



May 2023 CASA Connection

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Ken Rice
Troy Ross

1st Annual Light of Hope Ceremony



Tee McCovey, with **United Way for Jackson and George Counties**, served as Master of Ceremonies for the evening's event. District 2 Supervisor **Ennit Morris** gave remarks on behalf of the presenting sponsor, the **Jackson County Board of Supervisors**, and Pascagoula **Mayor Jay Willis** spoke on the significant role a **CASA** advocate plays for the children in CPS custody. Honorable **Judge Stacie Zorn** thanked the **CASA** staff and volunteers for the role they play in helping children navigate through the youth court system. In the photo below, Executive Director, **Frances Allsup**, looks over the pin-wheel garden representing the 251 children from Jackson County who were in CPS custody on March 1. Thank you to the **Great American Cookie Company** for donating the amazing cookies.



CHANGE A
CHILD'S STORY.™



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





Moss Point **Mayor Billy Knight** is pictured below with **CASA** governing board member **Rene' Shaw** as she accepts the proclamation from the city declaring April as **Child Abuse Prevention Month**. Also pictured is **Donna Thornhill**, a representative with **Canopy Children's Solutions**.



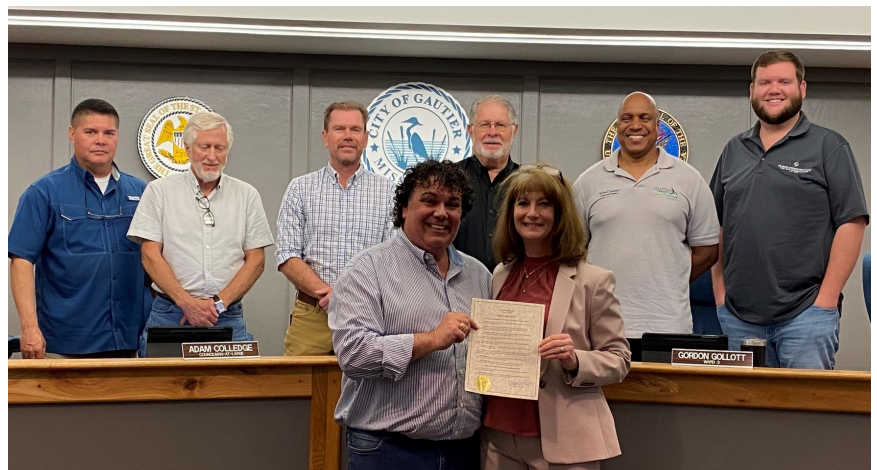
Pictured above, members of the **Jackson County Board of Supervisors** presented the proclamation officially designating April as **Child Abuse Prevention Month**. Pictured above at the morning event are members of the board of supervisors, members of the **CASA of Southeast Mississippi** staff, **Tee McCovey** with **United Way for Jackson and George Counties**, and governing board member **Rene' Shaw** who thanked the group on behalf of the **CASA** program.

Pictured at right, executive director **Frances Allsup** is pictured with **Steve McCloskey**, the mayor of Mc Clain in Greene County, and other members of the town's board of alderman for the presentation of the proclamation naming the month of April as **Child Abuse Prevention Month**. Thank you to this group for the warm welcome as **CASA of Southeast Mississippi** is proud to now be able to train advocate volunteers to serve the children of Greene County.



Pictured at left, Pascagoula **Mayor Jay Willis** presented the city's proclamation to governing board member **Sherri Thornton-Hodges** officially recognizing April as **Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month**. Thank you also to **Mayor Willis** for taking part in the **First Annual Light of Hope Celebration** held at the Round Island Lighthouse on April 3rd.

Gautier **Mayor Casey Vaughan** is pictured with the Gautier City Council members at the monthly meeting where the proclamation establishing April as **Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month** was presented to **CASA of Southeast Mississippi** governing board member **Mollie Hillburn**.



Child Abuse Prevention and Community Awareness



CASA celebrates 24 years of partnering with **United Way of Jackson and George Counties**.



Special thanks to the members of the governing board of **CASA of Southeast Mississippi** for their support of these many activities: **Doug Adams, Rene' Shaw, Brandon Riches, and Jeff Pierce** are pictured with **Frances Allsup** and **Judge Stacie Zorn**.



Without the hard work of these dedicated individuals, many of this month's local events would not have been possible. Special thanks to **John Jaye** and **Victor Goff; Teresa Jaye** and **Beverly Goff; and Victoria Adams**.

The grounds in front of the **George County Courthouse** in Lucedale provided the perfect setting to display the **National Child Abuse Prevention Month** banner donated by **Janie Grice** with **Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate Traditions**. The pinwheels on display represent the 75 children in George County who were in CPS custody as of April 2023. The color blue was chosen to call attention to the physical bruises some of the young victims of abuse and neglect have suffered. Volunteers are needed to accompany these children in George County!

Pictured below is the **Greene County** display located in downtown Leakesville. The **Child Abuse Prevention Month** banner was provided by **Leakesville United Methodist Church**. Thanks to **Beverly Goff**, Advocate Supervisor, **Teresa Jaye**, Outreach Coordinator, and her husband **John Jaye** (the hands and arms of **CASA** in these projects) who set up the pinwheel display representing the 40 children in Greene County who were in CPS custody as of April 2023. Pictured to the right of the banner is the **Eubanks** family: **Shelley, Madilyn, and Stacy** who dropped by to help. As **CASA** expands into Greene County, more volunteers are needed!





Elected officials from Greene County pose beside the completed awareness display designed to encourage community members to volunteer to serve as **CASA** advocates.



A big thank you to **Janie Grice** with **Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate Traditions** for sponsoring the banner at the pinwheel garden promoting community awareness and highlighting the need for additional **CASA** volunteers in the George County area.



From April 14–21, sixteen nutrition drink stores participated in a fundraiser in which a portion of their proceeds was donated to aid in recruiting and training additional **CASA** volunteers. This was also a great way to spread the word about child abuse prevention with the feature drink, **Blue Hope**, and support small local businesses. Thank you to all the patrons who sampled the tea and made cash donations when you dropped in to shop these stores.

Welcome to the New CASA Staff



A huge **CASA of Southeast Mississippi** welcome to the program's newest team member, **Karen Horn**, who came on board in early April in the role of Training Coordinator. **Karen** has been a resident of Ocean Springs for most of her life. She received her bachelor's degree from Mississippi University for Women with a degree in health care administration and worked as a medical lab technician for much of her professional career. Most recently, **Karen** was the owner of **Horn Island Grill** in Gautier. She has three daughters, Kristin, Hannah, and Lauren and attends Mosaic church. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with her daughters, going to the beach, and traveling to St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands. **Karen** is excited with this new job opportunity and has recently completed her volunteer pre-service training. She looks forward to working with the volunteers to plan in-service and continuing education events and planning recruitment events to attract addition volunteers in the counties the **CASA** program serves. She sees this as a fresh start and is excited for the amazing adventures and new learning experiences as she moves forward in this position to be a part of something great happening in southeast Mississippi. She is currently housed in the training room, so please drop by and introduce yourself to her when you visit the office.

Spreading the word about CASA ...



Pictured at right, Honorable **Judge Stacie Zorn** along with Advocate Supervisors, **Brianna Ricks** and **Amber Ehlers**, attended the after-school tailgate **Career Fair** at Gautier High School. There they shared with the young people and their parents information about careers in the youth court system and the **CASA** mission.



Frances Allsup, **CASA** Executive Director, poses with the Biloxi Shuckers' mascot, **Schooner**, at **Buggin the Beach**, the 28th annual **Charity Car Show** hosted by the **Mississippi Gulf Coast Volkswagen Club** held at Beauvoir on a very frigid Saturday morning. The annual event benefits **CASA** and other coast charities.

Pictured at right, **Beverly Goff**, Advocate Supervisor, and **Teresa Jaye**, Outreach Coordinator, spent a beautiful Saturday morning preparing the pinwheel displays for **Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month** in George and Greene Counties. See photos on the bottom of page 3 for the finished displays.



On one of the coldest mornings of 2023, Outreach Coordinator **Teresa Jaye** and Advocate Supervisor **Beverly Goff** shared the **CASA** mission at **Shop the Ville** in Leakesville. Also in the photo above is **Jaycie Tungett**, **Miss Fairpark**, who was in the running for the title of **Miss Mississippi**.

Thank You—Junior Auxiliary of Pascagoula-Moss Point



Volunteers from the **Pascagoula-Moss Point Junior Auxiliary** and **CASA of Southeast Mississippi** staff members, **Jonathan Mills**, **Beverly Goff**, **Amber Ehlers**, **Zoey Lamkin**, and **Brianna Ricks**, met at **South Coast Storage** to put together additional rolling duffel bags and supplies which were donated by **Keesler Federal Credit Union** for the children in custody. **Teresa Jaye**, **CASA** Outreach Coordinator, is pictured above with some of the **JA-PMP** members who volunteered their time and made a generous \$300 donation to **CASA**. Members who came out to help that day were **Ja'Leasa Bolden**, **Tanesha Batiste**, **Ashley Hillsabeck**, and **Alis Comeaux**. In addition, thanks to **Zack Hollon** and **John Jaye** for the extra help with all the stacks of boxes in the storage unit.



Advocate Supervisor **Beverly Goff** delivered a shipment of the filled rolling duffel bags donated by **Keesler Federal Credit Union** to Greene County for the children CPS serves in that area. On hand for the delivery were **Shelley Eubanks** and **Judge Cheryl Pierce** with the Greene County Youth Court.



Advocate Supervisor **Beverly Goff** proudly poses in her new office which is located in the George County Youth Court. It has been a long time coming and she is still getting settled in, but she is super excited to welcome clients and potential volunteers. You may still call the Jackson County office to set up training.



Advocate Supervisors **Brianna Ricks** and **Amber Ehlers** used their fantastic carpenter and assembly skills and put together the new desk in the training room. Great teamwork to welcome **Karen Horn** the newly added Training Coordinator to the staff.

Blue Hope

CASA of Southeast Mississippi would like to thank the many sponsors who participated in the **Blue Hope** campaign during the month of April. This nutrition drink fundraiser was a first-time event, and the business and community support was amazing! The loaded tea specialty drink they created was a real hit with their patrons. A special thank you to those who made a donation during this promotion and especially to those who made a match challenge during the week-long event.

Pictured below, **Barbara Martin** with **Parker & Rankin Real Estate** another wonderful **CASA** supporter stands beside the banner which was donated to encourage community support and awareness in Jackson County at the first **Light of Hope** event.



Continuing Education Opportunities

Reminder— to maintain your active 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 re-

May Continuing Education Opportunity — Brittany Triplett, the advocate for **Adrienne's House** in Pascagoula, will do a presentation about this local domestic violence program which offers 24 hours/day, 7 days/week temporary emergency shelter; individual counseling for adults and children; group counseling for residential and nonresidential clients; case management; legal/court advocacy; and civil legal services. Come and learn more about how **Adrienne's House** helps victims of domestic violence and the story behind how this program started. The one-hour presentation will be on **Friday, May 26**, at 1:00 pm at the Gautier Public Library. To reserve your spot, please contact **Zoey Lamkin** (228-762-7370 or Zoey_Lamkin@co.jackson.ms.us) or your advocate supervisor by **May 19**. The program will be recorded for later access for those unable to attend the in-person presentation.

May Continuing Education suggested webinar **Fostering Resilience and Wellness in Youth** is available at this link which you may copy and paste in your browser. When you register, use the category **Education** under program, **Advocate** as your job title, and **CASA of Southeast Mississippi** as your organization. 1 hour CEU credit. This webinar was first presented in November 2022 and offers very timely information on resilience.

<https://www.hazeldenbettyford.org/webinars/professional-series?category=addiction%2Cyouth&page=1>

This website offers several additional one hour presentations which would be suitable for continuing education credit. If you view any of these, please let **Zoey Lamkin** or your advocate supervisor know and tell how you

May Birthdays

May 2

Terri Acosta

May 8

Sharon Sigalas

May 19

Jeanne Coleman

May 5

Lucy Newman

Kathleen Russell

May 12

Dobbs Dennis

May 22

Lindsey O'Connell

May 6

Stacie Zorn

May 14

Tahnaya Tremonte

May 27

Stephanie Coghlan

May 31

John Jaye



Additional volunteers are needed to serve in Jackson, George, and Greene Counties!

Contact us today to learn more!

Latest Program Statistics

As of March 31, 2023, 101 CASA volunteers served 137 children with 843 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. As the number of children in custody continues to grow, we are in need of additional advocate volunteers to serve in 2023!



8th Annual

CASA
Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN
SOUTHEAST MISSISSIPPI

CASA BLUES
PRESENTED BY
CASA OF SOUTHEAST MISSISSIPPI, INC.

THE GRAND MAGNOLIA BALLROOM
3604 MAGNOLIA STREET
PASCAGOULA, MS 39567

Go online today and get your tickets.
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/8th-annual-casa-blues-tickets-598043402917>

JUNE 23, 2023
6:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Presenting Sponsor
BOB BOYTE
— Honda —
MOSS POINT

Featuring music by
N2 BLUE BAND

Call our office at 228.762.7370 to get your tickets or come by 4903 Telephone Rd. Pascagoula, MS




Putting the music back in little lives!



Advocate Supervisor **Beverly Goff** also delivered a shipment of the filled rolling duffel bags to George County. On hand for the delivery were board member **Doug Adams**, **CASA** volunteer **Cynthia Landrum**, Judge **Darryl Hurt, Jr.**, Judge **Mark Maples**, and **Marty Seib**, George

CASA Blues - Outreach Coordinator, **Teresa Jaye**, has been working very hard to finalize all of the details for this upcoming event. She is out and about collecting community donations for the amazing silent auction. Please save the date today for an evening of good food and great music. A special feature for the evening will be the presentation of the **Champion for Children** award which honors contributions to the children we serve. Use the QR code shown above to purchase your



Welcome to our newest **CASA** volunteer, **Karen Horn**, who recently completed the 30 hour pre-service training and was sworn in by **Judge Stacie Zorn** in late April. **Karen** is enjoying her new role as Training Coordinator and is looking forward to working her first case as an advocate.



CASA of Southeast Mississippi, Inc.
2023 SPRING VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Overview: Parts 1 and 2 and interview

May 2	5 p.m. - 7 p.m.
The Bleux Case	
May 9	5 p.m. - 7 p.m.
The Green Case	
May 16	5 p.m. - 7 p.m.
The Amarillo Case	
May 23	5 p.m. - 7 p.m.
The Redd Case	
May 30	5 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Wrap-up and Handbooks	
June 6	5 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Court Observations, Optima and Induction	
To be scheduled *	

May Court Dates



May Foster Care Review Dates

A Foster Care Review (aka County Conference) is held every six months to discuss and review the permanent plan of the child/children's in foster care. Your attendance and input is requested. The review is **NOT** a court hearing, however, the testimony delivered during the review will be provided to the Court to aid in making decisions about the child/children's best interests.

Please contact the CASA staff if you are not able to attend.

