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Christine Williams with the **Mississippi Power Jackson and George County Community Connection Chapter** dropped by in December and delivered a donation/gift of kindness check to **CASA of Southeast Mississippi**.

Community Connection is the primary vehicle of more than 1,200 employees used to impact our customers, our communities and our environment.

Thank you for this very generous gift given in support of the local **CASA** program. You are making a huge difference in the lives of children!



Joy Circle of **Ocean Springs United Methodist Church** sponsored a drive to raise funds to purchase gift cards to assist the children we serve at Christmas and with essential needs throughout the school year. In their two week effort, they were able to raise \$1,240. These gift cards arrived just in time to help several children who had not been sponsored for Christmas. Shown above left: **Sue Bruno, Patty Waters** with **CASA, Sherrill Heidelberg** and **Brenda Lancaster**, director of advocate supervisors. Special thanks to each person who contributed and to pastor **Betty Weaver** for her support in this effort which will help make many children's lives brighter this Christmas and into 2025.

CASA CHRISTMAS ANGELS

Over **270** children in the foster care system in Jackson, George and Greene Counties had a wonderful Christmas this year! This would not have been possible without the kindness and generosity of you, our dedicated community supporters. Numerous local businesses and their employees, community organizations, and individual citizens sponsored these children ensuring that the holiday season would be extra special by granting their Christmas wishes. Each and every one of you is truly a very special **CASA Angel!**

We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to each for sponsoring a child or children. There is no way that you could ever know how much your gifts have meant to the children and each of us at **CASA of Southeast Mississippi, Inc.** We wish we could show you the excited smiles on the children's faces as they opened their gifts, but we can't. Please know that your kindness and generosity are deeply appreciated.

SPECIAL THANKS TO THESE SPONSORS

*Barnes & Noble Books • Samantha Bignell • Sue & Earl Blessey • Brenda's Pokeno group
Valerie Brunty • Cadence Insurance • Chelsea Campbell - True Growth Strength & Conditioning
Coldwell Banker Alfonso Realty - Pascagoula Branch
Le Anne Coleman • Suzanne Delarosa • Dixie Dart Association
Shelley Eubanks & friends • Laurie Godfrey • Treva Goff
Golden Nugget staff & employees • Gulf Coast Association of Realtors
Hancock Whitney Bank employees of the
Gautier, Gulfport, Ocean Springs East, & Ocean Springs Washington Avenue branches
Handi-Lock Self Storage in Gautier employees • Mollie Hillburn
Karen Horn • Horton Homes • Chao Ing • Jackson County Baptist Association •
Jackson - George Regional Library System employees • Kim Johnson
Joy Circle of the Ocean Springs United Methodist Church
Junior Auxiliary of Biloxi - Ocean Springs
Junior Auxiliary of Pascagoula - Moss Point • Keesler Federal Credit Union
Wendy King & other MDOC officers • Krewe of Barry members
Carol & Steve Messer • Ellen Matthews Mills
Mississippi Business Women • Mississippi Security Police staff • Cindy Moe
Aldo Moran • Mt. Pleasant Methodist Church members
Ocean Springs Carnival Association • Operation Candy Cane - Chevron employees
Judge Cheryl Pierce & friends • Catherine Raynal • Shanna Reid
Stephanie Spring • William Wilmoth & the staff at O'Bryant - O'Keefe
Cynthia & Larry Wilson • Friends of Cynthia Wilson • Other Anonymous Donors*

FYI



Shown above: **Beverly Goff**, **CASA** advocate manager, receives Christmas gifts from **Sara Hollis** with **Ca-dence Insurance** for a very special young man. **Sara** and her office provided gifts for two children. Thank you to every sponsor who worked so hard to make all 270 children's wishes come true.

Pictured below: **Frances Allsup** receives gifts donated for some of our older children from **Lindsey McAllister** (on the left) and **Tasya McCullar**, **CASA** governing board member (pictured on the right). These gifts were made possible by the new provisional members of **Junior Auxiliary of Biloxi-Ocean Springs** and the **Junior Auxiliary of Pascagoula-Moss Point** at a meet and greet gathering aimed at promoting sisterhood and service. Each bag was labeled for specific age groups.



Shown above: A huge shout out to Santa's hardest working volunteer, **Larry Fowler**. **Larry** donates his time during the Christmas season making sure the bikes and gifts are loaded and delivered to the right destination. We could not do all that we do without the help of our dedicated volunteers.



Shown above: A huge thank you to **Patty Nash** and the **Golden Team** of the **Golden Nugget Casino** in Biloxi for sponsoring 25 children. Thank you also to **Frances Allsup** and **Karen Horn** for making the trip there to pick up the beautiful bagged and tagged Christmas gifts personally selected for each individual child.



Pictured above: **CASA** volunteers, **Nancy McLeod** and **Stacey Wilson**, check in with Santa before the Greene County event begins.



Greene County CPS staff and **Judge Cheryl Pierce** pose with **Santa**. Thank you ladies for getting all of the children's wish lists to Santa at the North Pole in time for the party.



Pictured above: **Shelley Eubanks**, **Judge Cheryl Pierce**, **Santa** and **Stacey Wilson**, **CASA** volunteer, were on hand at the Christmas party. A special thank you to **Shelley** and her gifting crew and **Judge Pierce** and her group of friends for making special Christmas memories for a number of the Greene County children. **Judge Pierce** is truly the force behind this amazing annual Christmas event for the children in CPS custody.



Pictured above: **Bryan Cooper** and **Jennifer Cochran** with **Mississippi Security Police** collected toys at their office and delivered them to **CASA** for some last-minute gifting for several children new to the system.



Pictured above: **Jonathan Mills** with **CASA of Southeast Mississippi**, and **Cynthia Chauvin**, with **CASA of South Mississippi**, each received an assortment of gift cards collected at the **Gulf Coast Association of Realtors** annual Christmas Party. These stocking stuffer gift cards mean so much to our older youth. Thank you to each person who donated a gift card. Shown in the photo from left to right: **Jonathan**, **Cynthia**, **Danny Lee**, CEO, **Sandi Pickard**, past President, and **Paul Williams**, Director of **GCAR**.



Shown above: **Santa** poses with **CASA's Beverly Goff** at the Greene County holiday event.



Pictured above: **Frances Allsup** receives gift cards donated by **Coldwell Banker Alfonso Realty—Pascagoula Branch**. Making the presentation were **Keri Beauchamp** and **Jane Mavromihalis**. These cards were used to help with clothes for added teens.

Pictured at right: **Officer Wendy King** (at far right in the photo) and her amazing delivery crew delivered over 100 new toys for the **Holiday Happening**. **CASA** is so fortunate to be gifted with these toy donations **Officer King** collected.





Shown above: Members of the **Ocean Springs Carnival Association** at the December 2024 wrapping party.



Shown below members of **OSCA** at their annual **CASA** wrapping party where gifts for the 20 children they sponsored were prepared for pick up and delivery. This is always a fun evening for everyone involved. Members enjoy the fellowship while helping provide gifts for deserving kids.

Pictured above: **Patty Waters** and **Brenda Lancaster** with **CASA** along with Jackson County Youth Court **Judge Stacie Zorn** attended the annual Christmas party at the home of **Judy Jones** to collect gifts lovingly selected for some special children. The **Mississippi Business Women's** group sponsored seven youngsters as part of a long-standing tradition of helping local children in the foster care system. Throughout the year, members also assist several other community programs and provide much-needed scholarship funding. **CASA** is so proud to have such a special friendship with these amazing ladies.



FYI



George County Christmas for the kids came a little early as gifts were available for pick up. Pictured at right: **CPS staff** and **CASA** staff members **Karen Horn, Beverly Goff,** and **Lynn Lemoine** are pictured after unloading the gifts into party central. Pictured below: **Beverly** helps set up a cute reindeer activity for the children.

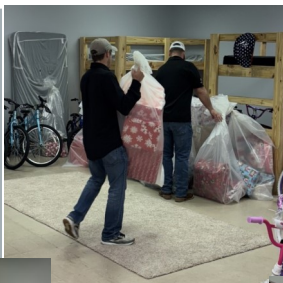


A huge shout out and thank you to **Chelsea Campbell** and her clients at **True Growth Strength and Conditioning** for the very generous donations of new toys. The items were added the morning of the **Holiday Happening** and were soon flying out the door with excited adults looking to add a perfect new gift to put under the tree.



A simple "thank you" could never express our sincere gratitude on behalf of the children we are honored to serve. Again, **Operation Candy Cane** and all **Chevron** employees who participate in the **XYZ Network** made a tremendous impact in the lives of so many children. Special thanks go out to **Alex Barrett**, list maker, size checker, and master shopper for all things great and small. Thank you to the wrappers from **Resurrection Catholic School** who assisted in the process of making the gifts so beautiful. To the four delivery elves pictured with **Alex** at bottom left for making short work of unloading everything. The generosity of this undertaking truly captures the spirit of giving in our community.

After months of preparing and placing countless orders, the final delivery day arrived for 100 bags of gifts and many bicycles personally selected for children at the Jackson County pick-up site.



The big, new, fully loaded trailer arrives with the crew ready and eager to begin to unload the bagged gifts and bicycles.



... during ...



Before ...

Just an almost empty bunk room at the **Jackson County Baptist Association** pick up site.



... and after!

Trevor Perkins is hard to spot amid the mass of presents. Every inch of floor space was filled! The following day several **CASA** elves (headed up by **Larry Fowler**) set out to arrange the gifts for pick up at the **Holiday Happening**.



Pictured below: **Stefanie Moran** and **Samantha Bignell** with **Keesler Federal Credit Union** brought in a very generous selection of gifts for older youth to select from. These items were a huge hit as volunteers, fosters, and CPS workers did some last minute gift shopping for the teens on their lists. Later **Samantha** returned with additional toys and bike donations collected from the **Keesler Federal Credit Union** branches for younger folks.

Thank you to our awesome supporters with the **Dixie Dart Association** for again providing filled stockings to share with many of the boys and girls. Each stocking was filled with toys appropriate for the child's age. Thank you to **Debbie Stewart** for again heading up this activity. **Karen Horn** with the **CASA** staff is shown with other Association members, **Miranda** and **Gene Morris** at the holiday event.



As part of the December meeting, **Pascagoula Rotary** members each donated a new unwrapped toy which was made available to a **CASA** child. Thank you to **Jennifer Garlich** for dropping these items off. They were perfect additions for several of our babies and younger kids.



Thank you to **Keesler Federal Credit Union** for providing snacks and drinks to be sent home to the kids on the day of the event. **Taylor**, our special **Junior CASA** elf, prepared these treat bags and made sure they were given out. She was amazing helper for this year's event. Thank you also to **Natalie Tomes** for her help on the day of the event.



Thank You to the **Jackson County Baptist Association** for allowing **CASA** the use of their facility for the **2024 Holiday Happening**. None of this would have been possible without their generosity and hospitality. Thank you to **Tracy Byrd** and **Philip Price** and other staff members for being so kind to those who dropped off gifts prior to the event.



FYI



Pictured at left members of the **CASA** governing board and staff gathered for this photo beside the Christmas tree after the holiday luncheon hosted by the staff at the **Hilton Garden Inn** in Pascagoula. It was a great meal and allowed a wonderful time for fellowship before the hectic December schedule really kicked into gear.

Thanks to **MoNique Blake, Sameka Millender, Tammy Moore, Kayla Wilson** and chef **Mary** for helping create this special pre-holiday memory.



January Birthdays

January 4	January 16
Israel Briggs	Kayla Manning
January 6	January 23
Cathy Wildschuetz	Alice Rainey
January 7	January 25
Abbey Price - Greer	Kathy Smith
January 12	January 26
Shawn Landrum	Diann Richards

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

Contact us today to learn more about the 2025 winter training beginning in January!



Latest Program Statistics

As of November 29, 2024, 91 CASA volunteers served 152 children with 1,795 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 2025! The next pre-service training for volunteers will begin in January.