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The staff of *CASA of Southeast Mississippi* send you and yours best wishes for a very happy holiday season and a wonderful new year.

We sincerely thank each one of 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.

To make a 2023 end of year donation, you may follow this link: <https://casasoutheastms.harnessgiving.org/campaigns/12542>



INDUCTION IN GEORGE COUNTY



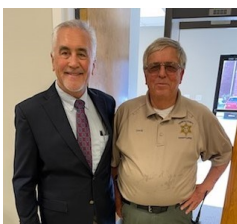
Pictured above: November 8th was **Induction Day** in George County: **Frances Allsup, CASA of Southeast Mississippi**, Executive Director; **Carrie Graham**; **Beverly Lemoine**; **Judge Darryl Hurt, Jr.**; **Judge Mark Maples, CASA Board Member**; **Janice Griffith**; **Martin Seib, George County GAL**; **Beverly Goff**, Advocate Manager and Lucedale satellite office manager; and **Daisye Campbell, CASA Board Member**. **Carrie Graham, Beverly Lemoine** and **Janice Griffith** join **Cynthia Landrum** as **CASA** expands to serve the children and youth in the George County Youth Court system.



Pictured at left: **Judge Darryl Hurt, Jr.**, signs the certificates for **CASA's** three new George County advocates.

Pictured at right: **Judge Mark Maples** administers the oath to the new advocates.

Pictured below: **Cynthia Landrum** joins with the new advocates at the reception luncheon which followed.



FYI



Pictured above: Members of the **CASA** staff participated in the Youth Court Trick or Treat event. Their costumes, decorations, and goodies were a big hit with all of the children and adults who made their way through the building. Pictured above are advocate supervisors **Amber Ehlers, Zoey Lamkin** and **Abby Clark**.



Pictured above **CASA of Southeast Mississippi** staff and volunteers joined with others from the entire state for a one-day training entitled **Bridging the Gap** hosted by CASA of Hancock County. This was a wonderful day for learning new information and sharing **CASA** program ideas. In the top photo are staff members and volunteers who attended the training: **Florence Motes, Beverly Goff, Amber Ehlers, Abby Clark, Zoey Lamkin, Patty Waters, Lee Ann Aguilar, and Brenda Lancaster**.



Pictured above: **Gene Morris** with **Dixie Darts** and **Karen Horn, CASA** Training Coordinator are shown at the group's November tournament. The members are faithful supporters of the **CASA** mission and are providing gifts and stockings for some of our children this Christmas.

Pictured at right: Congratulations to the newest **CASA of Southeast Mississippi** volunteers who were inducted by **Judge Stacie Zorn** in November. Shown are **Kayla Manning, Judge Zorn** and **Abby Clark**. **Abby** is a member of the **CASA** staff and serves as an advocate supervisor. **Kayla** has recently taken her first case and begun volunteering in the office helping with Christmas 2023.



FYI



Pictured above: **CASA of Southeast Mississippi** Executive Director, **Frances Allsup**, and Governing Board members, **Brandon Riches** and **Samantha Bignell**, were on hand at the Grand Magnolia Ballroom for the **2023 United Way Campaign Final Event**.

Save the Date—March 15

*Putting the music
back in little lives!*

Plans are already being made for the 9th annual **CASA Blues** event which will be held at the Ocean Springs Civic Center. This major fundraiser for **CASA of Southeast Mississippi** promises to be a fun evening filled with great food, drinks, music and an amazing silent auction.

You may follow the link below to purchase your tickets, become a sponsor, or make a donation to CASA: <https://casasoutheastms.harnessgiving.org/events/1105>



December Outstanding CASA Volunteer



Cynthia Landrum is the December **Outstanding CASA of Southeast Mississippi Volunteer**. Since joining in January 2022, **Cynthia**, a lifelong resident of George County and career educator, has made a significant impact on the lives of children in the foster care system.

Cynthia's dedication to her **CASA** cases reflects a commitment to providing a stable presence for children facing constant changes. "Each case is a lesson in compassion, reminding me that behind the paperwork and courtrooms are real lives, real struggles, and the real potential for positive change," she says.

In her role, **Cynthia** has taken on cases in both Jackson and George Counties, demonstrating resilience and compassion. Her experience as an educator has influenced her approach, emphasizing the importance of consistency and connection in the lives of these children. "Through the ups and downs, I've witnessed the long-term impact we, as **CASA** advocates, can have on a child's life—proof that our efforts truly matter."

Cynthia's contribution to **CASA** is not only a personal commitment but also a family affair, as her husband, **Shawn**, serves on the **CASA** Board of Directors. Together, they are helping to further the positive impact of **CASA** in Southeast MS. **Cynthia** and **Shawn** have three grown children and are expecting their first grandchild in January.

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.

All Rise: For the Good of the Children is an outstanding documentary showing TBRI being used in practice in the Texas youth court system. The video lasts 1 hour and 15 minutes and will count as 1 hour CEU. This is the link: Allriseforchildren.com

Many independent opportunities for continuing education can be found on our webpage, 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.



Christmas 2023 is going to be a very special season for many of the children in the foster care system in Jackson, George, and Greene Counties.

Thanks to the generous sponsors from the communities we serve, this year Christmas gifts will be provided for 153 children in Jackson County, 69 children in George County, and 28 children in Greene County.

Please know we appreciate each and every one of you for helping make these children's Christmas wishes come true.

December Birthdays

December 4
Suzanne Delarosa

December 8
Kerry Brink

December 9
Peggy Wolbrecht

December 17
Lonnell Washington

December 20
Jimmy Allsup

December 27
Amanda Goodwin



Latest Program Statistics

As of October 31, 2023, 115 CASA volunteers have served 154 children with 2,244 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 2024!