



CASA CONNECTION JUNE 2024

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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

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

Presenting Sponsor
D-R HORTON
America's Builder

This year's music will be provided by **Crosstown** which features **Mandy Flurry** on vocals and keys, **Greg Flurry** on drums, **Scott Ankersen** on guitar and vocals, and **Steve Eaker** on bass guitar. The band covers music from the 70's to the present featuring rock to blues with a touch of pop and country.

Melisa Hamilton is preparing a wonderful meal for the event including roast with potatoes, carrots and green beans, shrimp scampi, salad, rolls, fruit, vegetable and cheese trays, and dessert. She has prepared meals for us in the past, and her food is always amazing!

Get your tickets today for this **CASA** community celebration!

Silent Auction items will include gift certificates to restaurants and fun activities, jewelry, handmade items, gift baskets, art items, furniture and so much more. Be watching on Facebook for a sample of some of the items available for bids!

Do not forget about the **Belk Charity Sale**. Each ticket is **\$5**, and this amount will then be taken off the price on your first purchase. Tickets are good at any **Belk** store (but not available for use with online purchases). Ticket proceeds will directly benefit **CASA of Southeast Mississippi!**

JUNE 7TH-9TH
Belk
Charity Sale!!!

THAT'S \$5 TO CASA AND \$5 OFF FOR YOU!

All Ticket Sale Proceeds to Directly Benefit CASA of Southeast Mississippi!

\$5 per ticket
Tickets grant \$5 off purchase with an extra 25% off as well. \$5 is stackable with other coupons! *Some limitations may apply.

PLUS A STACKABLE 25% OFF FOR YOU!

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



FYI



A huge thank you goes out to a **CASA Blues** presenting sponsor, **D. R. Horton Homes, America's Builders**. In an special afternoon visit, a large basket of freshly baked goodies was dropped off at their D'Iberville office. Shown in the photo above are **CASA** governing board member, **Greg Cronier**, **CASA** staff members **Jonathan Mills** and **Haley Aziz**, **Tiffany Jones**, the office's marketing manager and **Tabitha Morgan**, its purchasing manager, **Frances Allsup**, **CASA of Southeast Mississippi** executive director, **Karen Horn**, **CASA** staff member, and **Donnie Long**, Division President for the company's Mississippi/Mobile County AL Division. The gift basket featured an assortment of **Haley's** specially prepared sweet treats which included blueberry muffins as well as peanut butter and chocolate chip cookies. Just a small way to show our sincere appreciation for this very generous donation in support of the **CASA** program and its mission.



Carlet Jones with **Belk** in Gautier delivered a wonderful gift-filled basket that will be available for bidding during the silent auction. Check out the **CASA** Facebook page for other items and donors for **CASA Blues**.

Haley Aziz and **Lynn Lemoine** represented **CASA** in **Celebrating 60 years of Inspiring Hope & Advancing Opportunity** at the Jackson County Civic Action Center. Sponsored by **Community Action of South MS**, dedicated to helping people and changing lives, the event was a great way to network with other local agencies and spread community awareness about the **CASA** mission and program in a fun, family-friendly way.



Haley and **Lynn** prepared a very eye-catching table display to draw attention to the many services that **CASA** can provide to children in foster care and stress the need the program has for additional volunteers.

Robin Sanford with **Youth Villages** makes a stop to visit with **Lynn** to discuss ways the two area programs can best work together.



FYI



On **CASA's** behalf, **Frances Allsup** and **Brenda Lancaster** attended the **Gulf Coast Community Foundation's Grant-ing Success with GivHer Circle** premier grant presentation and breakfast held at the Knight Nonprofit Center in Gulfport. The **GivHer Circle** is a unique grant program dedicated to supporting small non-profits in South Mississippi by empowering women-led organizations that focus on child welfare, education, and health. We congratulate **Elijah's Closet** for receiving the \$20,000 grant which will allow this amazing resource agency to assist families by purchasing beds for children in the foster care system and those at risk of entering the system.



Congratulations and welcome to our newest **CASA** volunteers! Pictured following their May 23 induction are **Stacy Edwards**, **Judge Cheryl Pierce** with Greene County Youth Court, and **Monica Edwards**. We welcome you to the **CASA** team and look forward to working with you as you step forward to become a voice for the children in the Greene County Youth Court system.

Frances Allsup was guest speaker at the **Pascagoula Kiwanis** May meeting. During her talk, she told the members about her personal background and the **Jackson County CASA** program that has expanded into **CASA of Southeast Mississippi**, the largest and oldest program in the state. This growth has allowed an increase in staff and counties served, in children and families served, and in the number of active volunteers. Plans are now underway to celebrate 40 years of **CASA** service (the year of the ruby) in April of 2025.

FREE – Youth Mental Health First Aid Class

FRIDAY, JUNE 7, 2024

8:30am - 5:00pm

Ocean Springs Goodwill, Career Connections Center
2957 Bienville Blvd, Ocean Springs, MS 39564

Teachers receive 0.6 CEU's.
Everyone will receive a free manual and a 3-year certificate.



Learn more about –

- What mental illness may look like.
- How to talk with someone about it.

Questions - info@msmentalhealth.org or 228-864-6274.



Register here

<https://forms.gle/hfsVM34meUhV1r2d6>



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.

This month’s continuing education opportunity will be held on **June 14th at 10 am** at Citizens Bank in Pascagoula. **Samantha Kalahar**, Site Director with **First Place for Youth**, will present an informative program aimed at supporting foster youth as they work to build the skills they need to make a successful transition to self-sufficiency and responsible adulthood. Currently, transition-age youth represent one of the most marginalized populations. At risk of intergenerational cycles of poverty, they are highly vulnerable to homelessness, unemployment, incarceration, the challenges of early parenthood, and dropping out of school. The **Mississippi Youth Voice** program provides a forum for youth leaders 18 - 26 years of age to advocate for those who have lived in foster care. It offers the opportunities to develop leadership skills and make real changes on the state level to provide resources for foster youth and those transitioning out of care. Make plans to attend this upcoming one-hour session to learn how CASA volunteers, CPS and the court staff can assist and support the 90 percent of youth ages 18-21 who leave custody by their 18th birthday. Contact **Karen Horn**, Training Coordinator, at 228-762-7370 or email karen_horn@co.jackson.ms.us to reserve a spot!



Additional volunteers are always needed to serve children in the youth court system in Jackson, George and Greene Counties!

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!

Samantha Kalahar with First Place for Youth
Speaking about foster youths building skills to successfully transition into adulthood

Hosted at:
Citizens Bank 1519 Market St.
Pascagoula, MS 39567

June 14th at 10:00 AM

For more Info and RSVP Contact:
Karen Horn
228-762-7370
karen_horn@co.jackson.ms.us

June Birthdays

June 1

Lisa Cannon
Stacey Dugger

June 7

Karen Horn
Denise Lee

June 10

Reagan Bridley

June 11

Melanie Holden

June 28

Beverly Goff



Latest Program Statistics

As of April 30, 2024, 107 CASA volunteers served 110 children with 759 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 in 2024!