



# The CASA Voice

## CASA: Putting Children First June 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:

**238**

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

**63**

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

Blanco - 20

Burnet - 100

Lampasas - 35

Llano - 56

San Saba - 27

### Headline Story: CASA Graduates 3 New Volunteers

### Calendar of Events

- June 23rd and 24th: Drop off your donated items for our Charity Yard Sale! More info on pg. 3.
- June 23rd - Book Club Meeting @ 9AM at Unshakable Grounds in Burnet, more info on pg. 4.
- July 2nd: Yard Sale benefiting CASA, more info on pg. 3.
- August 1st: Training begins for new volunteers.
- October 20th: In-service training on child mental health. More info on pg. 2.



Elizabeth Marquart, Melanie Huff and Sarah Lamb are our newly sworn in advocates at CASA for the Highland Lakes Area. Above they pose for a photo with our volunteer coordinator Galyn Woerner. Got time??? Consider being in our next volunteer training class! Training starts again in August!

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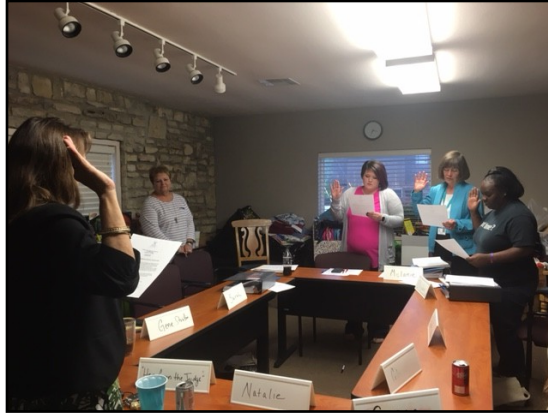
CASA is central to fulfilling society's most fundamental obligation by making sure a qualified, compassionate adult will fight for and protect a child's right to be safe, to be treated with dignity and respect and to learn and grow in the safe embrace of a loving family.

**I** am for the child™

# CASA For the Highland Lakes Area



## Welcome Our Newest Advocates: CASA Graduates 3 Advocates!



We are so excited to introduce our newest volunteer advocates to all of our CASA supporters! Sarah Lamb, Melanie Huff and Elizabeth Marquart were sworn in on May 31st by Judge Cheryl Mabray. Each of these volunteers completed 30 hours of training and court room observation so that they can represent a child in need. In the picture on the left the advocates are being sworn in. Thank you, ladies, for your commitment to CASA and to abused and neglected children!

**Thank you to all of our  
CASA Golf Classic  
Sponsors!**

### Gold Sponsors

Baylor Scott and White  
Hospital

City of Burnet

Cruver, Robbins and Fu

Woody McCasland

Potts and Reilly, LLP

### Silver Sponsors

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Solutions

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### Bronze Sponsors

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Jack Clark, CPA

Corner Drug Health Mart

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Hill Country National Bank

First Texas Bank, Lampasas

Miller's Meats, Llano

Vana and Vana Law Firm

**Thank you also to all of  
our Hole Sponsors!**



## Advocate Corner

- Advocates, if you are interested in taking on another case, please let us know! We currently need an advocate for the following cases:
  - Beautiful baby girl who is placed in Corsicana. This child will only require visits with her CASA every 3 months, but on your way you can stop at the Collin Street Bakery, the Russell Stover store and the Magnolia Store, too!
  - Anyone going to or through Hutto on a regular basis? We have 2 adorable boys, ages 1 and almost 2 who need a CASA to visit with them!
- In-service Training information - We are taking a break from in-service during June, July and August. However, if you want to participate in our Book Club over the summer, see pg. 4 for more information. In September we hope to have an in-service about drug and alcohol addiction and recovery. We will send more information out about September's in-service as soon as we have it. For October we have a special treat! The National Alliance on Mental Illness will hold a training on October 20th which will teach advocates how to recognize signs of mental illness in children and how to help children dealing with these issues.

## CASA Happenings



Above: Eddie Arredondo receives our "Angels Among Us" Award, which is given to a citizen in our area who is not a CASA, yet goes above and beyond to ensure children we serve are well cared for.



Above: Advocate of the Year, Dave Johnson, is pictured with his family at our Volunteer Appreciation Dinner.

Right: Mack Carroll and Barbie Ott are our 2 most tenured advocates with CASA for the Highland Lakes Area. Each of them have been advocating for children in our area for over 10 years!







# FUNDRAISER

## *Yard Sale*

Benefiting CASA for the Highland Lakes Area  
1719 Ridgeview Dr., Kingsland, TX

Friday, July 1st and Saturday, July 2nd  
During Kingsland Aquaboom Festivities!  
Come enjoy the Aquaboom activities and support  
CASA at our sale!

Sale begins at 9AM both days.

Donations for the sale are encouraged. You can  
drop of your donations at our office on June  
23rd and June 24th.



### CHARITY YARD SALE

JULY 1st and 2nd

1719 Ridgeview Dr.  
Kingsland, TX



Donate your household items to CASA for our first ever charity yard sale! The sale will occur at our office on July 1st and 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.

We are especially in need of larger items with potential to bring in a lot of cash for CASA! Consider donating patio and indoor furniture, lawn equipment and even cars, boats and RV's that you no longer need!

**All donations are tax deductible!**

# 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 this month goes to **Cindy Turner**. **Cindy** has been an advocate for a group of siblings and has helped immensely to ensure that these siblings get to see each other regularly. She has been a huge source of support for the adoptive parents and has assisted these caregivers in keeping the kids in these cases in touch with one another. Continuing contact with a sibling, even when a child cannot be placed with that sibling, can lead to such a positive outcome for all involved. Sibling relationships are so vitally important to children and **Cindy** is doing a great job of ensuring that these relationships are maintained and cultivated. Thank you so much, **Cindy**, for all of your advocacy work with your CASA kids and also for always helping us to spread the word about our program!
- Our next applause goes out to **Dave Hartig**. **Dave** is currently the advocate on 3 cases, which includes a total of 6 children. **Dave** has been a huge source of support for all of his CASA kids and always goes the extra mile. Prior to being assigned his newest case, **Dave** reached out to us because he felt called to take a difficult case. He knew that this case would be particularly difficult, emotionally, but he also saw an opportunity to make the lives of 2 young children better. Thank you, **Dave**, for always putting service above self and recognizing where you can make a positive difference in this world!
- Our final applause this month goes out to **Derek Fortin**. **Derek** has been a CASA advocate for 3 years now and has been assigned to a total of 8 CASA kids. In January **Derek** was busy at the Llano County Court house, advocating for his CASA kids, when he stepped off of the curb wrong and broke his ankle. This ankle break turned out to be quite serious, requiring surgery and a lot of time to heal. We felt awful that **Derek** injured his ankle, but even more awful that the accident occurred while on duty as a volunteer for CASA. **Derek** is now well on his way to recovery and he came to the office last week to officially take on another case. Thank you, **Derek**, for hanging tough with us and with your CASA kids!!! That ankle might break on you, but your giving spirit cannot be broken and for that we are so incredibly appreciative!!!!!!

## Happy Birthday To Our Volunteers and Staff!



**Juli Gilson**  
June 6th

**Julie Biggs**  
June 11th

**Michele Hicks**  
June 13th

**Karon Justice**  
June 20th

**Deena Weems**  
June 22nd

## Special Announcements

- We are accepting items for our charity yard sale, which will be held on July 1st and 2nd at the CASA office in conjunction with the Kingsland Aqua Boom festivities. We are looking specifically for larger items that have potential to generate some nice income for our charity. All donations are tax deductible, so consider donating any excess furniture, lawn equipment, vehicles, boats, etc to CASA. Donations can be dropped off at our office on June 23rd and 24th or contact us to make other arrangements.
- CASA Book Club is something new we are kicking off this summer! This book club is open to the general public and anyone interested in being part of a book club that will explore various issues of social justice and concern. The first book that we plan to explore is Trauma Stewardship: An Everyday Guide to Caring for Self While Caring for Others by Laura van Dernoot Lipsky. This book is a "must read" for anyone who is a first responder, a social worker, a disaster relief worker, a missionary and, of course, a CASA Volunteer. The introduction of the book states "This book is written for anyone who is doing work with an intention to make the world more sustainable and hopeful - all in all, a better place - and who, through this work, is exposed to the hardship, pain, crisis, trauma, or suffering of other living beings or the planet itself". We are excited about the opportunity to connect with the larger community by kicking off what we hope to be a very meaningful book club. The Book Club will meet for an initial coffee and pastry discussion at the Unshakable Grounds Coffee Shop on the square in Burnet on June 23rd from 9:00-10:00AM. We hope to see you there!
- 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:**

PEC United Charities  
Flat Creek Enoteca - Marble Falls  
The Employees at American Bank of Texas - Kingsland Branch  
Christ Redeemer Fellowship - Marble Falls  
The Church at Horseshoe Bay  
Juli Gilson  
Anonymous

And to all of our CASA Classic Golf Sponsors, listed on page 2!

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.