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## A Busy Month for CASA



**Shawn Landrum**, CFO with **Halter Marine**, presented a \$500 check to **Frances Allsup**, executive director with CASA of Southeast Mississippi in support of the **Tatters for Tots** upcoming lunch box event. **VT Halter Marine** is happy to support the community in which we live and work. #HalterFamily



The CASA staff enjoyed a wonderful lunch as they celebrated Boss's Day. **Frances Allsup** and **Brenda Lancaster** were recognized for making the CASA office a great place to visit and work for the staff, volunteers, families, and children served.



Thank you to **Jeremy Konecny**, owner of **Hickory Hog** in Lucedale, and manager **Kimber Brockaway** for providing all the fixings for the meet and greet lunch with CPS of George and Greene Counties. Pictured with them are **Mark Roberts** and **Frances Allsup** with CASA.



**Stuart Rains** with the **Gulf Coast Volkswagen Club** presented **Frances Allsup** with a check for \$500 to support the CASA program. Many thanks to **Stuart** and the group for their support of the CASA mission.



## October events



A beautiful fall morning in downtown Pascagoula and the annual Zonta fest provided the perfect recruitment awareness opportunity to share the CASA program and its mission with any interested potential volunteers.



Thank you to woodworker, craftsman, and Friend of CASA **Trey Lynn** for creating this wonderful rack for displaying recruitment and fund raising materials at CASA indoor and outdoor events.



Court Appointed Special Advocates  
**FOR CHILDREN**



Pictured at left: **Iris Menge** with the **Ocean Springs Friendship Club** delivered several additional backpacks and filled suitcases to be given to children in the foster care system.

Pictured at right: Special CASA thanks go out to **Patty Tate** for the five beautiful quilts she delivered to the office to share with our special chil-



CASA of Southeast Mississippi hosted a meet and greet lunch at the Lucedale Library with special invited guests—the CPS staffs from George and Greene Counties. Also on hand for the informal meeting were **Casey Williams**, CPS Deputy Director, **Vickie Blaize**, CPS Regional Director, and **Rebekah Woodcock**, CPS Regional Supervisor.



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



## October events

A huge "thank you" goes out to the members of the ***Ocean Springs Carnival Association***. On October 15 at the Ryan Youth Center, this wonderful group hosted **Carnival for CASA** with fun games for the children and an adult party and silent auction later in the evening. They selected CASA of Southeast Mississippi as a charity of choice to receive a portion of the proceeds from the day's activities to help with Christmas for the children.





## October events



Pictured at left: **Tee McCovey** with **United Way for Jackson and George Counties** and **Frances Allsup** with **CASA of Southeast Mississippi** attended the October Lucedale Rotary Club meeting and shared with the club's members exciting plans that each organization has for moving forward and serving the residents of George County.

Welcome to our newest CASA of Southeast Mississippi volunteer, **Alice Rainey**. **Alice** is pictured below as **Judge Keith Miller** administers the CASA oath. **Alice** completed her training in September, did her court observations, and has already begun working her first case!



Pictured above: Harrah's Great Lawn in Biloxi provided a wonderful setting for the **2022 Gulf Coast Equality Fest**. **Jonathan Mills**, advocate supervisor, and **Brianna Ricks**, CASA volunteer, used this outdoor event to help spread the program message to the folks in attendance and explain the mission to any interested potential volunteers who dropped by.

## November Birthdays

### November 3

Cynthia Landrum

### November 7

Albert Horton

### November 13

Teresa Jaye

### November 18

Haley Aziz

Trudi Dixon

Joyce Nelson

Ken Rice

### November 22

Anna Stewart

### November 27

Gena Heffner

### November 29

Jim Johnson

Bri Ricks

### November 30

Alicia Alexander

Brandon Riches



## Latest Program Statistics

As of September 30, 2022, 108 CASA volunteers have served 187 children with 2,571 donated hours of service for the calendar year. Thank you to each dedicated volunteer who has worked to provide a voice for a child who is journeying through the Youth Court process.

## Continuing Education Opportunities

**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

As many of you know, National CASA guidelines require a minimum of 12 CE hours of training a year for volunteers. Of those hours, one must focus on **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**. We at CASA of Southeast Mississippi realize how busy the holiday season is and for that reason have come up with a simple solution. For the month of November, we have cultivated a selection of webinars dealing with those topics. The four options below have been approved by National CASA and are accepted options to satisfy the DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) requirement. Please choose one or more of the listed webinars at your convenience during the month of November. Simply copy and paste one of the following web addresses into your browser address bar. After watching, please remember to log the hour(s) in OPTIMA, complete the webinar/book/movie form, and submit it to your supervisor.

1. [https://nationalcasagal.zoom.us/rec/play/8WhEqSCK6piElTHgGd-Zebo0SJvw3YOEjjGuCc9OjnChvvNIIcm-oXXFIAaZ89nw1qHdZn0ae0t068id.MZa0saRR\\_OjKUpcN?autoplay=true&startTime=1599591375000](https://nationalcasagal.zoom.us/rec/play/8WhEqSCK6piElTHgGd-Zebo0SJvw3YOEjjGuCc9OjnChvvNIIcm-oXXFIAaZ89nw1qHdZn0ae0t068id.MZa0saRR_OjKUpcN?autoplay=true&startTime=1599591375000)
2. [https://nationalcasagal.zoom.us/rec/play/QiFSIKERgMWyB9K5Q4T0-3d6P5i5NOfoZ8yZ47FqHbAM947KQ2MufJDFxbKqKdpwLu0UoTRZFNpdv\\_TK.rqaSzHkJcCRcla0G?autoplay=true&startTime=1599162947000](https://nationalcasagal.zoom.us/rec/play/QiFSIKERgMWyB9K5Q4T0-3d6P5i5NOfoZ8yZ47FqHbAM947KQ2MufJDFxbKqKdpwLu0UoTRZFNpdv_TK.rqaSzHkJcCRcla0G?autoplay=true&startTime=1599162947000)
3. <https://nationalcasagal.zoom.us/rec/play/dwNuBaJVfx2wFbuqxFh98RKUWjVg2usQjEUHeijJKQ3rNxuenrZiIcnXMtKguMkegvMmyQGfMTho1BnZ.XlqBBOGweTM11wB6?autoplay=true&startTime=1601499154000>
4. [https://nationalcasagal.zoom.us/rec/play/6e1fmj6Da7qNy6UGqDzkqullObFVTAn6A\\_xcGfo4kOqMaBy74zfB-q3yDRntzFHCEduFYaKJhQeLYeTq.0cCT4TCvUDIU7vBc?autoplay=true&startTime=1602186983000](https://nationalcasagal.zoom.us/rec/play/6e1fmj6Da7qNy6UGqDzkqullObFVTAn6A_xcGfo4kOqMaBy74zfB-q3yDRntzFHCEduFYaKJhQeLYeTq.0cCT4TCvUDIU7vBc?autoplay=true&startTime=1602186983000)

**BOOK SELECTION FOR NOVEMBER: Crucial Conversations—Tools for Talking When Stakes Are High** by Kerry Patterson, Joseph Grenny, Ron McMillan and Al Switzler. The book is full of tips and tricks for hard conversations in all spheres of life — personal, professional, and serving as a CASA volunteer. The authors define a “crucial conversation” as any discussion in which there are high stakes, opposing opinions, and strong emotions — just the kind of conversation that volunteers have on a regular basis throughout their CASA work! The authors do an excellent job of reminding advocates that crucial conversations are not necessarily something to be avoided, but rather something to be tackled with skills that can be learned and honed through practice. Those tough conversations are not going to go away — in fact, sometimes they are necessary in order to move forward towards permanency. One does not always know when a conversation will become crucial. They remind the readers that any conversation can become critical over the course of the discussion, rather than always starting out “crucial.” They state that most people’s “style under stress” can be summarized as moving toward silence (shutting down and no longer contributing to the conversation) or violence (attacking the other person in the conversation or their viewpoints in an unhealthy way). By keeping an eye out for how the other person is reacting to stress, one can remain a step ahead of the crucial conversation and can be more in control of his/her own responses. The authors also remind readers to take a look at themselves and their reactions. With a little practice, volunteers can begin to see the unique role that each may contribute to the conversational problem at hand and adopt an attitude of humility. They can then ask themselves what they are pretending to ignore about their role in this conversation and move toward healthy interactions, leading to more and more successful crucial conversations throughout the advocacy experience.

Many independent opportunities for continuing education can be found on our webpage, [jccasa.net](http://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.