



FEBRUARY 2025

Volume 12: Issue 2

February 2025

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CHANGE A CHILD'S STORY. & CELEBRATE 40 YEARS OF SERVICE.

There's NO PLACE like CASA

Saturday, April 5, 2025

6:00 PM – 10:00 PM

Hilton Garden Inn
2703 Denny Ave.
Pascagoula, MS 39567

SPONSORSHIP & TICKET INFO
E-Mail: casa@co.jackson.ms.us or
[visit casasoutheastms.org](http://visit.casasoutheastms.org)

Join us for an evening of live music, dancing, dining and a silent auction.

Dining catered by Hilton Garden Inn

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Please mark your calendars and reserve the date - **April 5** - as a special night in **CASA of Southeast Mississippi** history. Past and current volunteers, business and community leaders will come together to celebrate 40 years of the program serving the children of Jackson County. It will truly be a night to remember as we embrace this year's theme "**There's No Place Like CASA**" filled with good food, live music, an amazing silent auction and for the first time ever—a wine wall!

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



FYI



Following their introduction to the House of Representatives by **Elliott Burch**, part of the **CASA** delegation posed for the photo shown above. Pictured L to R: **Doug Adams**, **Erin Smith**, **Laura Gee**, **Mindy Brown**, **Tonja Murphy**, **Senator Brice Wiggins**, **Frances Allsup**, **Cynthia Chauvin**, **Caitlyn Bradshaw** and **Samantha Bignell**.

That evening the group attended the Gulf Coast Legislative reception. In attendance with **Frances** were members of the **CASA of Southeast Mississippi** governing board: **Doug Adams** (board president) and **Samantha Bignell** (board vice president).

Several **CASA** executive directors from across the state set up an information table as part of the January **A Day on the Hill** activities in Jackson. Pictured below (L to R) are **Frances Allsup** (ED with Southeast MS), **Laura Gee** (ED with Hinds County), **Erin Smith** (ED with North MS), **Mindy Brown** (State Growth Coordinator), and **Cynthia Chauvin** (ED with South MS).



What a great way to kick off 2025! **Karen Horn** with **CASA** traveled to the **Barnes and Noble** Gulfport location to receive the book donations made possible with the generous purchases made there during the month of December.

A huge thank you goes out to **Dawn Fritz** and her amazing staff for sending three boxes of books to **CASA of Southeast Mississippi**. This included an amazing assortment of books for readers of all ages. These will make great gifts to add throughout the year as our children celebrate their birthdays. **CASA** also provided books to the free library located outside the Jackson County Youth Court building and to the lobby and visitation room in the Youth Court facility.

Frances Allsup looked right at home sitting behind this desk on the Mississippi Senate floor.



2024 Program Statistics

As of December 31, 2024, CASA's 116 volunteers served 153 children with 1,901 donated hours of service for the calendar year 2024. 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 2025!

FYI



Samantha Bignell, CASA governing board president, was the guest speaker at the **Lucedale Rotary Club** January meeting. Pictured at left following the meeting are **Tee McCovey**, President and CEO of **United Way of Jackson, George and Greene Counties**, **Frances Allsup**, CASA executive director, **Samantha Bignell**, **Ashley Davis**, CASA governing board member, and **Phillip Pogue**, general manager of **Walt Massey Automotive**.

Pictured at right: **Jennifer Williams** with **JABOS** was on time making her delivery for a child with a January birthday. In keeping with a long-standing tradition, **JABOS** members make sure that each child who has a birthday during the month receives a special gift (or two) and snacks chosen just for him/her. A staff member or volunteer will then deliver the wrapped or bagged gift along with a handmade card to the child.



YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Additional volunteers are still needed to serve in Jackson, George and Greene Counties!

Contact us today to learn more about becoming a CASA volunteer in 2025!

February Birthdays

February 1

Jonathan Mills

February 16

Katie Allsup-Mason

February 2

Daisye Campbell

February 21

Vicki Applewhite

February 10

Sherita Knowles

February 27

Lisa Hayward

February 14

Danny LeBatard

