



# AUGUST 2023

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

casasoutheastms.org

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



**CASA of Southeast Mississippi, Inc.**

## Staff

Frances L. Allsup  
Executive Director

Brenda M. Lancaster  
Director of Advocate Supervisors

Jonathan Mills  
Program Manager

Teresa Jaye  
Outreach Coordinator

Karen Horn  
Training Coordinator

Beverly Goff  
Advocate Manager

Amber Ehlers  
Zoey Lamkin  
Brianna Ricks  
Advocate Supervisors

## Governing Board Members:

Doug Adams  
Samantha Bignell  
Eric Collum  
Greg Cronier  
Ashley Davis  
Mollie Hillburn  
Shawn Landrum  
Mark Maples  
Derek McCoy  
Ashley McLeod  
Brandon Riches  
Rene' Shaw

## Honorary Board Members

Jeffrey Pierce  
Ken Rice  
Troy Ross

## Inside this issue:

FYI	3
New Board Officers	5
New Volunteers	5
Outstanding Volunteer	5
Continuing Education	6
August Birthdays	6
Latest Program Stats	6

## LUCEDALE NEW OFFICE OPEN HOUSE



A very special thank you to **Honey Bees Floral and More** in Lucedale for providing the beautiful centerpiece shown below for the conference table in the new office.



Thank you for all of the wonderful community support as **CASA** opened the satellite office in Lucedale. Pictured above are **Amy Delcambre** and **Ashleigh Gibson** representing the presenting sponsor **Community Bank** of Lucedale. Thank you also to board members on hand: **Shawn Landrum, Lisa Cannon, and Doug Adams**. Not pictured: **Rene' Shaw, Greg Cronier, Ashley McLeod, and Derek McCoy** who were also present at the event.



**Judge Darryl Hurt, Jr.** gave a short welcoming speech and board president, **Doug Adams**, opened the meeting and gave a short prayer prior to the ribbon cutting.



## AND RIBBON CUTTING



**CASA** staff helped set up information materials and goodies in the new office before the visitors arrived.

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







**Frances Allsup** was surprised and honored as a **Mississippi Hero** during the July 18th event. **Katherine Sutton** and **Eric Alvarez** with **Mississippi Heroes** were on hand with balloons, a yard sign, super hero cape, plaque, and a big bag of goodies for this very special lady! This nonprofit organization makes these presentations throughout the state to recognize everyday individuals who make a difference daily as heroes to those they serve!



**Frances Allsup** is pictured at right with **Kizzie Wells-Daniels**, Regional Director with MDHS. We were so glad to celebrate the wonderful working partnership **CASA** has with the CPS and DHS workers and look forward to expanding this relationship to better serve the children in the foster care system.



Pictured below: **Beverly Goff**, **CASA** Advocate Manager, is shown in her new office. She has worked really hard to create a warm, welcoming place for families, children and personnel to gather. She has stocked the office with filled backpacks donated by members of **Rocky Creek Baptist Church** and rolling duffle bags donated by **Keesler Federal Credit Union**. These items are readily available to the children we serve.



Pictured above are **CASA** staff, board members, and state **CASA** representative on hand for the open house and luncheon in Lucedale. Front: **Brenda Lancaster**, Director of Advocate Supervisors; **Frances Allsup**, Executive Director; **Teresa Jaye**, Outreach Coordinator; **Patty Waters**, Training Facilitator; and **Amber Ehlers**, Advocate Supervisor. Back: **Ashley McLeod**, governing board member; **Brianna Ricks** and **Zoey Lamkin**, Advocate Supervisors; **Beverly Goff**, Advocate Manager, **Mindy Brown**, **CASA Mississippi** State Growth Coordinator; **Jonathan Mills**, Program Manager; **Karen Horn**, Training Coordinator; and **Doug Adams**, **CASA** governing board president.



All who attended the Open House were invited to place a finger print on the tree that will be on display in the new office. Shown above **David Ray** takes time to place his print on the tree.

Pictured at right: **Katherine Sutton** with **Mississippi Heroes** and **Michelle Wilson** **CASA** volunteer are shown at the Open House.





## FYI



Thank you to the employees of **First Federal Savings and Loan** for heading up this drive to provide backpacks and essential school supplies for the children **CASA** serves. **Shanna Reid** delivered boxes filled with the donated items which will be kept in Building C for distribution. Volunteers, foster parents and CPS staff may come in to pick up supplies while they last.

Shown at right: Congratulations to **Ginger Baldwin** who was the winner of the drawing for a gift bag filled with spa items which was given away at the **CASA** recruitment event held during the Leakesville 4th of July Celebration.



A hard day's work!



**Guy Cagnolatti** came by the office to present **Frances Allsup** a check from proceeds earned during the **Gautier Mullet Festival**.

Pictured below: **Lisa Bradley**, Manager of Community Relations and Corporate Stewardship with **Ingalls Shipbuilding (Division of HII)**, presents a check designated for capacity building and specified for Board Member Training to **Frances Allsup**, **CASA** executive director, and **Teresa Jaye**, Outreach Coordinator.



**Megan Catchot** a member of JABOS dropped by with this giant bag filled with all the school supplies on the list for a very lucky sixth grade student. This dedicated group also continues to remember each child's birthday throughout the year as well as providing some much-needed help with back to school supplies.



## Volunteers Are Needed!

*You can make a difference! Call 228-762-7370 and ask for Karen Horn and to join the next*





## FYI



Pictured at left: **David Ray**, Captain with the George County Sheriff's Office donated \$1000 for the spaghetti lunch fundraiser held in Lucedale. **Teresa Jaye**, Outreach Coordinator, is shown accepting the check. This fundraiser hosted by **CASA of Southeast Mississippi** was to benefit **United Way** for Jackson, George and Greene Counties. Thank you to everyone who came out and purchased a meal. Special thanks to **Melisa Hamilton** of the Gumbo Pot in Lucedale for preparing the wonderful meal!



Pictured at right: **Lisa Greig**, with St. Elizabeth Seton Parish in Ocean Springs, dropped by the **CASA of Southeast Mississippi** to drop off a check with **Frances Allsup** for the donations collected by the children during their VBS program. Individual teams compete daily throughout the week by turning in coins. It was a stellar week for the children and all the crews working the event. A perfect example of shining their light to provide for the needs to other kids. Collecting "Coins for **CASA**" has become a VBS tradition!



Pictured at left: **Teresa Jaye**, Outreach Coordinator, recently appeared on the WXXV noon news with **Meggan Gray** to help publicize the shoe drive. Everyone can help **CASA of Southeast Mississippi** raise funds by donating gently worn, used or new shoes! The shoes collected will be used to support micro-enterprise vendors. These are small businesses in developing nations that are typically operated by one person or family and friends. Collection dates continue until **September 9**. Don't forget to ask family, friends, co-workers, and neighbors to help. Drop-off boxes are located in Jackson, George and Greene Counties and donations will be picked up weekly. Drop off locations include: the **CASA offices** in Pascagoula and Lucedale; **Island Winds Title** offices in Pascagoula, Hurley and Lucedale; **Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate—Traditions and Community Bank** in Lucedale; **R & S Off Road Nutrition, Southern Drip Coffee Shop**, and the **Greene County Chancery Clerk's office (Shelley Eubanks)** in Leakesville; and in Jackson County **Coldwell Banker Alfonso Realty** the Pascagoula office, **Mabel's Pet Spa** in Escatawpa, and **This, That and the Other Boutique** in Hurley.

### BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Items are available in Building C on a first-come first-served basis.

Pictured at right: **Kershlyn Tadlock**, winner of the 2024 Distinguished Young Woman of Pascagoula title, recently collected back to school supplies for some of the children that **CASA of Southeast Mississippi** serves. She and other members of her community service organization and social club, Jeune Esprit, put together some basic supplies and delivered them to the **CASA** office. **Kershlyn** chose **CASA** as part of her state platform in the July competition. The children and families we serve in Jackson, George and Greene Counties benefit from this extra help as the school year 2023—2024 kicks off.

A huge **CASA** congratulations goes out to **Kershlyn** who was named 2nd Alternate in the state competition and won a fitness preliminary award!



## New Governing Board Officers



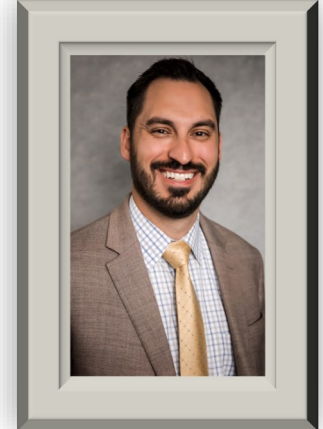
**Doug Adams**  
President



**Samantha Bignell**  
Vice-President



**Rene' Shaw**  
Secretary



**Brandon Riches**  
Treasurer

## New CASA Volunteers

Welcome to our newest volunteers who were sworn in on July 24th by **Honorable Judge Stacie Zorn**. Pictured at right are: **Captain Joana Swadick, Kathy Smith, Theresa Blair, Teresa Tanner** and **Judge Zorn**. We are super excited to have these four outstanding individuals become active members of the **CASA of Southeast Mississippi** team.



CHANGE A  
CHILD'S STORY.™



## August Outstanding Volunteer

**Teresa Landrum** has been a **CASA** volunteer for 5 years and has worked with seven foster children. **Teresa** completed LPN school, is an RN, holds a bachelor's degree in psychology/Christian Counseling, and is the author of two books. **Teresa** also serves at her church (Collective) as a member of the prayer and pastoral teams. She has 8 children and 19 grandchildren which she adores. When not working with foster children, **Teresa** loves to read, travel, write, and spend time with family. **Teresa** currently lives in Ocean Springs with her husband of 24 years, her 12-year-old son, and two very spoiled fur babies. We are so proud to honor **Teresa** as the program's **August Outstanding Volunteer**.





## 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.**

**Suggested August Reading: *A Place Called Home*** is a personal account of David Ambroz's early life of poverty & homelessness. Ambroz endured begging, bathing in public restrooms, and foster care, where he experienced further abuse that was compounded because of his sexuality. The book is an against-all-odds success story—David made it out, went abroad, earned a life-changing scholarship to Vassar College, and went on to graduate from UCLA School of Law. Written with lyricism and compassion, ***A Place Called Home*** depicts childhood poverty and homelessness as it is experienced by so many young people who have been systematically overlooked and unprotected. It is at once a gripping personal memoir of deprivation—how one boy survived, and ultimately thrived—and a resounding call for readers to move from empathy to action.

**Many independent opportunities** for continuing education can be found on our webpage, **[casasoutheast-mississippi.org](https://casasoutheast-mississippi.org)**. 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.

## August Birthdays

### August 1

Tess Mason

### August 2

Vera Johnson

### August 3

Virginia Brink

### August 4

Lucy Hurst-Gordon

### August 5

Clifton Busby  
Joana Swadick

### August 9

Amber Ehlers

### August 13

John Mosley  
Jennifer Howell

### August 15

David Lancaster  
Ruth Payton

### August 17

Tommy Sessum

### August 18

Erin Kramer

### August 23

Florence Motes

### August 26

Karen Bradley  
Twaya Caples

### August 28

Tonya Fowler  
Patty Waters

### August 30

Frances Allsup  
Carolyn Gautier

### August 31

Zoey Lamkin



## Latest Program Statistics

**As of June 30, 2023, 107 CASA volunteers served 146 children with 1,563 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!**