



MAY 2024 CASA CONNECTION

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MAY 2024

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CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION & AWARENESS MONTH



Pictured at left: Members of the **George County Junior Auxiliary**, **Tami Miller**, George County **CPS** supervisor, several **CASA** staff members and members of the **George County Board of Supervisors** gathered for the presentation of the official proclamation.



Pictured above: Several **CASA of Southeast Mississippi** staff, **Judge Stacie Zorn** and members of the **Jackson County Youth Court** staff, **Tee McCovey** with United Way, representatives from **Jackson County CPS**, and members of the **Jackson County Board of Supervisors** gathered for the presentation of the official proclamation which designates April as **Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month**. **Doug Adams**, **CASA** governing board president, proudly displays this year's document.



George County - 56 children in CPS custody



Jackson County 221 children in CPS custody

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



FYI

Pictured at right is the pinwheel garden display set up in Greene County. Each pinwheel ion display in each garden represents one of the children in CPS custody in Jackson, George and Greene Counties during the month of March.



Greene County 23 children in CPS custody.



At the 2024 annual meeting of **United Way** for Jackson, George & Greene Counties held at the Hilton Garden Inn, **CASA of Southeast Mississippi** was featured in the agency spotlight and this year's Success Story was presented by **Michelle "Shelly" Eubanks**, Greene County Chancery Clerk and former foster parent. She told of her family's journey with "M" and the role **CASA** played in the process. Pictured at left are **Shelly Eubanks**, the honorable **Lynn Fitch**, Attorney General for the State of Mississippi and the meeting's featured speaker, **Frances Allsup**, **CASA** executive director, and **Patty Waters**, **CASA** training facilitator.

Pictured at right: **Amber Ehlers**, Advocate Supervisor, and **Karen Horn**, Training Coordinator, participated in a **CASA** spring recruitment and awareness event as part of the **29th Annual VW Charity Car Show** held March on the beautiful grounds of Beauvoir on Biloxi Beach. The event featured a day to display and enjoy beautiful classic vehicles. This event is presented as a fundraiser by the **Mississippi Gulf Coast VW Club**.



Pictured above: Greene County was the site of a recruitment/awareness event hosted at the **United Methodist Church** of Leakesville. Thanks to **Shelly Eubanks** for extending this invitation to **CASA** representatives to come and speak to interested community members before the beginning of spring pre-service training. **Beverly Goff** and **Abbey Price** attended and answered questions from potential volunteers.



Pictured above: **Karen Horn**, Training Coordinator, and **Haley Aziz**, Administrative Assistant, were guests at the April meeting of the **Biloxi Businessmen's Club** held at **Mary Mahoney's Restaurant**. **Karen** spoke to the group about the **CASA** mission and how they could support the program. The group and individual members made generous donations at the end of the lunch meeting.



Members of **Collective Church**, with several age-groups and teams working together, collected items for the **CASA** babies. The donations brought in by the prayer team, youth group, cKidz and the café team included a wide range of clothing, diapers, personal care items, blankets and stuffed animals. Shown are members who wore their "SERVE" t-shirts when they delivered these donations. Special thanks to **Teresa Landrum**, church member and **CASA** volunteer, who came up with this inspiring idea for service and then helped collect and then sort all of the clothing items received.



Stephanie Chisolm with **Singing River Electric Power** came by the office to present the banner indicating **CASA** has received one of the **NHN (Neighbor Helping Neighbor) Grants** awarded for 2024. Funds from this grant allowed the program to purchase a much-needed public address system to use at upcoming awareness and recruitment events. Pictured are **Karen Horn**, **Stephanie Chisolm**, **Frances Allsup** (holding the grant banner), **Brenda Lancaster**, and **Haley Aziz**.



Pictured above is **Karen Horn**, Training Coordinator, who visited with Sunday School groups Ladies 1 and 2 at **Gautier First Baptist Church**. She enjoyed spending time with this delightful group of fantastic women and sharing information about the **CASA** mission with them.



Congratulations to **CASA** governing board member, Rotarian and Eagle Scout **Mark Maples** on receiving the Pine Burr Area Council's "**Good Scout Award**" celebrating a lifetime of service.



CASA Advocate Supervisor **Abbey Price** is shown with the thank you card and license tags being sent to the **CASA** volunteers and governing board members to show the program's appreciation for their time and service. Thanks to **Abbey** for the creative design, the amazing staff at **Goodgames'** for printing the finished product, and **Joshua Greer**, a new friend of **CASA's**, for helping with the packaging.

CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY
Brought to you by CASA Southeast MS

HOSTED AT:
CITIZENS BANK,
1519 MARKET ST.
PASCAGOULA MS.
39567

SPEAKING:
ROBIN SANFORD OF YOUTH VILLAGES
JOIN US TO LEARN ABOUT THE INTERCEPT PROGRAM AND HOW YOUTH VILLAGES PROVIDES HELP TO CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES

MAY 17TH 10:00AM

FOR MORE INFO AND RSVP CONTACT:
KAREN HORN
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OR
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CASA BLUES— JUNE 22, 2024

9TH ANNUAL
CASA
Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN
SOUTHEAST MISSISSIPPI
presents
CASA
BLUES
Putting the music back in little lives!

AN EVENING OF FUN,
FOOD, DRINKS, MUSIC
AND A SILENT AUCTION

JUNE 22, 2024
6 - 10 p.m.
OCEAN SPRINGS
CIVIC CENTER
3730 BIENVILLE BLVD OCEAN SPRINGS, MS

Presenting Sponsor
D·R·HORTON
America's Builder

Tickets \$50 per person
Must be 21 or older to attend. Dress business casual.
For more information or tickets contact CASA
(228) 762.7370



Pictured above: Special thanks to **D. H. Horton Homes** for being one of this year's **CASA Blues** presenting sponsors. Shown in the photo are **Donnie Long**, Division President for Mississippi/Mobile County AL Division of **D. H. Horton, America's Builders**, **Frances Allsup**, **CASA** executive director, **Tabitha Morgan**, Purchasing Manager, Gulf Coast Region MS/Mobile Division, and **Tiffany Jones**, Marketing Manager, MS/Mobile Division.

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.

Please join us for the **May Continuing Education Opportunity** which will be presented by **Robin Sanford** of **Youth Villages**, dedicated to helping emotionally and behaviorally troubled children and their families live successfully. **Robin's** presentation will focus on the **Intercept** model and how the agency provides intensive in-home services to help prevent or limit the need for foster care for high risk children entering foster care or taken into state custody and their families. The one-hour presentation will be at The Citizens Bank at 1519 Market Street in Pascagoula and will begin at 10 am. Please contact **Beverly Goff (228-218-9257)** or **Karen Horn (228-762-7370)** if you plan to attend.



Additional volunteers are currently needed to serve the children in the youth court system.

Contact Karen Horn, CASA of Southeast Mississippi Training Coordinator, today to learn more about beginning the 30-hour required pre-service training to become a Court Appointed Special Advocate!

May Birthdays

May 2

Terri Acosta
Janice Griffith
Kathleen Russell

May 6

Sheila Murphy
Stacie Zorn

May 8

Sharon Sigalas

May 19

Jeanne Coleman

May 22

Lindsey O'Connell

May 29

Stephanie Coghlan



Latest Program Statistics

As of March 29, 2024, 107 CASA volunteers served 109 children with 568 donated hours of service for the calendar year. Thank you to each dedicated volunteer who 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 the children in Jackson, George and Greene Counties in 2024!