



CASA CONNECTION SEPTEMBER 2024

Volume 11: Issue 9

SEPTEMBER 2024

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

casasoutheastms.org

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



Staff

- Frances L. Allsup
Executive Director
- Brenda M. Lancaster
Director of Advocate Supervisors
- Jonathan Mills
Director of Operations
- Karen Horn
Community Outreach
- Beverly Goff
Advocate Manager
- Amber Ehlers
Lynn Lemoine
Abbey Price
Advocate Supervisors
- Haley Aziz
General Admin

Governing Board Members:

- Doug Adams
- Samantha Bignell
- MoNique Blake
- Daisye Campbell
- Greg Cronier
- Ashley Davis
- Mollie Hillburn
- Shawn Landrum
- Mark Maples
- Derek McCoy
- Tasha McCullar
- Ashley McLeod
- Carlos Moulds
- Sheila Murphy
- Jeff Pierce
- Brandon Riches
- Rene' Shaw

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What a wonderful Monday morning surprise! Pictured at left: **Guy M. Cagnolatti** with the **Gautier Mullet and Music Fest** dropped by the **CASA of Southeast Mississippi** office and presented a check for \$ 2,000 to executive director **Frances Allsup**. What a great way to kick off the day and the month of August! Thank you so much for this very generous donation which supports the mission to serve children in Jackson, George and Greene Counties.



Congratulations to **Jen and Chuck Miestchovich** for being named recipients of the **2024 Champions for Children Award**. Because their schedule has been so busy, it took a while for the **CASA** staff to be able to get together with them for lunch and to present them with this award. Shown in photo above are **Frances Allsup**, **CASA** executive director, along with **Chuck** and **Jen** following the presentation. We celebrate this truly special couple who have supported the **CASA** mission and its many activities so faithfully over the past several years.



FYI



Pictured above: **Frances Allsup, Brenda Lancaster and Jonathan Mills** represented **CASA of Southeast Mississippi** at the **Community Partner Workshop** hosted by **Ingalls Shipbuilding** where they identified many available resources, networked with like-minded community partners, and obtained valuable information that will be useful in **CASA's** mission to improve the quality of life in Jackson, George and Greene Counties for our children and families. This on-going partnership will enable many agencies to work together to create positive changes in the communities we serve. A big thank you to **Ingalls Shipbuilding** for hosting this workshop.

CASA of Southeast Mississippi proudly welcomes our newest volunteer, **Marlie Cooley** from Jones County, who has trained with **Beverly Goff** in Lucedale to serve the children in Greene and George County. She is pictured below on the day of her August induction with **Judge Cheryl Pierce** of Greene County.

Marlie is going to be a wonderful addition to the **CASA** team.



CASA of Southeast Mississippi joined with many other community organizations and agencies at the **Jackson County Coalition** community event for children and families. Pictured above are staff members **Karen Horn and Amber Ehlers** under the shade of the **CASA** tent where they offered program information, answered questions, and passed out candy to participants.



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.

A continuing education opportunity dealing with **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion** will be offered by **Kimberly Washington** with **Mississippi Power** on **Friday, September 6**, from 10–11 am at the Citizens Bank, 1519 Jackson Avenue in Pascagoula. This is provided for **CASA** governing board members, **CASA** staff and volunteers.

A View from the Bench Series: Importance of Best Interest Advocacy—Friday, September 13. At this time we do not have the link to register, but it will be sent out to volunteers as soon as it is posted by National CASA on their website.

Brandi Bosarge will do a presentation on **Friday, September 20** at 9 am. **Brandi** will be giving details about a new planned housing program, **Transition Boulevard**, she will be bringing into the area to assist our older youth who will be aging out of the foster care system. Anyone who would like more information is invited to join us here at the **CASA** office for the overview.



Additional volunteers are needed to serve children in the youth court systems in Jackson, George and Greene Counties!
Contact the CASA of Southeast Mississippi office (228-762-7320) today to learn more about beginning the 30-hour required pre-service training to become a Court Appointed Special Advocate!

September Birthdays

September 1

Elizabeth Mullins

September 9

Amanda Methven
Sandy LeBatard

September 16

Brittany Nash

September 17

Marie Souza

September 29

Brenda Debose-Mosley
Megan Rogers
Jim Johnson



Latest Program Statistics

As of July 31, 2024, 114 CASA volunteers served 135 children with 1,310 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 in Jackson, George and Greene Counties to grow, we are in need of additional advocate volunteers to serve for the remainder of 2024!



**GOOD FOOD
FOR A GREAT CAUSE**

Delicious smoked butts and whole turkey breasts for that big game day or simply to avoid having to cook for the weekend.

Proceeds from the sales will go toward funding the **Ocean Springs Carnival Association's CASA of Southeast Mississippi** Christmas program which provides gifts for some of the local children the **CASA** volunteers serve during upcoming the holiday season.

Remember the deadline for placing your order is **September 8th**.

**Ocean Springs Carnival Association
BBQ fundraiser for CASA of Southeast
Mississippi**

Choose from:

- *Smoked Boston Butt pulled and vacuum packed
- *Smoked Boston Butt pulled and picked up in an aluminum tray
- *Smoked boneless whole Turkey Breast packed whole
- *Smoked boneless Turkey Breast sliced and vacuum packed

Pickup September 14th at AC Man

Sept 14th, pickup Saturday afternoon at AC Man, Ocean Springs

Picked and vacuum packed \$50

Pickup Sept 14 afternoon at AC Man

SLICED & VACUUM PACKED \$35

Whole & packed in-alum tray \$45

Funds raised will be used to purchase Christmas gifts for CASA children.

Place your order by going to www.oscarnival.com, click the SHOP button to order. Have your order placed by September 8th. Pick up will be September 14th, 3-5pm at A C Man Heating & Air Conditioning (2598 Government St., Ocean Springs Ms. 39564)

**JOIN OUR FUNDRAISER
AT RAISING CANE'S!**

Mention the fundraiser at the register and Cane's will donate 15% of sales to:



DATE & TIME:
Thursday 09/12/2024, 5pm to 9pm

LOCATION:
4301 Denny Ave. Pascagoula, MS



**JOIN OUR
FUNDRAISER
AT RAISING CANE'S**

Mention the fundraiser at the register and Cane's will donate 15% of sales to:



DATE & TIME:
Saturday 09/21, 12pm-5pm

LOCATION:
3800 Bienville Blvd. Ocean Springs

