



CASA Connection

Volume 9: Issue 10

Abuse Hotline
1-800-222-8000

October 2022

CASA OF SOUTHEAST MISSISSIPPI, Inc.
4903 Telephone Road
Pascagoula, MS 39567

Phone: 228-762-7370
Fax: 228-762-7385

www.jccasa.net



Staff

Frances L. Allsup
Executive Director

Brenda M. Lancaster
Director of Advocate Supervisors

Mark Roberts
Administration and Planner Coordinator

Angela Lynn
Advocate Manager

Jonathan Mills
Program Manager

Beverly Goff
Advocate Supervisor

Governing Board Members:

Doug Adams
Samantha Bignell
Lisa Cannon
Eric Collum
Tonya Fowler
Mollie Hillburn
Shawn Landrum
Mark Maples
Derek McCoy
John Mosley, Jr.
Jeffrey Pierce
Brandon Riches
Rene Shaw
Sherri Hodges-Thornton

Honorary Board Members
Ken Rice
Troy Ross
Shannon Vincent

Inside this issue:

FYI	2
5D Barrel Run	4
Continuing Education	5
Fall Training Schedule	6
Christmas Wish Lists	7
October Birthdays	7
Latest Program Statistics	7
Zonta Festival	8
Taters for Tots Lunch Box	9
October Court Dates	10
Foster Care Review	10

RECEPTION WELCOMES CASA OF SOUTHEAST MISSISSIPPI



On Sept. 8, **CASA** was officially welcomed into George and Greene Counties. The afternoon reception was held at the MGCCC Lucedale campus. **Richard Lucas** served as master of ceremonies. The invocation was delivered by **Brother Tommy Mitchell**. **Derek McCoy** gave his personal CASA testimonial and **Honorable Mark Maples** gave the keynote address. Governing Board President, **Honorable Jeffrey Pierce**, gave the closing remarks. Thank you to these in-kind sponsors: **Honey Bee Floral and More**, **Timeless Design**, **MGCCC Lucedale**, **United Way of Jackson and George Counties**, **Melisa Hamilton**, and **Jen and Chuck Photography**.



CASA Volunteers—Thank you to our outstanding current volunteers: **Jim Wilson, Terri Acosta, Marsha Wilson, Charlotte McLendon, Patty Waters, Cynthia Landrum, Florence Motes, Cathy Groff, Staci Zorn and Haley Aziz** who attended the afternoon reception and used this time to share their role in the CASA mission

PRESENTING SPONSORS

Singing River Electric Power

Bienville Orthopedic Specialists

Community Bank

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



FYI



The Jackson County Chamber of Commerce Anchor Award breakfast held at Pelican Landing was an excellent community awareness event for CASA of Southeast Mississippi. Pictured above are CASA volunteers and staff and Governing Board members, **Samantha Bignell** and **Brandon Riches**. CASA was one of the finalists for the Grit Award presented as part of the morning program.



Pictured at left: **Iris Menge**, president of the **Friendship Civic Club of Oceans Springs**, and member, **Eileen Roll**, came by the CASA office to drop off duffel bags filled with comfort items and necessities to bring a small touch of joy to the children served. Advocate Manager **Angela Lynn** helped receive and unload the donations. Pictured at right: **Iris** dropped by later in the month with **Dawn Seymour** and the club's second donation.



On a totally rainy Thursday afternoon, **Brittlyn Carzoli** with JABOS came by the CASA office with handmade birthday cards, gifts for two very lucky birthday folks, and a big tote filled with new backpacks for any children in the foster care system who might still need one. We are thankful year round to these wonderful ladies who bring such joy and smiles to the children we serve. Pictured with **Brittlyn** is Advocate Supervisor **Beverly Goff** who was on hand to receive the donations.



FYI



Pictured at left: Several CASA volunteers attended the morning initial TBRI training session presented by TBRI Practitioner **Angela Lynn** at the CASA office. Pictured at left are volunteers **Teresa Landrum, Florence Motes, and Lindsey O'Connell**.

Pictured below: The afternoon training session presented by **Angela Lynn** was attended by volunteers **Terri Acosta and Kathy McDonald**. This first session provided an excellent introduction to TBRI, a new service available to assist volunteers and families working with the children CASA serves.



CHANGE A
CHILD'S STORY.™



On September 7, following lunch at Café New Orleans in D'iberville, **Toby Waits** with **Gulf Coast BDG** presented CASA of Southeast Mississippi Executive Director **Frances Allsup** with a check for \$3,850 on behalf of the group. This is their third year to make a donation to CASA from the proceeds earned from the annual **NAPA Auto Care Centers** raffle which runs from Memorial Day to July 4th. The amount of the donation is determined by the number of tickets sold at the five participating locations. Thank you for helping make a difference in the lives of the children we serve. On hand for the presentation were **Jeff Pierce**, CASA Governing Board President, along with **Lisa Canon, Sherri Thornton, and Brandon Riches**, board



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





A proud sponsor of the 2nd annual 5D Barrel Run — **Omega Protein** of Moss Point. Pictured during the check presentation are **Christopher Gambler, Christy Rigby** and **Clay Courtney** with **Omega Protein** along with CASA of Southeast Mississippi staff members **Mark Roberts, Beverly Goff**, and Executive Director **Frances Allsup**.

Coca-Cola United of Ocean Springs donated 2 custom banners along with several cases of assorted canned drinks to be sold at the concession stand during the CASA of Southeast Mississippi 5D Barrel Run held at the Conrad Mallett Vancleave Arena. Pictured at right are **Mark Roberts** and **Shane Slay** with **Coca-Cola United** of Oceans Springs.

2nd ANNUAL 5D BARREL RUN EVENT SPONSORS

Upperline Equipment, LLC

Omega Protein, Inc.

Fowlers Property Services

Brass Hanger Cleaners

Graystone Plumbing & Gas

Glen Crane & Rigging

Bob Boyte Honda

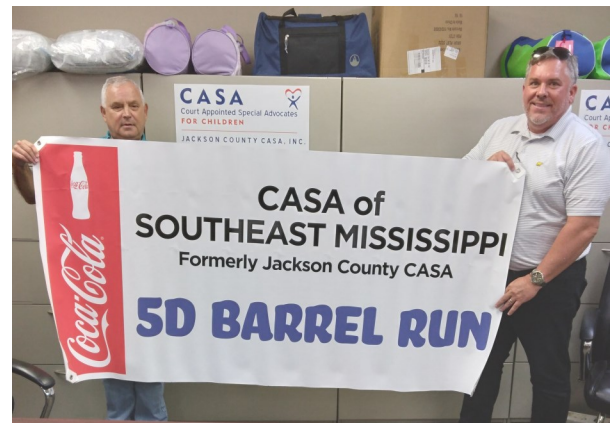
Chemtane Energy

ABC Recycling, Inc

T & N Feed and Pet

Supplies

Ward Marine Services



IN-KIND DONATIONS

Thank you to our other wonderful sponsors: Coca-Cola United, Singing River Health Systems, Ed's Drive In, Wendy's, Family Frozen Foods, Piggly Wiggly, Jackson County Board of Supervisors



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

Continuing Education Opportunities

CASA Connection

Reminder— to maintain your CASA standing, you are required to complete 12 hours of Continuing Education training each year. Be sure to include any completed Continuing Education hours on your monthly activity reports that are submitted in OPTIMA. We would like to add additional topics that would be beneficial to you as a volunteer. Please contact the CASA staff if you have special requests.

Continuing Education Opportunities

Robin Sanford, the pre-service coordinator with **Youth Villages**, will do a one-hour presentation on **Thursday, October 6th at 9:30 am** in the Jackson County office highlighting some of the services offered to children and youth in the foster care system through their program. This organization offers a continuum of evidence-based and research-based programs, including residential treatment, foster care, adoption, crisis services and its two national models: **Intercept** and **LifeSet**. Join us to learn how they help the foster children of Jackson, George and Greene Counties. Snacks will be provided. Please contact **Beverly Goff (228-762-7370 or beverly_goff@co.jackson.ms.us)** or your advocate supervisor by **September 30th** to reserve a place for this presentation.

Training with Human Trafficking— Sarah Young, with the **Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence**, will be here to update participants on the latest information and statistics regarding human trafficking in south Mississippi. **Sarah** is the First Responder for the lower six gulf coast counties and has direct contact with these individuals. The one-hour presentation will be given on **Tuesday, October 25th, at 1:30 pm** in the Jackson County office. Please contact **Beverly Goff (228-762-7370 or beverly_goff@co.jackson.ms.us)** or your advocate supervisor by **October 21st** to reserve a place for this presentation.

Book Selection for the Month

Oscar's Family by Melynda Jamison

When a child first gets a CASA volunteer, he or she may have a lot of questions. The child may already have a bunch of unanswered questions about the new situation, too. Now CASA volunteers have an additional tool that can help children better understand what is going on with **Oscar's Family** a children's book that introduces the concept of a CASA volunteer in words kids can understand. Along the way, it teaches them just how expansive the word "family" can be. The 36-page color picture book makes CASA relatable even to very young kids. At the same time, the focus is on understanding what it means to be part of a family, which makes it a fun read for any child, whether they are involved in the family court system or not. This book teaches children that all families look different, which is such an important message. The book tells the story of Oscar, a young school-aged boy who has foster parents and a "first mom," his biological mother. At school, Oscar and his classmates all draw pictures of their families, which leads Oscar to talk with his foster mom about who is in his family. Oscar discovers he has a lot more people in his family than he thought, including his CASA volunteer, Liz, and her courthouse facility dog, Matilda. All proceeds from the book's sales will benefit CASA of Lexington Kentucky. The book is available for purchase directly from CASA of Lexington at <https://bit.ly/oscarsfamily> or on Amazon at <https://amzn.to/3QGGeYz>.

Many independent opportunities for continuing education can be found on our webpage, **jccasa.net**. Go to **VOLUNTEERS** and then the drop-down menu to **CONTINUING EDUCATION**. These links provide an easy way to gain your **required** in-service hours. The in-service completion form is available to complete and email or hand deliver to your CASA supervisor. Check out the variety of materials and topics. The National CASA Podcasts offer a wide-range of items such as: permanency, outcomes for older youth, meeting emotional needs, poverty, bullying, autism, and parental incarceration, just to name a few. Most are short (30 minutes or less) and are a wonderful way to maintain your status as an active volunteer.



See the **Fall Volunteer Training Schedule** on page 6 and make sure to tell any of your friends who might be interested about the next pre-service training opportunity to become a CASA volunteer to help change a child's story in southeast Mississippi. This will be the last training scheduled in Jackson County for 2022!



**CHANGE A
CHILD'S STORY.™**

CASA OF SOUTHEAST MISSISSIPPI, INC. 2022 FALL VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Overview: Part 1 and Interview

October 4 6:00 p.m. — 7:30 p.m.

Overview: Part 2

October 6 6:00 p.m. — 7:30 p.m.

The Bleux Case

October 11 6:00 p.m. — 7:30 p.m.

The Green Case

October 18 6:00 p.m. — 7:30 p.m.

The Amarillo Case

October 25 6:00 p.m. — 7:30 p.m.

The Redd Case

November 1 6:00 p.m. — 7:30 p.m.

Wrap-up — November 8

Optima Training, Induction, Court Observations

TBD *



IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS!

CASA of Southeast Mississippi will be sending out the Christmas wish lists to all volunteers by October 1. We need your help to help make Christmas 2022 a success for the youth and children we serve. We need the completed lists back ASAP but no later than **Friday, October 28th**. We have assured the sponsors that the lists will be available to them in early November.

Last year our generous sponsors provided the Christmas wishes for 128 children, and we hope to serve more this year as we expand into George and Greene Counties.

Please spend some time talking to your kids and provide as many details about their toy wishes as you can. Many sponsors enjoy shopping for clothing, so we really rely on your help to get the sizes the kids need. Also, let the sponsors know about their favorites (colors, teams) to make shopping more fun.

If you have a child who will **not** be making a request for Christmas assistance, please let us know the name(s) as soon as you can. This will free up resources for other foster children. Thank you in advance for all you do to help make these children's Christmas wishes come true!

October 3

Nora Turner

October 14

Samantha Bignell

October 22

Traci George

October 25

Teresa Landrum

October 6

Troy Ross
Laura Hasty

October 19

Doug Adams
Terri Thompson

October 23

Rachel Armstrong
Pennie Baum

October 31

Allison Cook

October 9

Marsha Wilson

October 20

Dylan Demouey
Jeff Pierce

October 24

Cassie Crocker
Debbie Gill
Cindy Smith

October 10

Randalee Richardson

October 21

Conal Lancaster

October 12

Paige Watson

October Birthdays



Latest Program Statistics

As of August 31, 2022, 108 CASA volunteers have served 180 children from 114 families with 2,376 donated hours of service for the calendar year. Thank you to each dedicated volunteer who has worked to provide a voice for each child who is journeying through the Youth Court process.



Please join us at the 2022 ZONTA FESTIVAL

Saturday, October 1, 2022

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Downtown Pascagoula

711 Delmas Avenue

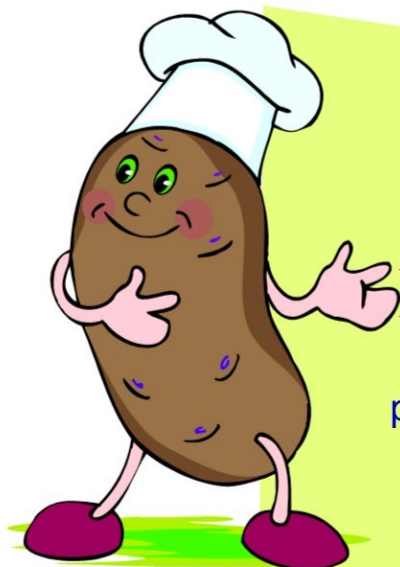
CASA of Southeast Mississippi will have a booth at the festival. Come help us bring more awareness of our mission and recruit volunteers.

Sign-up times are below.

9:00 - 11:00 11:00 - 1:00

1:00 - 3:00 3:00 - 5:00

**Please contact Beverly Goff at
beverly_goff@co.jackson.ms.us
or your supervisor to sign up.**



Taters for Tots Lunch Box

November 2, 2022

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

\$ 15

to support

CASA OF SOUTHEAST

MISSISSIPPI, INC.

Preorder and prepay required

October 3—October 25

Delivery times will be determined per order

Contact the CASA office

or

Designate a salesperson at your workplace

*CASA has been providing a
voice for abused and
neglected children
since 1985.*

*Help us continue
this valuable service.*

Place your order today!

CASA office: 228-762-7370

EMAIL : Frances Allsup, Executive Director:

frances_allsup@co.jackson.ms.us

For Order Pick Up:

Jackson County Fairgrounds

2902 Shortcut Road

Pascagoula, MS



An agency of United Way for Jackson and George Counties



It's that time of year! Time for the annual **Taters for Tots Lunch Box** event. Please let your friends, co-workers, neighbors, and family members know about the date and cost. Place your orders early! These meals usually sell fast. Contact the CASA of Southeast Mississippi office at 228-762-7370 and speak to any staff member for order information. We also need volunteers to help with packaging and delivering the meals. Let a staff member know if you are available to help.

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

