, who also has a job and is doing well in school. Let's give **Dave Johnson** a big round of applause for all that he has done for his CASA kids and for helping to show the world that no child, even tough teenage boys, are "unadoptable". Thank you, Dave, for your unwavering support of these precious CASA kids!
- Our last applause for the month does to **Debbie Kane.** Debbie has been advocating tirelessly for a child from Blanco County. She has proven that she can hang tough through every twist and turn that comes her way! Debbie has visited with all of the players on her CASA case, including parents, caregivers, the child, the court personnel and she has spent countless hours traveling between Austin, Giddings and Blanco to complete all of these tasks. Debbie has made herself the expert on this case because of all of her involvement. She observes parent-child visits and responds to any emergency on the case, night or day! Thanks, Debbie, for always putting this child first, no matter the circumstance! You are making a huge difference to this little one!

Special Announcements

- **Volunteers, please mark your calendars for the following dates:**
 - **April 21st, noon to 2PM** at the CASA Office. Phoenix Center staff will provide in-service training for our volunteers. The topic is "Communicating with Children in a Trauma-Informed Way" and CASA volunteers will also be provided with information about all of the services that the Phoenix Center can provide to our CASA kids.
 - **April 29th, 5:30 to 7:30PM** at Francesco's Italian Restaurant in Marble Falls. Join us for our advocate appreciation event and awards ceremony. More information has been sent out, but please contact Galyn at the office if you have any questions.
- **May 2nd - New Volunteer Training Begins.** Please contact our office today if you are interested in becoming an advocate so that we can begin the paperwork to get you enrolled in this class!
- **Thank you to our supporters! If you are interested in sponsoring our upcoming golf tournament, contact our office for sponsorship information!**



CASA For the Highland Lakes Area

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

Kingsland Community Church

Judge Allan and Sarah Garrett

Church at Horseshoe Bay

Amy and Malcolm McQueen

Christ Redeemer Fellowship, Marble Falls

Thank you to these and all of our supporters! Contributions from our local communities to our program are vital to ensuring that a CASA advocate is able to be provided to each and every child from our area who enters into the child welfare system!

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.