



CASA Connection

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Abuse Hotline
1-800-222-8000

June 2021

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www.jccasa.net



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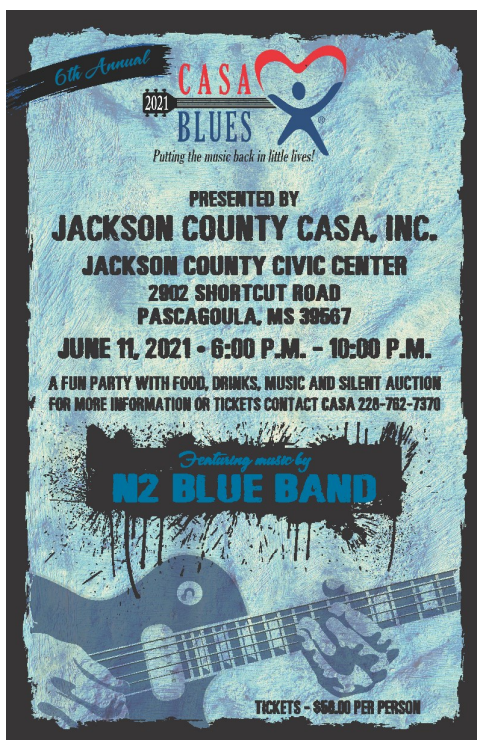
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6th Annual CASA Blues



JACKSON COUNTY CASA, INC.

Advocating for the abused and neglected
children of Jackson County Since 1985

JOIN US IN A NIGHT OF FUN

And help us put the music back into the
little lives of some very deserving children

JUNE 11

JACKSON COUNTY CIVIC CENTER

6-10 P.M.

\$50 PER PERSON

Includes food, drinks, entertainment
& a silent auction; adults only

To purchase tickets, visit our website, jccasa.net to purchase through EventBrite or contact the CASA office at 228-762-7370

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Become A CASA Volunteer

It is not too late to join our summer volunteer training session and help Change a Child's Story®. Training began May 24 and will continue throughout June. The training candidates will be introduced to two ways that they can advocate for our children, a CASA Advocate or a Mentor Advocate. CASA advocates advocate for children ages 0—18. Mentoring advocates will advocate for children 14—18, preparing them for transitioning out of the system, into a life of independence. Which one will you choose?

Training dates: May 24 & 26, June 1, 8, 15 and 22. Contact the CASA office or come join us at our next session. We need you! Visit our website, jccasa.net, for more details.

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

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 April 30, 2021, **89 Volunteers** have served **167 children** from **93 families** with **1613 donated hours of service for the 2021 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.

NETFLIX offers two movies that provide insight on some topics that affect many of our children and families. ***You Are My Home*** follows the relationship of a heartbroken woman and a young immigrant girl who has lost her mother at the border, coming together just before Christmas. ***7 Yards: The Chris Norton Story*** tells an inspiring story of Chris Norton's journey to overcome a traumatic event and rebuild his life. If you choose to view one or both of these movies, you must provide a very brief report to your supervisor. **Contact your supervisor to request the simple report form.**

Adopting Tiger, by Chavis Fisher is a book about a 12 year old foster child, Tiger, that two families are fighting to adopt. Tiger has a wish. But, is it heard or drowned by an imperfect system? It is in the Judge's hands. What will he decide? Where will be Tiger's forever home? We have 2 copies of the book in the CASA office. **Call your supervisor to reserve the book and they will let you know when it is available.** The book is available on Kindle (\$7.95) or in paperback (\$10.95 new) on Amazon. If you choose to read this book, you must provide a very brief report to your supervisor. **Contact your supervisor to request the simple report form.**

June 3, CASA will host an informative in-service regarding the services that Youth Villages provides for foster children. The presentation will be held at the Youth Court building at 3:00 p.m. Robin Sanford, Pre-Service Coordinator at Youth Villages in Biloxi will be the presenter. Robin will talk about MYPAC, assistance with transitional living and much more. **This is the first time that CASA has hosted Youth Villages. We are very excited to learn more about their program. This is an excellent opportunity for our volunteers.**

Additionally, many independent In-Service opportunities can be found on the our website, www.jccasa.net

June Birthdays

June 1

Beth Keenan
Lisa Cannon
Stacey Dugger

June 7

Shanterica Armstrong

June 11

Melanie Holden

June 16

Sandra King

June 28

Beverly Goff



IMPORTANT: Notice to Volunteers

Beginning June 1, the CPS staff will be working full-time in the office on Jefferson Street, Pascagoula. Volunteers are welcome to attend in the Foster Care Reviews (FCR). Please note, **face masks will be required.**

Welcome Our New Volunteers

Our Spring Pre-Service Volunteer Training began April 12 and continued through March. The training was conducted by our National CASA certified training facilitator Patty Waters, with assistance from the CASA staff. Throughout the training, the volunteer candidates were provided information on two volunteer opportunities, the CASA advocate and the Mentoring Advocate. CASA advocates advocate for children ages 0—18. Mentoring advocates will advocate for children 14—18, preparing them for transitioning out of the system, into a life of independence. By the end of the training sessions, the candidates had to select which volunteer program they wanted to join.

Youth Court Judge, Sharon Sigalas talked to the group about Youth Court law prior to their induction on May 13. We are delighted to welcome the new CASA volunteers Carolyn Gautier and Tammy Howell. We are also delighted to welcome the new mentor volunteers Aaliyah Dock and Terri Thompson. We were pleased to have the secretary of our Board of Directors, Samantha Bignell, join the training session. Samantha wanted to learn more about the role of the CASA and Mentor Volunteers. **Congratulations!**

CASA ADVOCATES



Carolyn Gautier



Tammy Howell

BOARD MEMBER



Samantha Bignell
Board Secretary

MENTORING ADVOCATES



Aaliyah Dock



Terri Thompson

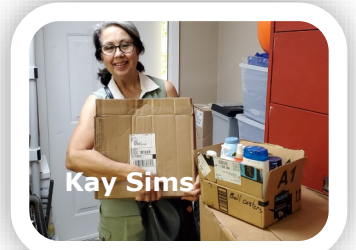
FYI



May 6, Junior Auxiliary of Biloxi-Ocean Springs delivered a large donation of diapers and diaper bags to our office. Most of them have already been distributed to resource homes that are fostering babies and toddlers.

May 12, Junior Auxiliary of Pascagoula-Moss Point delivered clothing for two little girls in need. We were able to provide them with a lot of other necessities that were donated by other community partners.

May 18, Kay Sims arrived at the CASA office with a donation of hygiene products for our older youths. She also brought an assortment of magazines. Thank you Kay.



FYI



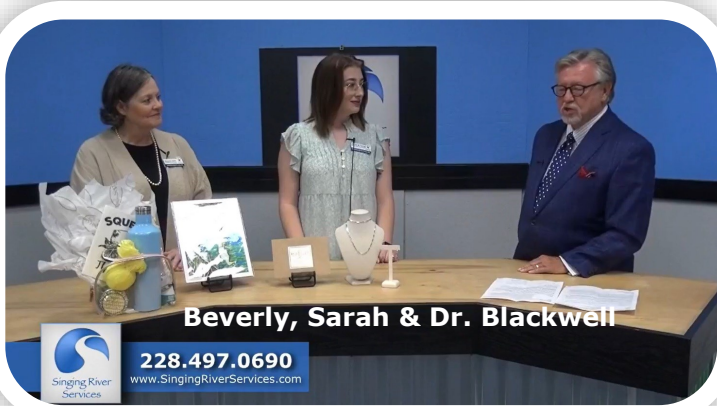
Cathy, Lisa, Beverly & Victor

May 22, CASA hosted a booth at the First Annual Maritime Day event at the Mississippi Maritime Museum and Activity Center in Pascagoula. It was a very windy day, but Mentor Coordinator, Beverly Goff and her Volunteer husband, Victor were able to set up our booth and prepare to spread the word about our mission and recruit new volunteers. Volunteer Cathy Groff and board member Lisa Cannon stopped by to help out. It was a great day. We are looking forward to next year. We are grateful to Lorren West, Executive Director of the museum, for inviting us to be a part of their first annual Maritime Day.



Mitchell, Jason & Phillip

May 24, a crew from the county arrived at our office with a picnic table for the staff to enjoy. We are very appreciative for this generous addition to our office. Thanks to county employees Mitchell Long, Jason Orr and Phillip Black for delivering the table. Our next step is to do some cleaning and painting and it will be good to go!



Beverly, Sarah & Dr. Blackwell

May 24, Mentoring Coordinators Beverly Goff and Sarah Young joined Dr. Blackwell on WGUD's Singing River Services program. They shared information about our mission and a sneak peek into some of the AMAZING auction items we're going to have at CASA Blues! They showcased beautiful items such as jewelry from Johnson Brothers, a gift basket from Burnham's Drugs, and a gorgeous painting donated by the Singing River Art Association.

Beginning June 18, the CASA office will be closed to the public, including volunteers, each Friday through October 1. The staff will be working on the program's Self-Assessment, a review and update of policies and procedures, as required by National CASA Association. If you need immediate assistance, please call the office and the receptionist will assist you. Thank you.



Our office will be closed for Memorial Day, May 31.