



# The CASA Voice

## CASA: Putting Children First

May 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:

224

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

62

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

Blanco - 20

Burnet - 88

Lampasas - 34

Llano - 55

San Saba - 27

### Headline Story: Honoring our Volunteer Advocates

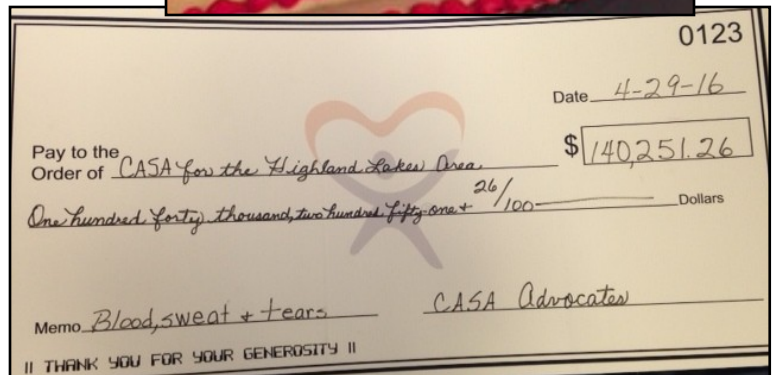
### Calendar of Events

- May 21st: CASA Classic Golf Tournament at Lighthouse Country Club. See more, pg 3.
- July 2nd: Garage Sale benefiting CASA.
- August 1st: Training begins for new volunteers.



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Pictured Above: The cake from the advocate appreciation dinner and the "big check" which was presented to our advocates and signifies the value of our advocates time and travel that they spent on their CASA cases in the last calendar year. All of their hard work and dedication is equivalent to \$140,251.26 in donations made to CASA for the Highland Lakes Area!!!!

# CASA For the Highland Lakes Area



## Honoring our Volunteer Advocates

By Kristen Harris, Executive Director

On April 29th CASA staff and guests had the distinct privilege of honoring our advocates at our annual appreciation event. This year we held an appreciation dinner at Francesco's Restaurant in Marble Falls. The event was very enjoyable and everyone seemed to have a great time. Prior to special recognition awards I shared how many of Dr. Suess' most famous quotes are relatable to our wonderful volunteers.

One of Suess' most notable quotes applies to the generosity of our volunteers, which is "**Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not**". This one is pretty self-explanatory, but in all truth our volunteers care a great deal about their "CASA kids" and it is because of our wonderful advocates that the lives of these children have hope. CASA kids rely on their CASA volunteer to show them that there is a light, however faint it may be, and that they can continue to hope for a future.

Seuss also said "**Just tell yourself, Duckie, you're really quite lucky!**" And these kids are fortunate to have a CASA volunteer. Today in Texas only about half of the children in foster care have a CASA advocate assigned to their case. However, children from our 5 county area ARE lucky in that every child who enters into the child welfare system from our 5 county service area is assigned a CASA. It is unfortunate what these children are subjected to in their lives, but the presence of a CASA advocate helps them to never feel alone.

Today our program is covering 89% of our cases by volunteers. This is well above the 80% that is required by Texas and National CASA. While staff are able to handle the other 11% we know that children get more time and attention from CASA when there is a volunteer by their side. Because of this, our staff are committed to continuing to spread the word about CASA and we hope that community members will join us in this venture. Our goal is that every person in the Highland Lakes Area know about CASA and our mission. So tell everyone you know! Tell them about how CASA makes a difference in the life of a child. There is a quote in Horton Hears a Who that goes "**We've got to make noises in greater amounts! So, open your mouth, lad! For every voice counts!!!**" CASA voices DO count! CASA advocates ARE making a difference to the children they serve and to the community as a whole. Every time a CASA uses their voice in court they are making a huge difference in the life of a child.

All of our volunteers are truly inspiring and I just want everyone to know how much I mean that. CASA volunteers are selfless and go above and beyond for their CASA kids reminding us all that "**a person's a person, no matter how small**", another Dr. Suess quote. CASA volunteers are a great example of those who live to serve. Dr. Suess once said "**Today I shall behave as if THIS is the day I will be remembered**" and our volunteers will certainly be remembered because of the difference that they made in the lives of the children that they work with through CASA.

I speak for the entire staff at CASA when I say, we are forever grateful for our volunteers and for the voice that you provide for our children!

Thank you for all that you do!

Sincerely,

Kristen Harris, MSSW  
Executive Director at CASA for the Highland Lakes Area

**Congratulations to all of those recognized at our appreciation and awards event!**

**Special Congratulations to our Advocate of the Year, Dave Johnson!!!**

### CASA for the Highland Lakes Area

#### Board of Directors

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Supervisor

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Supervisor

Amy Masuda - Advocate  
Supervisor

Kim Singleton - Advocate  
Supervisor

# CASA For the Highland Lakes Area



## Info for Advocates

Advocates, the Hill Country Community Theatre holds a summer camp each year for youth. This year the camp starts on June 13th and runs through the 24th. They have generously given CASA 5 slots for this day camp. Contact us if you think one of your youth might be interested. The camp is for children, ages 9-17 who are interested in theater and the cost is generally \$235, so this is very generous of them!!!



## CHARITY GARAGE SALE

**JULY 2ND**

**1719 Ridgeview Dr.  
Kingsland, TX**

Donate your household items to CASA for our first ever charity garage sale! The sale will occur at our office on Saturday, July 2nd, during Aquaboom in Kingsland!

Items can be dropped off at our office on June 23rd and June 24th.

Contact our office if you have a donation that needs to be picked up.

**THE  
CASA  
CLASSIC**

**DATE: MAY 21, 2016  
TIME: SHOTGUN START AT 12 P.M.  
FORMAT: FOUR PERSON SCRAMBLE**

HOSTED BY  
*Lighthouse*  
118 Club Circle  
Kingsland, TX 78639

Register at:  
[LighthouseCountryClub.com/CASA](http://LighthouseCountryClub.com/CASA)  
or call 325.388.6660

**You don't want to miss this golf tournament, so register today!**

**Hole-in-One Prizes include \$10,000 cash, Vacation Package to Pebble Beach and a Golf Cart**

**Other prizes will also be available and your entry fee includes dinner**

# 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 out to **Dave Johnson**, our Advocate of the Year. **Dave Johnson** was recognized for his outstanding work as a CASA advocate at our recent appreciation dinner. **Dave** has touched the lives of every child that he has worked with through CASA, but his efforts with two teenage boys that he is currently advocating for were highlighted during the presentation of the Advocate of the Year Award. Both of these teenage boys have had a rough life and both see **Dave** as an advocate, a mentor and a friend. Each of these young men wrote **Dave** a letter, thanking him for helping them and congratulating him on being recognized as the Advocate of the Year. Within the letters, one of his CASA kids wrote "I would like you to know how thankful I am for you. Your kindness has given me the strength that only family can give. The advice and guidance you have given me will live in my memory for years to come....." Thank you, **Dave**, for your service to these young boys! We think the world of you, but even more importantly, it is evident that your CASA kids do too!!!!
- Our next applause goes out to **Jay Carey**. **Jay** is a fierce advocate and, like all of our advocates, he only wants what is best for his CASA kids. **Jay** has been visiting with one of the teenage boys that he is working with through CASA and felt that his caregivers were not providing him with the guidance and structure that he needs in order to be successful. **Jay** felt strongly about this and about the ability of the system to find a better place for this young man. He was the only person involved in the case that felt strongly that this young man should be moved to another home and **Jay** did a great job of articulating his concerns to the Judge. Ultimately the Judge realized exactly what the concern was and agreed that this young man could achieve his potential more successfully in a new home. Now **Jay** is working with the attorney for the child and the CPS worker to ensure that the best possible foster home is found so that this young man can grow into a successful adult. Thank you, **Jay**, for remaining firm and advocating for what you know is best for this young man!
- Our last applause goes out to **Dave Hartig**, an advocate who was recognized at the appreciation dinner for being the best CASA Ambassador! **Dave** does an amazing job with the children that he is appointed to represent, but he also helps us here at the office by making sure that everyone he knows understands what CASA is and how they can help. **Dave** has made a difference in the lives of the children that he works with through our program, but he does not stop there! He also enables us to make a difference in the lives of countless children because he helps to spread the CASA mission and gather more support for our program. We appreciate this very much, **Dave**, and we are so blessed to have you as part of our wonderful team!!!!

## Happy Birthday To Our Volunteers and Staff!



**Terri Behrmann**  
May 1st

**Barbie Ott**  
May 2nd

**Carol Leighton**  
May 3rd

**Soc Gonzalez**  
May 8th

**April Bergstrom**  
May 9th

**Glenda Hartman**  
May 25th

**Doris Allen**  
May 29th

## Special Announcements

- The 2nd Annual CASA Classic Golf Tournament is scheduled to occur on May 21st at Lighthouse Country Club in Kingsland. Last year this golf tournament was a lot of fun and a very successful fundraiser for CASA, as well. This year we want to fill the course again, so register today at [www.lighthousecountryclub/CASA](http://www.lighthousecountryclub/CASA) ! Sponsorship opportunities are still available. Golfers need to pre-register in order to ensure you have a spot on the course!
- On July 2nd CASA for the Highland Lakes Area plans to host a garage sale at our office in Kingsland. This is a charity garage sale benefiting CASA and donations for the event will be accepted. Please consider holding on to any household items that you are looking to donate until we are ready to collect donations. We will be providing more information for donors soon, but wanted to get the word out now about this event. Our garage sale will be occurring during Kingsland's annual Aqua Boom Festival, so we are hoping for a great response from the community!
- Like us on Facebook! We update Facebook regularly, so if you like our page you will be able to stay informed about what is happening with CASA for the Highland Lakes Area!!!!



# CASA For the Highland Lakes Area



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

The Church at Horseshoe Bay  
Shirley McCoy  
Anonymous

Burnet County Republican Women's Club  
Christ Redeemer Fellowship of Marble Falls  
Trinity Lutheran Church of Blanco  
Flat Creek Enoteca  
Rick and Madeline Naber  
Anonymous

Cory and Shelly Hanneman - Element 7 Concrete

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](mailto: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.