



CASA Connection

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Grateful for You 2022

Thank you to these wonderful community sponsors whose generous donations made possible the **Grateful for You** banquet honoring our dedicated volunteers:

Heritage Funeral Home
Lemon-Mohler Insurance Agency
David and Susan McCormick
Lockard & Williams Insurance Services
Blossman Gas & Appliance
George's Auto Service
Complete Roofing

We also greatly appreciate the in-kind donations made by these wonderful sponsors: **the City of Ocean Springs, Van Veghel's Flowers, Jen-Chuck Photography, Cupit Signs, Brass Hanger Cleaners, and Pugh's Floral Shop.** We also extend our very special thanks to **Melisa Hamilton** who prepared and served the wonderful dinner that all in attendance enjoyed.



Pictured above are some of our wonderful volunteers who attended this year's event: **Lucy Hurst-Gordon, Teresa Landrum, Florence Motes, Billy McCasland, Laura Hasty, Michelle Wilson, Bridgett Picket, Kathy McDonald** along with our newest volunteers **Naomi Thomas, Pat Busby** and **Clifton Busby**.



Pictured at left are some additional CASA of Southeast Mississippi's volunteers who were also in attendance: **Trey Lynn** (a Friend of CASA), **Patty Waters, Brianna Ricks, Stephanie Coghlan, Debbie Gill, and Nora Turner.** Not pictured, but also in attendance, was **Joyce Nelson** who began her work serving with CASA in 2001.

Grateful for You 2022



CASA is grateful for the wonderful Governing Board members who actively support the many activities throughout the year. Pictured are **Lisa Canon, Doug Adams, Rene' Shaw, Brandon Riches, Samantha Bignell, Mark Maples, and Jeff Pierce**. Executive Director, **Frances Allsup**, proudly looks on from the stage.

Governing Board President for CASA of Southeast Mississippi, the Honorable **Jeff Pierce**, gave some closing thoughts for the evening as the journey of expanding into George and Green Counties continues.



Pictured with **Frances Allsup** are **Tee McCovey**, President and CEO of **United Way of Jackson, George and Greene Counties**, who delivered the opening prayer and **Donna Stewart**. Both are



Joe Martin served as master of ceremonies for the evening's event.



Keynote speaker, Honorable **Randy "Bubba" Pierce** reminded all of the importance of CASA in the child's journey through the judicial system.



We are grateful for the CASA staff for putting the event together and for creating the amazing power point! **Mark, Beverly, Angela, Jonathan, Frances, and Brenda** are pictured with training facilitator and volunteer **Patty Waters**.



We were honored and grateful to have in attendance our newly elected and soon to be Youth Court Judge **Stacie Zorn**.

FYI



Congratulations to the new CASA volunteers who were inducted on November 15: **Maribel Barberi, Naomi Thomas, Gena Heffner, Pat Busby** and **Clifton Busby**. Pictured with them are newly-elected Youth Court Judge **Stacie Zorn** and current Youth Court Judge **Keith Miller**. **Naomi, Pat** and **Clifton** are the first CASA volunteers from George and Greene Counties. Not pictured, but part of this new group, are **Anna Stewart** and **Sandy Le Batard**. In addition **Cynthia Lupton** from a previous training class will also be inducted later in the month. We proudly welcome these wonderful new advocates to the ever-growing CASA family! Call today to find out how you too can make a difference and change a child's story.



On November 28th **Anna Stewart** was sworn in as a new CASA volunteer by **Judge Keith Miller** before beginning her official court observations.

On November 30th **Sandy Le Batard** and **Cynthia Lupton** were sworn in by **Judge Keith Miller** and did their court observations later that afternoon.



Mark Maples and **Shawn Landrum**, CASA board members, attended the George County Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting. Special thanks to our fantastic governing board members who represent us so well! Our ambassador's to our little corner of the world!

Ho! Ho! Ho! Santa's sleigh looks totally different here in southeast Mississippi!



FYI



On Friday, November 11, United Way of Jackson and George Counties held their final 2022 campaign event at Pelican Landing. On behalf of CASA of Southeast Mississippi, **Frances Allsup** presented a CASA success story to the group in attendance. Pictured at left with Frances is Board President, **Jeff Pierce**, and board member, **Judge Mark Maples**.



Courtney Gautier with **JABOS** dropped by the CASA office and presented **Beverly Goff** with cute, fun Halloween bags filled with treats and holiday safety information. Included in each bag was a light stick—sure to add to any child's holiday fun. Several members also dropped by with early November birthday gifts for the kids.



Jonathan Mills proudly displays part of the large selection of stuffed toys donated to our CASA children by the members of the **Dixie Dart Association**. These make special gifts for birthdays, Christmas, or for "no reason" when a child visits the CASA office. This group is a valuable supporter of our mission to change a child's story. See p. 6 for more photos of this group's work.

CHANGE A
CHILD'S STORY.™



Even the predicted rain could not dampen the spirit at the **Ocean Springs Peter Anderson Festival** held on November 5-6. Pictured at left is **Beverly Goff** working the recruitment event which helped raise community awareness of the CASA mission and offered a chance to recruit new potential volunteers.

CASA Board President, **Jeff Pierce**, dropped by the CASA tent early (before the heavens opened up) to speak with **Mark Roberts** and offer the board's support.



Pictured above are **Mark Roberts** and **Shane Slay** with **Coca-Cola United** of Ocean Springs who donated 2 custom banners for the CASA of Southeast Mississippi float which will be entered in the Lucedale Rotary Club Christmas parade set to roll on December 3 at 6 pm. Come see Christmas through a child's eyes with toys, trains, and candy canes.

Taters-for-Tots



Several days before the actual event, several members of the Resurrection Catholic High School senior class spent the morning washing potatoes. This hard-working group made fast work of the chore. Pictured above are **Taliah Anderson, Bailey Bosarge, Layla Hatfield, Caroline Nelson, and Anna Rains.** On the day of the event, **Anna** and **Taliah** were also on hand to help pack the condiment bags and assemble the boxed lunches.

Thank you to these wonderful sponsors who made the ninth annual **Taters-for-Tots** fundraiser a huge success:

Scranton's
Halter Marine
Cornerstone Restaurant
Aramark
Aztecas Restaurant & Cantina
Jackson County
Board of Supervisors
Compton Engineering
McAlister's Deli
Ruby Tuesday
Cracker Barrel
Ocean Springs Lumber & Supply
Canon Toyota
Wilson's Mobile DJ Service
San Miguel Hacenda



Jimmy Allsup, CASA volunteer, stands beside some of the loaded boxes for a big delivery at the requested time. Thank you to him and to all the dedicated drivers who made their deliveries safely and on time: **Bruner Bosio, Fletcher Songe, Eric Delarosa, Con Lancaster, Jonathan Mills, Shawn Landrum, Jerry Jackson, Teresa Jaye, Victor and Beverly Goff, Gary Groff and Brandon Riches.**

To help spread awareness of the **CASA of Southeast Mississippi** mission to community members who purchased a box lunch, friends of CASA, **Kathy Khatyat** and **Helcha Marshall**, packed the CASA materials and individual thank you notes into each of the filled bags.

Not pictured is CASA volunteer **Suzanne Delarosa** whose most important job was to see that a McAllister cookie, the utensils, and the correct number of condiments made their way into each of the bags.



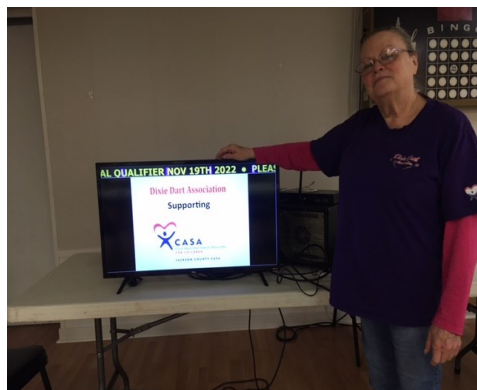
Pictured below are CASA volunteers **Cathy Groff, Alice Rainey, and Beverly Goff** and special friends of CASA, **Connie Songe** and **Patti Weiss.** These amazing ladies made fast work of preparing individual containers of bacon bits and shredded cheese for the condiment bags. They were totally a force to be reckoned with!



Thank you to the amazing tater-toting and baking crews! Board member **Derek McCoy** and CASA volunteer **Victor Goff** were responsible for transporting four coolers loaded with the washed and wrapped potatoes to **Scranton's** where **Richard Chenoweth** and his crew took over cooking the 356 spuds. Then it was back to the JC Civic Center where the lunch boxes were prepared for pickup and delivery.



Dixie Dart November Tournament



Thank you to our wonderful friends with the **Dixie Dart Association** for sponsoring the November 12 dart tournament charity event, silent auction, and raffle event to support **CASA of Southeast Mississippi**. Over 20 people participated in the evening's tournament. It means so much to our program to again be chosen as its charity of choice. Pictured are some of the participants, the beautiful cake, and several folks who helped put on the event. In addition, the group donated two additional bags of stuffed animals that will find new homes with our CASA children over the upcoming holidays!



The staff of **CASA of Southeast Mississippi** send you and yours best wishes for a wonderful holiday season. We sincerely thank you for all you do to make a difference in the lives of the children CASA serves. Without you, the journey each is on would be much more difficult.



Latest Program Statistics

As of October 31, 2022, 101 CASA volunteers served 115 children with 2,799 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
2. 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

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.

December Birthdays

December 4

Suzanne Delarosa

December 17

Lonnell Washington

December 8

Kerry Brink

December 20

Jimmy Allsup

December 9

Peggy Wolbrecht

December 28

Tara McCarter

December 15

Shannon Vincent

