



# CASA Connection

Volume 8: Issue 4

**Abuse Hotline**  
**1-800-222-8000**

April 2021

**Jackson County CASA, Inc.**  
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## Child Abuse Prevention Month



In 1983, by presidential proclamation of then President Ronald Reagan April was declared National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Every year since, the President rededicates the month with a new proclamation. Many State Governors and local Governing bodies also issue proclamations to encourage public awareness as well as recommit resources to the cause and promote community involvement through State and local activities.

During this month, people across the country come together to raise awareness about child abuse and neglect prevention. You continue to make a difference year round through the donation of your time as a CASA advocate.

Jackson County Board of Supervisors and the mayors of Gautier, Moss Point, Ocean Springs and Pascagoula will proclaim April as National Child Abuse Prevention month at their monthly meetings.

Throughout this month, be sure to wear your blue ribbon and help bring awareness to Child Abuse Prevention Month.

## Wear Blue Wednesday's

Join Jackson County CASA in supporting children who have experienced abuse or neglect by wearing blue each Wednesday throughout the month of April. Even if you are quarantined, you can advocate for the children in our county! Watch for options of ways you can help Change a Child's Story™.

### WEAR BLUE WEDNESDAY'S

Post your photo and tag us on our Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/641943313056127/>

## Court Dates

Your Court date is **very important**. Your **presence is needed** at all Court hearings. However, if you are unavailable to attend, please contact the CASA office and provide an update of your case. CASA staff will present your report to the Court. **Your input is essential. Your child/children are counting on you to provide a voice in Court. Please review the schedule carefully. If you have any questions, contact any staff for assistance.**

Confidential

Information unavailable

## Foster Care Review

County Conferences are held every six months to discuss and review the permanent plan of the child/children in foster care. Your attendance and input is requested. The review is **NOT** a court hearing, however, the testimony delivered during the conference will be provided to the Court to aid in making decisions about the child's best interest. **Please contact the CASA staff if you are not able to attend.**

Confidential

Information unavailable

## April Birthdays

**April 1**  
Gwen Kennard

**April 2**  
Ricky Woolbrecht

**April 4**  
Cathy Groff  
Mary Marnecheck

**April 5**  
Tim Billings  
Avonne Polk

**April 18**  
Joan Pylate

**April 22**  
Karen Lowell

**April 24**  
Regina Krebs

**April 26**  
Mark Roberts

**April 29**  
Bridget Pickett



## Latest Program Statistics

JC CASA is a volunteer-powered organization that advocates for the abused and neglected children of our county. We have an amazing group of dedicated volunteers that provide a voice for these children throughout their court process. As of February 28, 2021, **85 Volunteers** have served **141 children** from **78 families** with **515 donated hours of service for the 2020 calendar year**.

## In-Service Dates for Volunteers

**To maintain your CASA standing you are required to complete 12 hours of In-Service training each year. Be sure to include any completed In-Service hours on your monthly reports.** We would like to discuss topics that would be beneficial to you. Please contact the CASA staff if you have special requests.

**April 5**, Jackson County Board of Supervisors will proclaim the month of April as National Child Abuse Prevention Month. The proclamation will be presented at their monthly meeting, held at the Jackson County Service Complex, 2915 Canty Street, Pascagoula. The meeting begins promptly at 9:00 a.m. in the Board Room, #2031. Representatives from CASA, CPS and the Youth Court will be there to accept the proclamation. Volunteers are invited to attend any of these meetings. Note: Moss Point's meeting will be virtual.

**April 12**, Angela Mallette, Director of Outreach of *End It for Good*, located in Jackson, will host two Zoom presentations titled "Understanding Childhood Trauma": presentation times are 2 and 6 p.m. This is a wonderful opportunity for volunteers and mentors to gain a deeper understanding of what the children we assist must deal with psychologically. Also, Ms. Mallette will provide the participants with tools to help our children in new and more concise ways. Seating is limited, so please make arrangements early if you plan to attend at the CASA building. *The Zoom link will be sent to you prior to April 12.*

**April 26**, Angela Mallette will host two Zoom presentations titled "Building Resilience". This will act as a building block on the first presentation, "Understanding Childhood Trauma". Also, it maybe standalone presentation that will strengthen our tool boxes with ways to help our children cope and move forward successfully. Seating is limited, so please make arrangements early if you plan to attend at the CASA building. There will also be an opportunity to attend virtually. *The Zoom link will be sent to you prior to April 26.*

**April 12, 14, 20 and 27:** Our spring Pre-Service Volunteer Training will be held throughout the month of April and conclude in early May. For a refresher on your advocacy for our children, volunteers may audit any or all of the training sessions. This will provide you with in-service hours. For more information regarding the training, contact the CASA office or check our website, [www.jccasa.net](http://www.jccasa.net) for details.

Additionally, many independent In-Service opportunities can be found on the our website, [www.jccasa.net](http://www.jccasa.net)

## Volunteer Training Starts April 12

The Guided Learning curriculum allows the participants to work independently with a National CASA certified training facilitator to guide and support them through the training. The participants will meet weekly for the review. The in-person sessions will last approximately 1½ hours, 6:00—7:30 p.m. Visit our website, [jccasa.net](http://jccasa.net) or contact the CASA office, 228-762-7370, for additional information.

<b>April 12</b>	<b>Overview: Part I</b>
<b>April 14</b>	<b>Overview: Part 2</b>
<b>April 20</b>	<b>The Bleux Case</b>
<b>April 27</b>	<b>The Green Case</b>
<b>May 4</b>	<b>The Amarillo Case</b>
<b>May 11</b>	<b>The Redd Case</b>

**Pass this information on to friends or family that would like to help Change A Child's Story™ by becoming a CASA volunteer.**

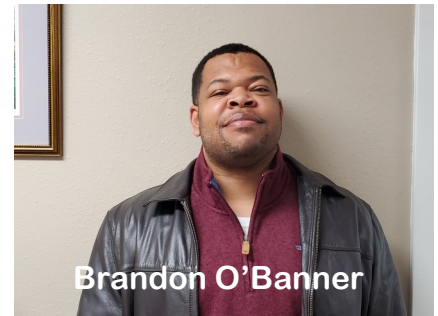
# Welcome Our New Volunteers

Pre-Service Volunteer Training began January 11 and continued through February. This training incorporated the Mentor Volunteer training as well. The training was conducted by our National CASA certified training facilitator Patty Waters.

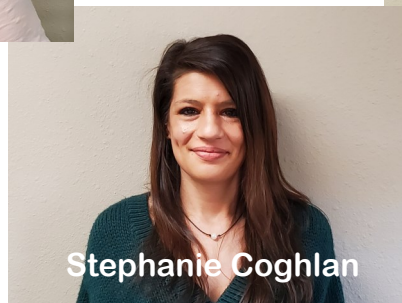
Youth Court Judge, Sharon Sigalas inducted our CASA volunteers and Fostering Futures Mentor volunteers March 4 at the Jackson County Youth Court in Pascagoula.

We are delighted to welcome the new volunteers: Victor Goff, Samantha Lucas-Ringl, Brandon O'Banner, Carolyn O'Banner, Judy Schneider and Marsha Wilson. We are also delighted to welcome mentor volunteers: Lee Ann Aguilar, Stephanie Coghlan, Deidre Johnson and Ruth Payton. Congratulations!

## CASA Volunteers



## Fostering Futures Mentor Volunteers





## FYI

March began with some very generous donations. March 4, Marie Patrick arrived at the CASA office with several miscellaneous items for our children.

The Mayor's Youth Councils of Gautier and Ocean Springs hosted "Movie Night", March 5 with proceeds from the event going to our CASA program.

March 8, Robin Cameron and her grandson Drew Williams delivered Easter candy and treats for our children.

Once again, the Junior Auxiliary of Biloxi-Ocean Springs prepared Easter baskets for our children. March 26, JABOS members Brandi Martino and Beth Lovorn delivered the treat-filled pails.

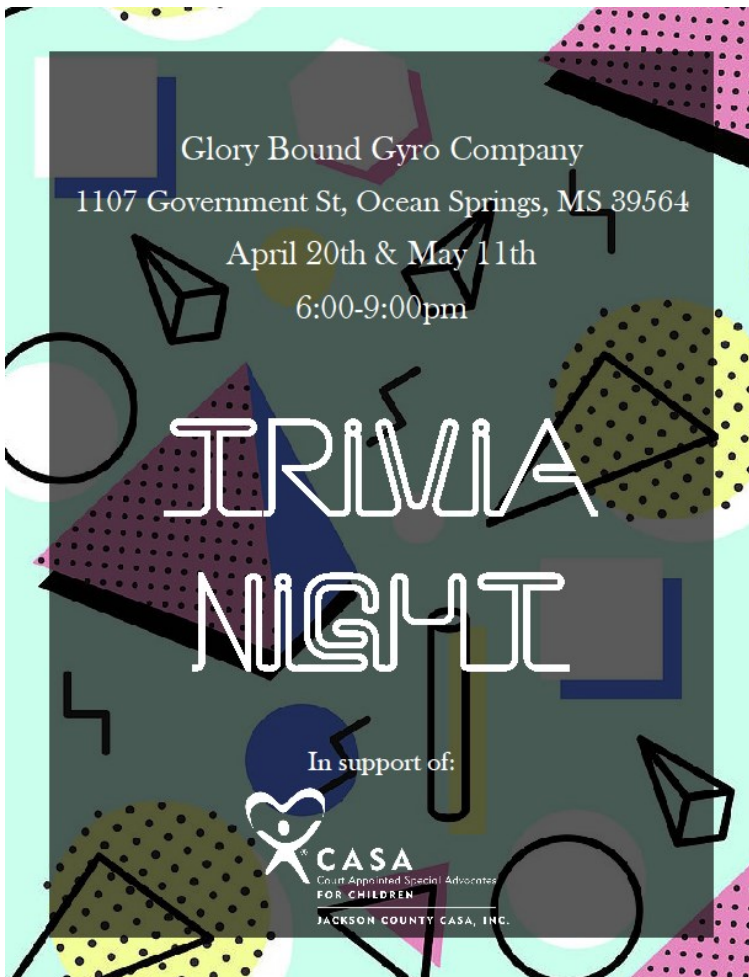
The month ended with a large donation of stuffed animals, courtesy of Dixie Dart Association. Angela Lynn, CASA Advocate Supervisor, collected the donation from Toni Noble on March 29. We are grateful for the continued support from our community.

Many thanks to the Pascagoula River Audubon Center. CASA was invited to host a booth at their fundraiser "Picnic at the PRAC", March 20. Nora Turner, CASA Mentor Advocate and a volunteer at the Audubon Center, played a vital role in helping us secure our place at the Audubon picnic. Our booth was hosted by CASA staff, Angela Lynn and Beverly Goff. Volunteers Brandon O'Banner, Carolyn O'Banner, Erin Kramer, Regina Krebs, Charlotte McClendon and Judy Schneider assisted. The event helped us bring awareness of our program and recruit potential volunteers; it was a successful adventure. Thank you Nora!

A representative from *The Tower*, located in Jackson, conducted an in-service for our volunteers, March 22. *The Tower* is under the Center for Violence Prevention. It provides voluntary services to identified victims of trafficking through its multidisciplinary professionals and community partners to achieve safety, recovery and restoration. Participation in the program is voluntary and requires consent, active participation and adherence to the established guidelines for the safety and well-being of all clients and staff. They provided our volunteers with a plethora of information if ever needed for their cases.



## April Happenings



### Jackson County Chamber of Commerce

will spotlight

**Jackson County CASA**

**APRIL 9**

**10:30 a.m.**

on their Facebook Live event

**FRIDAY FEATURE**

Tune in to this live event and learn  
about our mission and how to become  
a CASA Volunteer.

 **Jackson County CASA, Inc.**  
Helping to Change A Child's Story.™  
In partnership with  
**Pascagoula Men's Club**



## BBQ PORK BUTT FUNDRAISER

**May 8**  
**\$35 for a 10 to 12 pound pork butt**  
**Order deadline April 30**

To place an order  
Visit our website,  
<https://jccasa.net/fundraisers/>  
or call the CASA office,  
**228-762-7370**

Pick-up May 8  
1:00 to 3:00 p.m.  
**Hard Tails 228-219-1067**  
**4100 Clark Street, Pascagoula**

CASA of Hancock County

**LIGHT OF HOPE**

recognizing April as  
Child Abuse Prevention Month

April 22

5:30—6:30 in the evening

Diamondhead City Hall

JC CASA Volunteers can earn in-service hours  
for attending this *even*

**BBQ PORK BUTT FUNDRAISER**

**Order yours today**

Place your order through our website:  
<https://jccasa.net/fundraisers/>

Jackson County CASA, Inc.  
Providing a voice for abused and neglected children  
of Jackson County since 1985.