



# CASA Connection

Volume 8: Issue 10

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

October 2021

**Jackson County CASA, Inc.**  
4903 Telephone Road  
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[www.jccasa.net](http://www.jccasa.net)



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Frances L. Allsup  
Executive Director

Brenda M. Lancaster  
Sr. Advocate Supervisor

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Administration and Planner  
Coordinator

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Angela Lynn  
Jonathan Mills

Co-Mentoring Coordinators  
Beverly Goff  
Sarah Young

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## **CASA Events for October**

### **ZONTA: October 2**

Be sure to attend Zonta, a longstanding festival held in downtown Pascagoula, on October 2. There will be a lot of treasures to purchase, great food to enjoy, and people to see. JC CASA will host a booth at the event, so drop by for a visit and help us spread the word of our mission and recruit new volunteers.

### **CRUISIN' THE COAST: October 7, 8, & 9**

*Cruisin'* is returning to Pascagoula for three days, October 7, 8, & 9, so be on the lookout for magnificent cars adorning beautiful Pascagoula Beach Park. JC CASA is partnering with Pascagoula Men's Club to host a table. The Men's club will sell beer. JC CASA will promote the CASA mission, recruit volunteers, and provide bottle water and soft drinks for a small donation. Please join us for the fun and festivities of *Cruisin' the Coast*!

### **PASCAGOULA MEN'S CLUB BBQ THROW DOWN: October 16**

Pascagoula Men's Club will host its third annual *BBQ Throw Down* fundraising event Saturday, October 16, from 11:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. in downtown Pascagoula (Delmas). There will be live music, local arts and craft vendors, and a lot of competitors preparing some delicious food for you to sample. JC CASA will be there enjoying good food and fellowship while promoting the CASA mission, recruiting volunteers, and providing bottle water and soft drinks for a small donation. The event is free to the public. \$15 wristband can be purchased if you would like to sample the foods prepared. See you there!

### **JACKSON COUNTY FAIR: October 18—23**

The county fair is the highlight of October for Jackson County residents. People throughout the local area descend on the community to enjoy some much needed fun and some conventional fair foods. JC CASA will host a table in the B.E. (Mac) McGinty exhibit hall in an effort to recruit volunteers. We hope to see you there.

### **PETER ANDERSON FESTIVAL: Coming November 6 & 7**

*The Peter Anderson' Arts and Crafts Festival* in downtown Ocean Springs is one of the Southeast's premiere arts and crafts festivals. It is a street party with music, food, and locally crafted items for purchase. Over 150,000 people attended last year's festival, which had more than 400 artist, crafters, and food booths. This year's festival is anticipated to be even better. JC CASA will host an exhibit table, spreading the word of our mission and recruiting volunteers. See you there.

## 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 permanency 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 August 31, 2021, **108 Volunteers** have served **195 children** from **111 families** with **3210 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.**

**October 7 at 11:00 a.m.,** National CASA Association presents a webinar, The Relationships Between Poverty and Child Welfare and the Role of Intervention Strategies. A growing evidence base suggests that early childhood poverty, income, and employment might be a root cause of involvement with child protective services. As young children stand to benefit the most from early intervention, these findings imply that income relief might increase child safety as well. After describing the historical trends in poverty, income, and employment, we will examine more closely the growing body of empirical and theoretical scientific literature and the specific policies and interventions that provide the scaffolding for universal maltreatment prevention.

**Registration link:** [https://nationalcasagal.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_0bAQbHQWQN-bth0kS4FqJg](https://nationalcasagal.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_0bAQbHQWQN-bth0kS4FqJg)

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

**October 13 at 9:00 a.m.** at the CASA office, join Jackson County CASA staff as Patrice McCullum with the Mississippi Department of Health presents the *Healthy Mother/Healthy Baby Program*. The program is a case management program that provides services to enhance self-sufficiency of participants while ensuring timely access to and coordination of services to inpatient treatment, outpatient counseling and /or use of medication addicted treatment for women using or having used substances during pregnancy and postpartum. Contact any CASA staff to reserve your spot or sign up on the website at <http://jccasa.net/events-for-volunteers>

**October 28 at 3:00p.m. and 6:00 p.m.,** join Jackson County CASA and Jackson County Youth Court (white building Letter C) as Director of Narcotics of the South Mississippi Metropolitan Enforcement Team (MET) 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 website at <http://jccasa.net/events-for-volunteers>

*Spilled Milk*, based on a true story, is a novel by K.L. Randis that is available for checkout throughout the month. Brooke Nolan is a battered child who makes an anonymous phone call to social services about the escalating brutality in her home. When they jeopardize her safety, condemning her to keep her father's secret, it's a glass of spilled milk at the dinner table that forces her to speak about the cruelty she's been hiding. Brooke then battles a broken system that pushes to keep her father in the home. She risks losing the support of family, coming to the realization that some people simply do not want to be saved. *Spilled Milk* is a novel of shocking narrative, triumph, and resiliency.

## October Birthdays

**October 3**  
Nora Turner

**October 6**  
Troy Ross  
Laura Hasty

**October 9**  
Marsha Wilson

**October 10**  
Randalee Richardson

**October 12**  
Paige Watson

**October 14**  
Samantha Bignel

**October 19**  
Doug Adams  
Terri Thompson

**October 20**  
Dylan Demouey  
Jeff Pierce

**October 21**  
Conal Lancaster

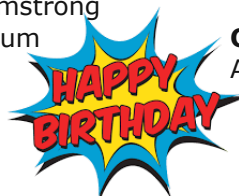
**October 22**  
Traci George

**October 23**  
Rachel Armstrong  
Pennie Baum

**October 24**  
Cassie Crocker  
Debbie Gill  
Cindy Smith

**October 25**  
Teresa Landrum

**October 31**  
Allison Cook



## FYI

### UNITED WAY KICK OFF

United Way for Jackson and George Counties held its 2022 campaign kick-off event at Pascagoula High School Performing Arts Center on September 10. This year's theme is *"Reimagining Our Community."* During the event, individuals and organizations were recognized for their efforts in helping the United Way continue to create opportunities for a better life for everyone in our community. The kick-off event also set the pace for the campaign season.

United Way has been such an integral part of our program, guiding us every step of the way since 1999. Our Executive Director, Frances L. Allsup, summarizes United Way's support perfectly. She states, *"Our United Way is a village of caring people, reaching out to provide a pathway of hope to those in need. I am honored to be an agency of United Way. Their faithful support of our mission has made a difference in countless children's lives, **mine, too.**"*

At the event, our fearless leader and Executive Director was awarded one of this year's *"Community Game Changer"* awards. We are thankful for United Way's acknowledgement of all the hard work Frances puts forth for our program. We love to *"Live United!"*



### SECOND SATURDAY-MAIN STREET LUCEDALE Antique Car, Truck, and Motorcycle Show

September 11, CASA staff Laura Hasty and Sarah Young, thundered on Main Street in downtown Lucedale for their monthly *Second Saturday* event, an Antique Car, Truck, and Motorcycle Show. The staff had a great time bringing the CASA mission to new friends. They also found some familiar CASA faces cruisin' the streets and enjoying the show, board member Judge Mark Maples and his wife Nancy Jo.





## FYI

### 5D BARREL RUN

September 12 Jackson County CASA galloped into a new adventure with our first annual *5D Barrel Run*. It was a huge success! We could not have pulled this off without the help of the Goff family, Mentoring Coordinator Beverly Goff, her husband and volunteer Victor and their lovely daughter Madison who was a competitor in the race. We really learned a lot about barrel races from them.

Several board members joined in on the fun. Board members Mollie Hillburn, Tonya Fowler and Brandon Riches also provided some much needed assistance. The Biloxi-Ocean Springs Junior Auxiliary was in charge of overseeing the silent auction and did an amazing job. CASA volunteers and mentoring advocates were on hand to assist with other tasks. Volunteers Ruth Payton and Brianna Ricks helped in the concession stand along with volunteer Larry Fowler who cooked some delicious hamburgers! WLOX even dropped by to film a segment for the evening news, which showcased the event and helped promote our mission.

Thank you to everyone that made this a successful event! We are already making plans for our next *5D Barrel Run*.



### HUMMINGBIRD HAPPY HOUR

Jackson County CASA was honored to be invited to participate in this year's *Hummingbird Happy Hour* at the Pascagoula River Audubon Center. The PRAC had the night packed with fun activities such as storytelling, hummingbird banding, and live music. Speaking of hummingbird banding, Mentoring Coordinator Sarah Young was able to hold a live hummingbird with the assistance of the hummingbird bander. What a memorable treat! Special thanks to PRAC for their support and kindness during this event. Another first, we greeted each guest with information about our mission and the important partnership we share with United Way for Jackson & George Counties. The moment was made memorable by our signature cocktail, "Dragonfly", created by Jonathan Mills, Advocate Supervisor. The guests left glowing reviews for the Dragonfly.




## FYI

### TATERS FOR TOTS

Our Taters for Tots fundraiser was started in 2014 with 100 lunch boxes being sold. Due to the overwhelming success of our first attempt, we increased the number of lunch boxes to 200 in 2015, 300 in 2016, 500 in 2018 and 800 in 2019 and 2020. Our Taters for Tots fundraiser for this year is scheduled for **NOVEMBER 3 with 800 lunchboxes.**

The Taters for Tots Lunch Box includes a loaded baked potato, cup of chili and a cookie, all for a suggested \$10 donation. Meals can be picked up at the Jackson County Fairgrounds, 2902 Shortcut Rd, Pascagoula, MS 39567 between 10:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Delivery is available for orders of 10 or more meals. If you would like to take orders at your workplace, contact the CASA office and talk with Frances. Order forms will be sent out to local businesses, schools, and organizations upon request. Please help us make this another successful event.

**Contact Frances at the CASA office for details. 228-762-7370**



**Taters for Tots Lunch Box**  
**November 3, 2021**  
 pickup between 10:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

**LUNCH BOX INCLUDES**  
 a loaded baked potato, cup of chili and cookie  
 Delivery available for orders of 10 or more

**FOR A SUGGESTED DONATION OF**  
**\$10**  
 to support  
**JACKSON COUNTY CASA, INC.**

*Preorder and prepay required*  
**October 1–October 28**  
 Delivery times will be determined per order  
 Contact the JC CASA office  
 or  
 Designate a salesperson at your workplace  
*Only 800 being sold so get your order in NOW!*

**JC CASA office: 228-762-7370**  
EMAIL: Frances Allsup, Executive Director: frances\_allsup@co.jackson.ms.us

*JC CASA has been providing a voice for abused and neglected children since 1985. Help us continue this valuable service. Place your order today!*

**For Order Pick Up:**  
 Jackson County Fairgrounds  
 2902 Shortcut Road  
 Pascagoula, MS

An agency of United Way for Jackson and George Counties



### YMCA TRUNK OR TREAT: October 29

Jackson County CASA will participate in Mississippi Gulf Coast YMCA's inaugural Trunk or Treat, Friday, October 29, 4:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m. The event will take place in the back parking lot of the YMCA, 1810 Government Street, Ocean Springs. Come and enjoy an evening out with the kids!

**Change a Child's Story ®**



### HO! HO! HO! The Sleigh Bells Are Ringing

The holiday season is the time of the year when community supporters begin reaching out to us asking what can they do to help. Many have already contacted us to let us know their plans. Whether it is providing gifts for a child or a group of children, making a monetary donation, or even helping out around the office, their support is needed and always appreciated. We are very fortunate to have such a supportive community willing to make a difference.

**Contact the office for further assistance or to discuss ways that you would like to help. Call 228-762-7370 or email Brenda Lancaster at**

[brenda\\_lancaster@co.jackson.ms.us](mailto:brenda_lancaster@co.jackson.ms.us)