



CASA CONNECTION

Volume 2: Issue 11

November 2015

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A Message from Frances



Believe it or not, we have completed our Mandatory In-Service. We want to thank each of you for your patience with us as we struggled to meet this requirement. Your cooperation and understanding made it possible.

The staff is now processing all of the information and updating records to reflect any changes that have to be made.

By now you should have received your new badge. Please check it for accuracy. Notify the CASA office if your information is incorrect and a new badge will be prepared and sent to you. If you have not received your badge, contact the office immediately.

The staff would also like to thank each of you for your service. There are no words to express our appreciation for all that you do for the children you serve as well as all the things that you do to help us. You are, by far, the best volunteers we could ever hope for. Each of you are a true gift from Above; Angels on Earth!

We love and appreciate our CASA Angels.



Confidential Files

It is imperative that all confidential files, along with all materials pertaining to your case be returned to the CASA office within five days of case closing. If, for any reason you must resign your position, it is also imperative that you return all confidential materials. Contact any CASA staff for assistance with this matter.

November Birthdays

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November 6
Miriam Wheatley

November 9
Rebecca Drury

November 10
Katie Winborn

November 13
Lauren Germany

November 16
Gloria Shorter

November 18
Rachel Hanser
Joyce Nelson
Susan Wentzell

November 21
Ken Rice

November 23
Julia Noble

November 25
Glenn Gilley

November 27
Mary Ellen Spalding

Abuse Hotline
1-800-222-8000



Happy Birthday!



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



Court Dates

Your Court date is **very important**. Your **presence is needed** at all Court hearings. However, if you are unavailable to attend, please contact the CASA office and provide an update of your case. CASA staff will present your report to the Court. **Your input is essential. Your child/children are counting on you to provide their voice in Court. There were many changes to the docket this month. Please review the schedule carefully. If you have any questions contact Jan or any staff for assistance.**

Confidential

Information unavailable



Don't forget!

County Conference's

County Conference's are held every six months to discuss and review the permanent plan of the child/children in foster care. Your attendance and input is requested. The review is **NOT** a court hearing, however, the testimony delivered during the conference will be provided to the Court to aid in making decisions about the Child's best interest. **Please contact the CASA staff if you are not able to attend.**

Confidential

Information unavailable

In-Service Dates for Volunteers

To maintain your CASA standing you are required to complete 12 hours of In-Service training each year. Be sure to include any completed In-Service hours on your monthly reports. We would like to discuss topics that would be beneficial to you. Please contact the CASA staff if you have special requests.

The Induction ceremony for the new CASA advocates will be held at 5:30 p.m. November 2 at Jackson County Youth Court. Please join us as we honor the new volunteers.

November 30 the Volunteer Advisory Council (VAC) will host a reunion for the new volunteers that were inducted November 2. The VAC members will lead a roundtable discussion, providing an opportunity for the new and veteran volunteers to ask questions and/or request assistance regarding their assigned cases. This meeting also provides an opportunity to mix and mingle with the staff and other volunteers.

November is the month to give thanks. We have been very fortunate to have many businesses, organizations and individuals that have been very generous to our program. So this month we will be *Giving Back* to our community. We are still in the process of working out the final details. A flyer will be coming your way within the next few days regarding this special project. We hope that you will be as excited about this as we are and will help us show appreciation to our community.

Contact our office to sign up to participate.

FYI



Dolls! Dolls! Dolls! What a beautiful surprise. Frances received a call from Roger Ritch, a member of the Dixie Dart Association, asking if we would be interested in a donation of homemade dolls for our children. Of course we were! So Frances made arrangements to meet with Roger to collect the dolls. They were breathtaking! The dolls, sock monkeys and teddy bears were painstakingly crafted by Roger's wife Gerry; no detail was left out. What beautiful gifts for our CASA children. Thank you Gerry for the very generous and loving donation. We know that each child that receives one of these precious jewels will treasure it forever.

Amy Guidry represented our program at the Mid-Way event; part of the United Way *Painting Our Future* campaign. The event was held at Ocean Springs Community Center October

2. This was an opportunity for us to provide information about our agency to the County employees.

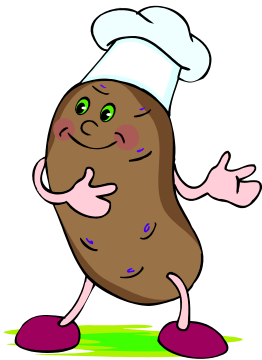
The final training class for 2015 was held throughout the month of October. We are grateful to Volunteer Debbie Braudis for leading this training. Four new volunteers will accept the oath of a volunteer advocate at the Induction Ceremony, 5:30 p.m. on November 2.

Also completing the training is Jodi Klubnik from CASA of Harrison County. She will receive a certificate of completion from our program for her participation.



November 11 Jackson County Chamber of Commerce and the City of Moss Point will host the 15th Annual Jackson County Veterans Day Program. You are cordially invited to attend the program which will be held in downtown Moss Point by the Veterans Memorial Monument at 11:00 a.m.

Taters for Tots



Our second annual Taters for Tots fundraiser was a huge success. This year we doubled our sales, offering 200 lunchboxes for purchase. Friend of CASA Mark Roberts, with help from Volunteer Paula Perry, was primarily instrumental for this success. Thanks to Mark, most of the foods as well as the items used for packing were donated. We also received monetary contributions that enabled us to purchase the remaining necessary items.

Not only did we need the items to prepare the lunchboxes, we needed manpower to help package the meals and for delivery. We received tremendous support from many of our Volunteers and Friends of CASA. Offering their time to help us with this challenge were Alice Baker, Eric Delarosa, Heather Goff, Cathy Groff, Rachel Hanser, Eloria Jacob, Beth Keenan, Susan McCormick, Adrian McCullum, Julia Noble, Patty Waters, and Cynthia Wilson. We also want to thank Kristy Pleasant, our number 1 *Tater Tot*, for selling the most lunchboxes.

Of Course, none of this would have been possible without the generous donations from area businesses and sponsors. We are forever grateful for their continued support of our mission. Providing the necessary items and funding were

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|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Scranton's Restaurant | Cornerstone Restaurant | Morrison's Cafeteria |
| Brass Hanger, Inc. | Burnham Drugs, Gautier | Burnham Drugs, Moss Point |
| The Cracker Barrel | The Country Gentleman | Family Frozen Foods |
| Rex Foster, State Farm Insurance | Four Seasons | Michael H. Hillman Insurance & Financial Inc. |
| IHOP, Pascagoula | Millette Administrators, Inc. | Jerry Lee's Grocery |
| Hinman Chiropractic | Lakeview Catfish Restaurant | Lauren's Hair Salon |
| Reynold's Wholesale | Ruby Tuesday, Moss Point | Glen Reeves, State Farm Insurance |
| | Tiki Restaurant, Lounge & Marina | |
| | WalMart, Ocean Springs | WalMart, Pascagoula |

Because of all of these very generous donations and assistants we raised more than \$2000. THANK YOU!

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