



# CASA Connection

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Abuse Hotline  
1-800-222-8000

March 2022

**Jackson County CASA, Inc.**  
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## Tickets Are Still Available

### Jackson County CASA, Inc.

*Invites you to their seventh annual*

## CASA BLUES

*A fun party with music, dancing, food, drinks, and silent auction!*

*Presented by*



**HALTER MARINE**

**Jackson County Civic Center**  
**Friday, March 11      \$50 per person**  
**6 PM—10 PM**

Contact JC CASA for more information. To purchase tickets  
call 228-762-7370 or visit [jccasa.net](http://jccasa.net)

Tickets can be purchased through Eventbrite.

**FEATURING the N2 BLUE BAND**

## Spring Volunteer Training Begins March 22

Do you know how many children are in custody of Jackson County Child Protection Services (CPS)? According to Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services, the answer is 273. Unfortunately, 273 makes Jackson County the number one county in Mississippi with the most children in custody. This number of children in custody is not something to celebrate, we need to be last!

The goal of Jackson County CASA, Inc. is to have a volunteer for every child in custody. We will never reach this goal without members of our communities stepping forward to help. We need additional volunteers, so **sign up now!**

The spring pre-service volunteer training begins soon. The training facilitator uses National CASA Association's *Guided Learning* curriculum. This 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 training dates are March 22, 24, and 29 and April 5, 12, 19, and 26. Each session will last approximately 1½ hours, 6:00—7:30 p.m.



If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a volunteer, contact the CASA office at 228-762-7370, visit the website, [jccasa.net](http://jccasa.net), or drop by the office where one of the staff can give you more information and provide you with an application. See page 3 for the training schedule.

## New Volunteers for 2022



Israel Briggs, Kathleen Russell, Judge Sigalas,  
Cynthia Landrum, Lonnell Washington, and Jim Johnson.

Judge Sharon Sigalas conducted induction for some of the 2022 winter pre-service training CASA volunteers on February 24. Pictured are: Israel Briggs, Kathleen Russell, Judge Sigalas, Cynthia Landrum, Lonnell Washington, and Jim Johnson. We are so excited to grow the CASA team with these five new advocates. Several other in-training volunteers will be inducted at a later date: Casey Bridley, Reagan Bridley, Paul Scheibel, and Ollie Ruth Jefferson. Looking forward to spring training and hope to have as many new advocates added to the CASA family to serve children and youth who are victims of abuse and/or neglect.

## Spring Volunteer Training

To learn more about the training, contact the CASA office or visit the website [jccasa.net](http://jccasa.net)



### **Jackson County CASA, Inc. 2022 SPRING VOLUNTEER TRAINING**

Overview: Part 1 and interview  
March 22 6:00 p.m. — 7:30 p.m.

Overview: Part 2  
March 24 6:00 p.m. — 7:30 p.m.

The Bleux Case  
March 29 6:00 p.m. — 7:30 p.m.

The Green Case  
April 5 6:00 p.m. — 7:30 p.m.

The Amarillo Case  
April 12 6:00 p.m. — 7:30 p.m.

The Redd Case  
April 19 6:00 p.m. — 7:30 p.m.

Wrap-up and Optima  
April 26 6:00 p.m.— 7:30 p.m.

Induction  
To be scheduled \*



## Latest Program Statistics

JC CASA is a volunteer-powered organization that advocates for the abused and neglected children of Jackson County. We have an amazing group of dedicated volunteers that provide a voice for these children throughout their court process. As of January 31, 2022, **92 Volunteers** have served **141 children** from **88 families** with **270 donated hours of service during the 2022 calendar year.**

## FYI



Junior Auxiliary of Biloxi and Ocean Springs (JABOS) have adopted a special project to honor all of the children and youth in the CASA and Fostering Futures programs. Each month the members will create individual birthday cards and provide a delicious boxed cookie donated by Crumbl in Gulfport for the birthday boys and girls. The volunteer or mentor will be asked to deliver the items to help each one celebrate the special day. January 28, JABOS member Lindsay Rothe brought the first delivery of 18 birthday cards and boxed cookies for the January birthday folks at the end of the month. Plans for the future will include weekly deliveries to the CASA office. Please check in with your supervisor and make sure to get these items for your folks in a timely manner.

February 8, Advocate Supervisor Angela Lynn hosted *CASA Care and Coffee*. A mix and mingle for our volunteers to come together to discuss their cases, answer questions, and meet other volunteers. This month the special guests, Ashlie Cameron CPS Supervisor and Jessica Herron CPS Adoption Supervisor, were on hand to answer questions from the volunteers. Michelle Wilson, Gulf Coast Behavioral Health System Business Development Liaison and CASA Volunteer, donated an amazing brunch for all to enjoy. Michelle also provided valuable information that would benefit the volunteers in advocating for the children they serve. Don't miss our next *CASA Care and Coffee* which will be coming soon.

On Wednesday, February 9, Courtney Poole and her two daughters, Audrey and Halle, brought in the generous donations made by some of the students from Resurrection Catholic Elementary School during Catholic Schools Week. A special CASA request was for socks and underwear, and the RCES classes really were generous in what they sent. If you are a CASA volunteer and have children in need of these items, please call or come by the office to make the selection for your child/children. The staff have had a really good time sorting through the items for easy selection and admiring the fun, cute socks that would be a welcome addition to anyone's wardrobe!



February 10, On Thursday, three representatives of Phi Theta Kappa honor society at MGCCC arrived with cute gift boxes with treats and favors for our CASA youth and children for Valentine's Day. This dedicated group of young people have done an outstanding job of remembering our CASA kids in 2021 and continue this mission into the new year. Pictured with a sample of the gift donations are Kaitlyn McDonald, Thuy Pham, and Chloe Nguyen. They are so excited to be a part of the CASA mission here in Jackson County. Their creativity and enthusiasm are evident from the moment they enter the building.

## FYI

It's with a heavy heart that one of our own had to move on. Sarah Young was very passionate about our mission. She hit the ground running when we were awarded the Mentoring Grant. Sarah was a trailblazer on our website and social media platforms and her impacts will be long lasting. She was an integral part of our program. We all miss her and wish her much success in her new career.



March 28, Allicia Graves decided a great way to spend the Mardi Gras break with the young men in her life was by doing some shopping to help the children CASA serves. She showed up on Monday afternoon with an assortment of fleece throws and night lights to make our kids' lives a little warmer and brighter. Pictured are Issac Summers, Allicia Graves, and Melton Summers along with their gifts. A big thank you to these Gautier students who went the extra mile to provide these items which are in constant demand by our volunteers!

## Change a Child's Story ®

The Junior Auxiliary of Biloxi and Ocean Springs were busy providing personalized birthday cards, gourmet cookies, and small gifts for the children and youth with February birthdays. When you are contacted, please make a special effort to pick up the items or inform the foster parents so they can pick them up.

We are still blessed and can provide the birthday person with new books, a toy, other miscellaneous items, socks, and/or underwear.

Special decorated totes are also available for your child provided by Jackson County District Attorney Angel Myers McIltrath and her staff with beautiful handwritten messages to inspire the spirits of our CASA children.

Our second annual *BBQ Pork Butt Fundraiser* was a huge success! We are grateful for our friends the award-winning *Hometown Barbeque* for working so hard and making this event a touchdown! Special thanks to Board Member Doug Adams for spearheading this event. Thank you to our wonderful community for your continued support of our mission.



## March Birthdays

### March 2

Billy McCasland

### March 9

Aunderia Johnson



### March 14

Larry Fowler  
Deidre Johnson

### March 30

Keith Delcambre