



CASA Connection

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Abuse Hotline
1-800-222-8000

July 2021

Jackson County CASA, Inc.
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www.jccasa.net



Staff

Frances L. Allsup
Executive Director

Brenda M. Lancaster
Sr. Advocate Supervisor

Mark Roberts
Administration and Planner
Coordinator

Advocate Supervisors
Laura Hasty
Angela Lynn
Jonathan Mills

Co-Mentoring Coordinators
Beverly Goff
Sarah Young

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Laura Hasty Joins CASA Staff

We are excited to announce that we have an additional staff member that has joined our CASA family. Laura Hasty began July 14 as an Advocate Supervisor. Please help us welcome her to our team.

Laura was born in the Central Community of George County, MS; at about the age of ten, she moved with her family to Pascagoula, MS. Laura is a graduate of Pascagoula High School and earned an associates degree from Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College. She is married to Jim Hasty of Huntsville, AL, and they have two daughters, Catherine and Leigh. Laura has for many years worked in different court systems and recently retired from Jackson County Justice Court after twenty-eight years of service.

Laura has volunteered for several organizations over the years, and she has always had a desire to help others, especially children. After learning about CASA and their mission, Laura worked to become an advocate for abused and neglected children. CASA is Laura's next journey in life with an established commitment to making a difference in the lives of children.



Become A CASA Volunteer

Our late summer volunteer training begins July 12. Contact us at 228-762-7370 or visit our website jccasa.net to apply. The training is through independent study, on your own time, followed by a review session with the training facilitator. Schedule below:

Overview: Part 1 and interview

July 12
6:00 p.m. — 7:30 p.m.

Overview: Part 2

July 14
6:00 p.m. — 7:30 p.m.

The Bleux Case

July 20
6:00 p.m. — 7:30 p.m.

The Green Case

July 27
6:00 p.m. — 7:30 p.m.

The Amarillo Case

August 3
6:00 p.m. — 7:30 p.m.

The Redd Case/Fostering Futures

August 10
6:00 p.m. — 7:30 p.m.

Wrap-up and Optima Training

August 17
6:00 p.m.—7:30 p.m.

Law and Induction

August 19
tentative date

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 May 31, 2021, **88 Volunteers** have served **178 children** from **99 families** with **1941 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.

July 27— National CASA Association presents a webinar, *Intersection of Drug Endangered Children (DEC) and Human Trafficking*, July 27 at 12:00 p.m. There is a disconnect across the country on how substance misuse and trafficking are connected and what professionals and volunteers can look for and how they can help. This one-hour presentation will look at both drug endangered children and human/sex trafficking individually as well as their intersections to increase knowledge of the issues as well as ideas of how to identify and help these at-risk children. Presenters will provide data, information, and examples to round out the picture for participants. You can participate in this webinar with the CASA staff at the CASA office, just call or email the staff and reserve your spot. If you prefer, you can participate in the webinar at your home or office.

Fostering Unity 2020 Webinar: Visit our website, <https://jccasa.net/continuing-education/> The Webinar is listed under the "Videos" portion. In December of 2020, we participated in the Fostering Unity 2020 Webinar. The purpose of this webinar was to link Foster Care resources throughout the State of Mississippi and to share our stories with others. This webinar is full of phenomenal resources throughout the State that will further your knowledge of what the children you serve have access to. Not only does each organization conduct a presentation, but this webinar will pull on your heart strings through keynote speakers who have experienced foster care and human trafficking. There is also a special presentation from Judge Favre, Youth Court Judge of Hancock County. Every minute of this webinar is worth the time! 2 hours and 15 minutes

July 22—Join us at Jackson County Youth Court as the Director of Narcotics of the South Mississippi Metropolitan Enforcement Team (MET) team presents drug trends and drug identification. Joe Nicholson will be sharing his expertise while providing real drug samples for viewing purposes. Contact any CASA staff to reserve your spot or sign up on our website at: <https://jccasa.net/events-for-volunteers/>

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

July Birthdays

July 4
Mike Wheatley

July 11
Lee Ann Aguilar

July 13
Kim Glass

July 17
Doretha Goodman

July 19
Brenda Lancaster

July 20
Victor Goff

July 23
Charlotte McClendon

July 27
Tashema Cannon



Welcome Our New Volunteers



Bobbie Lankford
Congratulations!

Our Summer Pre-Service Volunteer Training began May 24 and continued through June. 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 volunteers advocate for children ages 0—18. Mentor advocates advocate for children 14—18, preparing them for transitioning out of the system, into a life of independence. June 22, Youth Court Judge, Sharon Sigalas inducted them as CASA Volunteers. We are delighted to welcome the new volunteers Bobbie Lankford and Tess Mason.



Tess Mason
Congratulations!

FYI



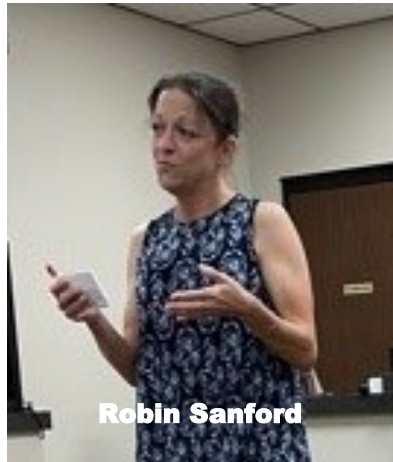
Katryna Twilbeck

May 28, Jackson County CASA received a generous donation of school backpacks from Katryna Twilbeck, Foster Parent, and School Counselor at Vancleave Lower Elementary. Can you believe it? It is time to prepare for the next school year! Thank you Katryna.

June 3, CASA hosted an in-service in the courtroom of Jackson County Youth Court. Our guest speakers were Robin Sanford and Bridget Lewis from *Youth Villages*, and Ashley Oganess from *MYPAC*. Both organizations provide valuable services for our children. Robin and Ashley talked about their programs at length, providing in-depth information and answers to our questions. We are grateful for their service to our youth. If you were unable to attend this presentation and would like to know more about their services, a video was made and is available on our website, jccasa.net, under the *Volunteers* tab. If you view the presentation online, don't forget to fill out the "In-Service Completion Form" and send it to your supervisor.

June 3, Mark Roberts, Administration and Planner Coordinator, was the guest of United Way for Jackson and George Counties' tv segment, *Live United*. He shared information about our CASA mission and our upcoming fundraiser, *CASA Blues*. He also displayed some of the wonderful items that would be available for the silent auction.

June 3 was a busy day at the CASA office. Jackson County Leadership arrived for a tour of the Youth Court facilities. Frances Allsup provided a tour of our office space and explained our CASA mission to the group.



Robin Sanford



Bridget Lewis



MS National Baptist State Convention Women's International Auxiliary

June 9, Jackson County CASA would like to thank the Mississippi National Baptist State Convention Women's International Auxiliary for their extremely kind donation of backpacks and school supplies on June 8th for our children in need for the upcoming school year. It takes a village and your kind support will surely lighten the burden for numerous children. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

June 11, Volunteer/Training Facilitator Patty Waters met with the members of the Vacation Bible School (VBS) at St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church in Ocean Springs. The children and youth taking part in the summer VBS chose as a service project to bring in change and donate all the coins collected to Jackson County CASA.

The classes participated in a friendly competition and raised a four-day total of \$574.61. A very generous donation was made in honor of the children of St. Elizabeth, and the final total presented to CASA was \$1,229.04! Special thanks to the VBS director, Lisa Greig, her wonderful parents leaders, and teen volunteers. They truly lived out this year's theme "Treasured" and "Discovering You're Treasured by God" with their outstanding support. So amazing to witness children helping children - making a big difference in children's lives. What a great way to start the day!



St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church VBS supports CASA

FYI

June 16 & 17, Cynthia Chauvin, Executive Director of CASA of Hancock County and Master Facilitator, CASA Mississippi, invited staff members from the CASA programs of Harrison and Jackson Counties to participate in the National CASA Training of Facilitators course. The training was conducted by Ms. Chauvin, who was assisted by Jackson County CASA's Training Facilitator, Patty Waters. Not only did the participants receive certification as a National CASA certified Training Facilitator, they had the opportunity to get to know the staff of the sister CASA programs along the Coast. Congratulations to each newly trained and certified CASA facilitator. Thank you to Ms. Chauvin for facilitating the training.



Participants in National CASA's Training of Facilitators course receive their certificates. Congratulations!

June 19, the Dixie Dart Association held it's annual tournament with proceeds going to their Charity of Choice, Jackson County CASA. The tournament was held at the VFW in Ocean Springs. Frances Allsup, our Executive Director, had a great time watching the tournament and spending time with the members and guests. In addition to the monetary donation, they donated an assortment of toys for our children. The Dixie Dart Association is a long-time supporter of our CASA program. We are thankful for their continued support.



Dixie Dart Association



*Happy Fourth
of July!*

*Our office will be closed July 5. We will
resume regular office hours Tuesday, July 6.*

CASA Blues



Above: The CASA staff: Standing—Sarah Young, Laura Hasty, Angela Lynn, & Jonathan Mills. Seated: Brenda Lancaster, Mark Roberts, Beverly Goff & Frances Allsup

Left: Richard Lucas, Executive Committee Member of United Way for Jackson & George Counties serves as Master of Ceremonies



Above: JC CASA Board President, Honorable Jeffrey Pierce presents awards



Above: Honorable Sharon Sigalas, Jackson County Youth Court Judge, provides closing remarks

FYI



Above: 2021 CASA Blues recipient of the **CHAMPION FOR CHILDREN** award, N2BLUE band. Members include Buck Canfield, Kristi Turner Canfield, Jennifer Waltman, Mark Ladner, Tommy Laws, Rob Smith, and Sam Owens.



Above left: Special thanks to Azteca's Restaurant and Cantina; accepting the award, Orlando Godoy

Above center: Accepting the posthumous award for band member Keith Hunter, his wife Paige

Above right: Special thanks to Marta Williams, Ft. Bayou Wine & Spirits

CASA Blues



An agency of United Way for Jackson and George Counties since 1999



CASA Blues



An agency of United Way for Jackson and George Counties since 1999



Blue Jeans for CASA Teens



BLUE JEANS FOR CASA TEENS


GIRLS

SHIPPING ADDRESS FOR AMAZON DONATIONS:

Supply Chain Management Traffic Dept.
1000 Access Rd
Admin 2 Bldg
Pascagoula, MS 39568


BOYS

Would you like to help us

Ingalls' summer interns are collecting NEW pairs of blue jeans on behalf of CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates)

- Donations benefit teenagers & young adults in foster care
- Donate in-person at the locations below, or scan a QR code to find reasonably priced jeans on Amazon
- Girls' sizes 7-18. Boys' sizes 8-20
- DEADLINE: MONDAY, JULY 19TH

DROP-OFF LOCATIONS:

HR bldg. – KiAunda Calloway
 Admin 3 bldg. – Contracts – Bailey Davis
 Admin 3 bldg. – Estimating & Pricing – Heather Rivers
 LBTF bldg. – Industrial Engineering – Reid Carter
 Admin 2 bldg. – Supply Chain – Peter Michiels
 SRI bldg. 11 – Jennifer Khuu

CASA T-Shirts



Drop by the CASA office to purchase your CASA T-Shirt

\$20