



CASA Connection

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Abuse Hotline
1-800-222-8000

August 2021

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Do You Want To Be A Superhero?



*Every child needs a hero but
abused children need superheroes.*

BECOME A CASA HERO

Are you ready to become a champion for a child? You can be that person! You can be that voice! You can be that HERO!

Sign up today to give children the gift of a CASA Volunteer.
Because of YOU, a positive difference can be made for them to thrive!

AUGUST 24, 2021

5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Superheroes for CASA
Blossman Family YMCA
1810 Government Street
Ocean Springs, MS

You're invited to join us & learn how you
can be a voice for a child today!

Because of YOU

A child can have a
brighter future!

A family came
back together!

YOU get to be a
part of their story!

You can help
make the
impossible
POSSIBLE!

JACKSON COUNTY
CASA, INC.

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Our next volunteer training begins **September 14**. We use National CASA's Guided Learning curriculum. It provides an individualized, self-paced training that is guided by a National CASA certified training facilitator. Check our website, jccasa.net or call 228-762-7370 for additional information.

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 June 30, 2021, **103 Volunteers** have served **180 children** from **101 families** with **2451 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.

NOTE: You can participate in any of the webinars listed below with the CASA staff at the CASA office. Call or email your Advocate Supervisor or any CASA staff to reserve your spot. If you prefer, you can participate in any of the webinars in your home or office.

August 3, 12:00 p.m. National CASA Association presents a Zoom webinar (Number 2 in a 3 part series), *Understanding the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA): Family, Community and Culture*. Participants will learn about the concepts and philosophical framework which undergird the ICWA and key requirements of the law and regulations that would be particularly relevant to CASA/GAL work. The webinar will provide strategies to keep children with parents and families, and connected with culture and community. The webinar will be presented by Jack Trope, Senior Director, Indian Child Welfare Program at Casey Family Programs. Number of in-service hours: 1

Registration Link: https://nationalcasagal.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_4B6XN3YHStKv40mA3S5pcA

August 11, 9:00—10:30 a.m. Gulfport Behavioral will present a webinar on "Mental Health and Treatment Condition". Call or email your Advocate Supervisor or any CASA staff to reserve your spot. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, space is limited.

August 24, 9:00—10:00 a.m. Angela Lynn, CASA Advocate Supervisor will host *Cares and Connection* at the Jackson County Civic Center, a round table discussion with volunteers. The meeting will allow volunteers an opportunity to meet and learn from other volunteers as they talk about any issues or concerns they may have regarding cases. Also, the meeting will allow the staff an opportunity to highlight and praise our outstanding volunteers.

August 26, 12:00 p.m. National CASA Association presents a Zoom webinar (number 3 in a 3 part series), *Children and Families of Tribal Nations: Effective Engagement with Tribes to Secure Best Outcomes*. Participants will recognize the important role of tribes in the ICWA and the importance of effective collaboration with tribes in ICWA cases. They will also learn about Tribal Sovereignty and Tribal Citizenship/Membership, and strategies to collaborate with Tribes regarding active efforts, services to families, and placement of children. The webinar will be presented by Jack Trope, Senior Director, Indian Child Welfare Program at Casey Family Programs. Number of in-service credit hours: 1

Registration link: https://nationalcasagal.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_8pZ2RW6WSQ-i-Kp2H5PSfw

August 31, 12:00 p.m. National CASA Association presents a Zoom webinar, *Intersection of Substance Abuse and Domestic Violence*. Numerous research studies have informed us that there is a correlation between legal or illegal substance misuse and violence/domestic violence in the home. Often, one of these is missed when we are working with children and families...one of the reasons families have high recidivism rates. This one-hour presentation will take a look at both legal and illegal substance misuse and domestic violence individually, how they impact the family unit, and then discuss their intersection in order to provide a larger picture of the combined impacts. Participants will gain an increased knowledge of how legal and illegal substance misuse and domestic violence impact children and families. They will also gain a better understanding of their impacts on children and families. The webinar will be presented by National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children. Number of in-service credit hours: 1

Registration link: https://nationalcasagal.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_D4iOY2N0Skqtb4NDeyjJg



Change a Child's Story®
Become a CASA Volunteer!

August Birthdays

August 3
Virginia Brink

August 4
Lucy Hurst-Gordon

August 7
Michelle Wilson

August 9
Lenita Long

August 15
David Lancaster
Ruth Payton

August 17
Tommy Sessum

August 18
Erin Kramer

August 20
Carolyn O'Banner

August 23
Florence Motes

August 26
Karen Bradley
Twaya Caples

August 28
Tonya Fowler
Patty Waters

August 30
Frances Allsup
Carolyn Gautier



August Events: Mark Your Calendar

JACKSON COUNTY CASA



**SUPPORTING THE UNITED WAY OF
JACKSON AND GEORGE COUNTIES**

WHEN
Wednesday, August 18
3 pm - 9 pm

WHERE
Lady May
708 Washington Ave., Ocean Springs



Dine at Lady May on August 18
and they will donate 10% of
their profits earned between
3 and 9 p.m. to benefit United
Way for Jackson & George
Counties.



Change a Child's Story®

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

August 4

JC CASA will be at the *St. Martin's Farmer's Market* recruiting volunteers and spreading the word of our mission. The *Farmer's Market* is held at St. Martin Community Center, 15008 Lemoyne Blvd., Biloxi, 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

August 14

JC CASA will be at *Second Saturday* recruiting volunteers and spreading the word of our mission. The *Second Saturday* event is held outdoors in downtown Lucedale, 5:00—8:00 p.m.

August 18

Dine out at *Lady May*, 708 Washington Ave., Ocean Springs between 3:00 and 9:00 p.m. and they will donate 10% of their profits to benefit United Way for Jackson and George Counties. *See the flyer on the left for more details.*

August 21

JC CASA will be at Ocean Springs' *Fresh Market*, 1000 Washington Ave., 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m., recruiting volunteers and spreading the word of our mission.

August 24

JC CASA will hold a *Superhero Rally* at Blossman Family YMCA in Ocean Springs, 5:30—7:30 p.m. Come join us and help recruit volunteers and spread the word of our mission.

Mark these dates and join us at any or all of these events. Our volunteers are the best tool we have for recruiting new volunteers and spreading the word of our mission.

FYI



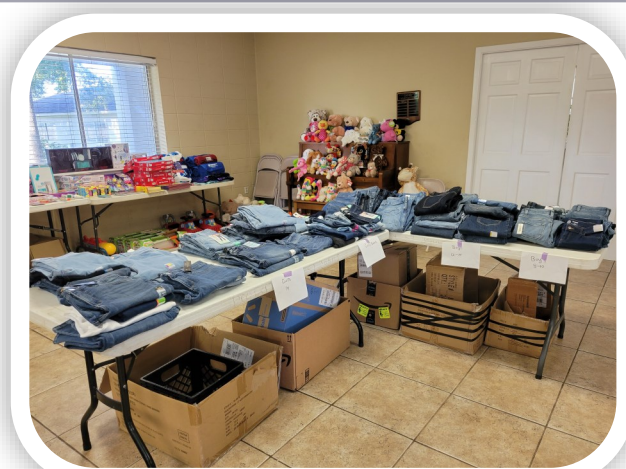
June 30: Amy Brandenstein and David Adkison from Chevron, delivered duffle bags for foster children. The bags were donated by Courtney Pool, *My BELONGing's*, and stuffed with basic supplies by Chevron employees.



July 1: Throughout the summer, Jackson County CASA board member, Lisa Cannon, collected school supplies for our foster children. Our community really stepped up to support her efforts. She collected an abundance of supplies. The photo is a small sampling of the donations she collected. Wow!



July 6-7: CASA Directors, Frances Allsup, Jackson County CASA, Cynthia Chauvin, CASA of Hancock County, Tiffany Dillard, CASA of Harrison County and Erin Smith, CASA of LaFayette County met in Jackson to attend a council of programs meeting. This was the first in-person meeting in a couple of years. The program director's networked and begin initial planning for next year, too. We also had the privilege of meeting with Senators Nicole Boyd & Tyler McCaughn for dinner while in town. A big thank you to both of them for their interest in the CASA mission but most importantly for caring about our state's most vulnerable citizens.



July 21: We are so thankful to this phenomenal group of Huntington Ingalls Industries Interns. We were chosen to be their summer project recipient, which the Interns affectionately named "Blue Jeans for CASA Teens." It is rare that we receive donations tailored around our CASA teens, and their donation could not have come at a better time. Their dedication to our mission is astounding and we are thankful for this partnership.



July 22, left: Jennifer Gautier arrived at our office with bags of stuffed animals for our children. For her son's birthday, in place of a gift for her son, she asked the guests to bring a stuffed animal to donate to CASA. She received a large collection!



July 25, right: Our faithful supporters from the Dixie Dart Association, held their annual drive to collect back-to-school supplies for our children. Our children will be well prepared for the first day of school!

July 27—29, below: Our community supporters donated an abundance of school supplies, backpacks, paper, notebooks, hygiene products, clothing and more. We are grateful to St John's Episcopal Church in Pascagoula for allowing us to use their Parish Hall as our distribution center.



July 26, above: Junior Auxiliary of Biloxi Ocean Springs is another organization that faithfully supports our CASA mission. JABOS member Brandi Martino, delivered backpacks for all of our school age CASA children filled with basic school supplies.

