



The CASA Voice

CASA: Putting Children First August 2016 Issue

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

Headline Story: Do You Know Someone Who Can CASA???

CASA Quick Stats

Number of children
being served by our
CASA program today:

252

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

61

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

Blanco - 21

Burnet - 117

Lampasas - 40

Llano - 54

San Saba - 20

Calendar of Events

- **August 25th: Book Club meeting at 9AM.**
See pg. 3 for more info.
- **September 29th:**
In-service training for volunteers and spouses/friends who want to accompany a volunteer on a visit.
See pg. 3 for more info.
- **October 20th:**
In-service training on child mental health.
This training is provided by the National Alliance on Mental Health. See pg. 3 for more info.
- **November 3rd-5th:**
Texas CASA Conference



Do you know someone who would be an amazing voice for a child in need? Have you considered suggesting that they volunteer with CASA? If you know someone who can CASA check out page 2 for more information to assist you in sharing the CASA mission with that person and encouraging them to get involved. Our next volunteer training class will start in October and we already have some people committed to this class! Contact our office for more information.

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CASA



Do You Know Someone Who Can CASA???

Nominate a CASA!

If you know someone who you feel has the **heart, strength and compassion** to speak up for children, let them know!

Court Appointed Special Advocates are volunteers who pledge to give their time helping children move through the foster care system. They are not foster parents, but advocates who speak on behalf of a child at court hearings and use their voice to put the best interests of the child first.

Being a CASA volunteer takes a special kind of person. If you know someone who you believe has the qualities to give children another chance encourage them to contact their local CASA program for more information. You can also visit www.texascasa.org/nominate-a-casa/ to learn more about how to nominate someone to become a CASA advocate.

CASA for the Highland Lakes Area trains and supports advocates in the 5 counties of Blanco, Burnet, Lampasas, Llano and San Saba. We are always in need of more volunteers who are passionate about ensuring children are in a safe and loving home. We are taking applications now for volunteers who are interested in being part of our October training class, so contact us today!



CASA for the Highland Lakes Area

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CASA Happenings



We are currently training 21 people to become advocates for children. Pictured above are just a few of the amazing folks who have committed to becoming an advocate for a child in need.



Michele Boshears, one of our advocate supervisors, is moving on from CASA. We are excited for her plans, but will miss her as part of our staff. It's not "goodbye" though! Michele plans to continue volunteering with CASA as a child advocate and she will be working for an attorney who handles a lot of cases with CASA. I am sure we will be hearing from her quite a bit. Congratulations, Michele, on this next phase in your life!

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 round of applause goes out to **Dave Johnson**. **Dave** waited in line on August 6th for 2 hours to ensure that his CASA kids had necessary school supplies and shoes to start the school year off right! Thanks, **Dave**, for always selflessly sacrificing your time to ensure that your CASA kids have what they need!!!
- Our next round of applause goes out to **Juli Gilson**, who always knows what people need and how to develop trust with others. I am told that **Juli** went above and beyond to make her CASA kids and their caregiver feel special at her first meeting with them. **Juli** knew that the visit would be during dinner time and that the caregiver might be overwhelmed with getting the kids home, getting their bellies fed and getting their baths done before bed. She was thoughtful enough to pick dinner up for the entire family on her way there, which the caregiver really appreciated. Anyone who knows **Juli**, knows that her personality is infectious! Of course, her personality won the kids over right away. **Juli** is an amazing advocate who truly understands that building relationships makes our job as advocates so much easier. Thank you, **Juli**, for always being so incredibly thoughtful for the benefit of your CASA kids!!!!
- Last, but not least, **Jay Carey**, deserves a huge round of applause. **Jay Carey** has been a CASA advocate for many teens, but he is currently advocating for a 16 year old boy and he's been this boy's advocate for over 5 years! This boy has had a long journey in the foster care system, one that originally began before **Jay** was even a CASA. Because of the hard work and determination of a case manager and **Jay Carey** this teenage boy, one whom many would have thought may age out of foster care without any family connections, has now been reunited with extended family members who thought that this boy was lost from them forever. The extended family reports that their prayers have literally been answered by bringing this young man back into their lives! Thanks, **Jay**, for always believing that there is a happy ending for all of our CASA kids and working to achieve that happy ending for your CASA kid!

Happy Birthday To Our Volunteers!



Christa Collins
August 2nd

Emily Johnson
August 26th

Special Announcements

- CASA Book Club is underway! We met in June and July. We will meet again at 9:00AM on August 25th. It's not too late to join this group and its open to CASA volunteers and the general public. The first book we are reading is Trauma Stewardship: An Everyday Guide to Caring for Self While Caring for Others by Laura van Dernoot Lipsky. This book is a self-help book for people who deal with trauma through their work and/or volunteer experiences. We hope to see you all there! Contact Galyn at our office for more details.
- In-service training on September 29th is a training that is required for anyone who accompanies a CASA volunteer on visits. This training will cover necessary background checks that have to be completed as well as a training on confidentiality and appropriate interaction as an observer of a CASA visit. Stay tuned for more information coming your way from Galyn, our trainer.
- On October 20th from 12PM-2PM we are excited to offer a training by NAMI on child mental health. This training will be modified specifically for CASA volunteers and will cover the following topics: Early Warning Signs of Mental Illness and Living with Mental Illness. More information to come, but please reserve the date. This is sure to be a great training!
- Can you CASA? Curious about what our organization actually does?! Feel free to drop by our office at any time to take a tour and visit with our staff. We are also ready and willing to speak to any group of people, large or small. Contact us today if you have a group of people who is interested in hearing more about our program and how we meet the needs of children from our local communities!
- 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:

Christ Redeemer Fellowship
Flat Creek Enoteca
The Church at Horseshoe Bay
Richard Curran
Dave Johnson
Beverly Bowmaster
Trinity Episcopal Church

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.