



# JULY 2023

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July 2023

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## 2023 CASA BLUES



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



## 2023 CASA Blues

Our eighth annual **CASA Blues** was hosted on June 23 at the Grand Magnolia Ballroom in Pascagoula. Thanks to our sponsors and all who attended, it was an amazing success. We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to each of the following supporters for their contribution to the event. We could not have done it without them.

### *Presenting Sponsor*

# Bob Boyte Honda Moss Point

### *Jazz Blues Sponsor*

*Anonymous Donor*

### *Mississippi Blues Sponsors*

*Ingalls Shipbuilding • Bob & Vicki Merchant*

### *Rhythm & Blues Sponsors*

*Coldwell Banker- Alfonso Realty, Inc. • Keesler Federal Credit Union • Weichert Realty, Inc.- Lynn Wade*

### *Rock & Roll Sponsors*

*Chevron • Joe Bullard Cadillac/Land Rover, Mobile • Gulf Trust Federal Credit Union • Pascagoula Elks Club- in Memory of Joe Wagner*

### *Country Blues Sponsors*

*Coco Loco Mexican Restaurant • Junior Auxiliary Pascagoula- Moss Point • Merchants & Marine Bank • Mississippi Export Railroad  
Pascagoula Bar Pilots Association • Pascagoula Men's Club • Singing River Health System • The First Bank • Sparklight*

### *Boogie Woogie Blues Sponsors*

*Children's Clinic Pascagoula • Foster - Brimm Consulting • Joel's Tire and Automotive • The Cornerstone Group  
W&WB and S PLLC Wilkinson - Attorneys at Law*

### *In-Kind Donations*

*Allen Beverages, Inc. • Azteca's Restaurant and Cantina • Coca-Cola Bottling • Ft. Bayou Wine Spirits • Golden Nugget Casino  
Gulf Coast Produce Distributors, Inc. • Mitchell Distributing • Piggly Wiggly • Pugh's Floral Shop • The Blind Tiger • The Party Box*

### *Special thanks to*

*Richard and Amy Chenoweth of Scranton's Catering for the delicious food, the Grand Magnolia for the beautiful location,  
the N2 Blue Band for the outstanding music, and Jen and Chuck Photography for making photos to capture this evening's event.*

### *Silent Auction items were donated by the following:*

#### **BILOXI**

*Big Play Entertainment Center • Biloxi Shuckers • IP Casino • The Blind Tiger*

#### **D'IBERVILLE**

*Chicken Salad Chick • Edible Arrangements • Lowe's • Massage Envy • Red Lobster • Scarlet Pearl Casino • Target*



## 2023 CASA Blues

### GAUTIER

*Block Therapy Quilt Shop & Sewing Center • Foster's Heat & Air • Gleaux to You Tanning • Hickory Hills Country Club  
Shell Landing Golf Club • Spanish Trail Lanes • That Gumbo Life • Universal Imports*

### OCEAN SPRINGS

*4 Bulls Meats, Seafood, & Deli • Bailey Lumber & Supply • Buff City Soap • Chandeleur Outfitters • Embellish Boutique  
Gulf Coast YMCA • Hillier House • Lee Tracy Boutique • Love Ivy Boutique • Maison de Lu • Mosaic Restaurant & Bar • NAPA Auto Parts  
NTB- National Tire & Battery • Palm Beach Tan • Purelux Nails & Spa • Shearwater Pottery • Tato Nut Donuts • The Beauty Bar  
Tractor Supply • Walter Anderson Museum • Wood & Wine Design Co.*

### PASCAGOULA

*Auto Zone • Barbara Martin • Bozo's • Gary & Cathy Groff • Ja-Makin Me Tan • Johnson Bros Jewelry Co. • Lincoln on Demand Limousine  
Nelson Outdoors • O'Reilly Auto Parts • Rene' Shaw • Singing River Art Association • Steiner Saw & Mower • The Company Hair Salon  
The Menagerie on Market • Wayne Lee's Grocery • White Pelican • Willis Furniture*

### OTHER LOCATIONS

*CaCo Customs- Hurley, MS • Dee Turner- Artist • Hollywood Casino & Boomtown Casino- Gulf Coast • Honey Baked Ham- Mobile, AL  
Jason Pittman- Artist • Kentucky Gallahue & Derby- San Francisco, CA • Logan Havarad- Mat Designer • Mabel's Pet Hotel- Moss Point, MS  
The Chimney's Restaurant- Gulfport, MS • The Chopping Block- Hurley, MS • The Peabody Hotel- Memphis, TN • The Shed - Vancleave, MS  
and many Anonymous Donors!*

Thank you to **WXXV TV** and **Meggan Gray** for providing **Teresa Jaye** and **Bob Boyte**, presenting sponsor for the 8th annual **CASA Blues**, the opportunity to share event details on the Friday morning local news segment. **Bob Boyte Honda** is a local dealership operating in Moss Point since 2019. They strive to use every opportunity available to give back to the community.



*Putting the music  
back into little lives!*



**Brittany Triplett** with **Adrienne's House**, a local domestic violence shelter, provided an informative continuing education opportunity for CASA staff and volunteers.



The May continuing education opportunity was presented at the Gautier Library and was well-attended by staff and volunteers. It provided an excellent opportunity to learn more about this local programs and how they can serve families and children in the Youth Court system. The question and answer portion of the program provided a wealth of useful information about legal, housing, and counseling resources that the **Gulf Coast Center Nonviolence** offers.



Pictured at left: **Celia Anzalone Bowers**, a published author, a senior loan officer with CMG homes, the 2021 Mrs. Tennessee, a nationally ranked triathlete, and current **Mrs. Mississippi International**, recently traveled from Tennessee where she hosts her own podcast "**Love Waits for You**" dedicated to finding self-worth and hope and giving inspiration to others. While here, **Celia** interviewed **CASA** outreach coordinator **Teresa Jaye** and featured **Teresa** on a podcast where **Teresa** shared her own story and how she became involved in helping children who have been victims of abuse and neglect. When she returned home, **Celia**, her husband, and twin three-year-old sons packed a box of socks for our older boys and girls and sent them this way. **Celia**, thank you for taking the time and making this effort to spread the **CASA of Southeast Mississippi** message to folks in your audience who might otherwise never hear about our mission!



**Virginia Milstead** introduced **Frances Allsup** as a guest speaker at the First Baptist Church's Women on Mission (W.O.M.) June meeting. **Frances'** talk focused on the local **CASA** program and its mission. The group entertained ideas on how they could provide different types of resources to assist the children.



**CHANGE A  
CHILD'S STORY.™**





Another wonderful fund-raising event with our **Dixie Dart Association** family! This group works tirelessly each year to host two charity dart tournaments for our mission. Events like these throughout the year benefit the children **CASA** serves. It's inspiring to see and hear their passion for our work and their individual stories. Thank you to the members of **Dixie Dart** for their faithful support and hearts of gold for **CASA of Southeast Mississippi**.



**CASA** staff, volunteers, and some foster parents gathered at Citizen's Bank in Pascagoula for an informative continuing education presentation offered by **Katy Frazier**, Youth Court intake officer. Her presentation addressed how different types of investigations are handled, investigations of allegations of abuse and neglect, and situations that result in felony charges.



A huge **CASA** thank you goes out to **Lisa Greig** and the amazing group at St. Elizabeth Seton's VBS for again selecting our children as their charity of choice for this year's coin donations. The "stellar" groups collected a total of \$856.27 for the week. The children, staff, and crew leaders truly lived out the week's message to "let their lights shine" as they explored the universe and all of its beauty.

## 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 requests.

### Stewards of Children: Darkness to Light

This will be an **in-person continuing education** opportunity, worth 2.5 CE credits. It will be held at **Community Bank** in **Biloxi** on Thursday, **July 13th**, and should last from **1–3:30 PM**. We will be supported by the **Hancock County CASA** family, as they guide us through this program. Learn how to prevent, recognize, and react responsibly to child sexual abuse. Come and learn more about becoming a volunteer who is confident and competent, knowing how to prevent sexual abuse and react skillfully if it occurs.

### What Does an Effective Support System Look Like?

We are offering another way to gain **continuing education** credits this month, on your own time! It will be added to the CASA website under Volunteers > Continuing Education > Podcasts. If it's easier, you can also email Advocate Supervisor **Brianna Ricks** (Brianna\_ricks@co.jackson.ms.us) and she can send you a direct link! This episode explores how **Alternative Family Services** (AFS) successfully create effective support systems for youth in the foster care. Youth aging out of the system can face many challenges as they transition to living independently as adults. For youth who are in, or who have been in the foster care, overcoming these obstacles may require additional support and skills to be self-reliant.

## July Birthdays

### July 1

Cynthia Wilson

### July 11

Lee Ann Aguilar

### July 20

Victor Goff

### July 4

Mollie Hilburn

Mike Wheatley

### July 16

Zack Hollon

### July 23

Charlotte McClendon

### July 10

Ashley Davis

### July 17

Doretha Goodman

### July 25

Cynthia Lupton

### July 19

Brenda Lancaster

### July 27

Tashema Cannon



## Latest Program Statistics

**As of May 31, 2023, CASA 107 volunteers served 146 children with 1,326 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!**



CASA OF SOUTHEAST MS  
PRESENTS

**DARKNESS TO LIGHT:  
STEWARDS  
OF  
CHILDREN®**

Presented by: Lauren Saucier of Hancock  
County CASA

Learn how to prevent, recognize, and react  
responsibly to child sexual abuse.

**JULY  
13**  
1 - 3:30 PM

**COMMUNITY  
BANK**  
732 Howard Ave, Biloxi,  
MS 39530

To RSVP by 7/10/23  
Email:  
brianna\_ricks@co.jackson.ms.us  
or Call:  
228-762-7370

CASA of Southeast MS hosts a

# SPAGHETTI

LIMITED NUMBER  
OF PLATES  
AVAILABLE!

LIMITED NUMBER  
OF PLATES  
AVAILABLE!

# LUNCH

To benefit United Way for Jackson & George Counties

Lunch plates are \$12, includes:  
spaghetti, salad, bread, dessert, and  
tea

Food provided by Melissa  
Hamilton of The Gumbo Pot in  
Lucedale!

Pick up is between 11 AM and 1 PM on Friday, July 28th  
MGCCC George County Campus, in the Magnolia Room  
11203 Hwy 63 S., Lucedale, MS 39452

Contact Teresa Jaye, the CASA of Southeast MS office, or the  
George County office to pre-purchase a lunch plate ticket!

**Teresa Jaye: (228) 218-2116**  
**CASA SE MS Office: (228) 762-7370**  
**CASA GC Office: (228) 218-9257**

**David Ray Sheriff**  
Sponsored by: David  
Ray, Captain of George  
County Sheriff's Office

  
CASA  
Court Appointed Special Advocates  
FOR CHILDREN

**CASA of SOUTHEAST  
MISSISSIPPI, INC.**

*Cordially invites you to an*

**Open House**

*Celebrating their new satellite office*

355 Cox Street  
Lucedale, Mississippi

**Tuesday, July 18, 2023**  
11:00 a.m. till 2:00 p.m.

*Lunch will be served.*

RSVP by July 12, 2023  
patty\_waters@co.jackson.ms.us  
228-762-7370 ext. 64785

*An agency of United Way for Jackson, George, and Greene Counties*

**CASA of Southeast Mississippi, Inc.**

**2023 SUMMER VOLUNTEER TRAINING**

Using National CASA Association  
Guided Learning Curriculum

Overview: Part 1 and 2 and Interviews

June 29 5:30 p.m. — 7 p.m.

The Bleux Case

July 6 5:30 p.m. — 7 p.m.

The Green Case

July 13 5:30 p.m. — 7 p.m.

The Amarillo Case

July 20 5:30 p.m. — 7 p.m.

The Redd Case

July 27 5:30 p.m. — 7 p.m.

August 3 Wrap-Up and Handbook  
5:30 p.m. — 7 p.m.

Optima Training, Court Observations, and Induction  
To be scheduled\*

**You can make a difference! Call 228-762-7370 and ask for Karen Horn. Join our next training class, which is scheduled to begin on Thursday June 29!**

## Outstanding Volunteer

**Michelle Wilson**, July's **Outstanding CASA Volunteer**, lives in Ocean Springs with her husband of 21 years and currently work as the Business Development Director at Gulfport Behavioral Health System. **Michelle** first heard about the **CASA** program back in 2010 when she worked for the Boys & Girls Clubs. At a young age, she had been adopted by her grandparents and later as a teenager adopted back by her mother. She saw firsthand the power of family support, recovery, and redemption. In 2020, during Covid, **Michelle** was given the opportunity to participate in one of the first hybrid guided learning pre-service training courses and was excited to be a part of such a compassionate group of volunteers and staff. She finds it rewarding to see many of the children she has advocated for find new lives with caring, dedicated parents that spent several months, even years caring for them and fostering their growth both physically and emotionally.



## Thank you for your years of service ...

As my term as President of **CASA of Southeast Mississippi** comes to a close, I find myself reflecting on the incredible journey we have undertaken together. Serving as President of **CASA** has been an immense honor and privilege. The unwavering support, dedication, and collective efforts of our board members, staff, volunteers, and sponsors have been truly inspiring. It is through your unwavering commitment to our mission that we have been able to overcome challenges, adapt to changing circumstances, and continue to make a positive difference in the lives of children. I am humbled by the incredible team of individuals who work tirelessly behind the scenes and alongside me, offering their time services, expertise, guidance, and unwavering support. Your commitment to the values and goals of **CASA** has been the driving force behind our success. As my journey as President comes to an end, I am filled with a profound sense of pride and satisfaction. Our collective achievements stand as a testament to the strength and resilience of **CASA**. While my term may be concluding, I know that our shared commitment to making a difference will endure.



Board President  
Jeffrey Pierce



**CASA** has been such a joy to my heart. What an honor and a privilege to serve on an amazing board for a wonderful cause. There's never enough we can do for the children and families in our world today. There's so much brokenness, but watching this program grow in six years has been an unreal story. **Frances Allsup** is the most hard-working, dedicated, genuine woman I have ever met. What a steel Magnolia! She must go to work at 3 o'clock in the morning because she sends out text messages very early. With **CASA's** expansion into George and Greene Counties, is there no limit to how far this great woman will push for this cause? I don't think so! I'm thankful and blessed to have been a part of such a wonderful group of board members working with the **CASA** staff. I have tried my best to be a part of this program that does great things for the children at South Mississippi.



Board Vice President  
Sherri Thornton