



CASA CONNECTION

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A Message from Frances

Empty "I Love You's".....Have you ever been told "I love you" by someone who means the world to you; that holds your heart as you beam with pride to know that that special someone loves you? Have you ever been told "I love you" by someone who is your dearest and best of friends; that certain someone that you know without a shadow of a doubt, knows you better than you may even know yourself? Have you ever been told "I love you" by someone that loves you to the moon and back and around again?

Have you ever been told "I love you" by someone special, but behind those words is an emptiness that lies within? You hear the words; you see their mouth move but know within your heart of hearts that those extraordinary words are meaningless and empty. I can honestly say that I don't believe I have experienced an empty "I love you" in my lifetime. My family, friends, colleagues and countless others can bring a smile and warmth to me that says "I love you" making the spoken words unnecessary.

The beautiful and passionate words "I love you" provide warmth and comfort that will see you through your day. It's like a little piece of sunshine that brightens your path just knowing that you are loved. So when this topic came to mind a few weeks ago, I wrote it down on a sticky note that I have read each day since. At first my thoughts scanned my life and the loved ones around me, and then came CASA...

I wonder how many empty "I love you's" our children have heard in their lifetime? How many times have they felt the warmth of a genuine "I love you"; one that brought them enough sunshine to get them through the day? I wonder how many of our children truly know the depth of our love for them. I wonder if they can see beyond the emptiness that has filled their days and nights. Hopefully, one day they will know that your love and compassion for them will never run dry.

Thank you, each of you for being an example in your everyday walk of life. It may not be today, it may not be tomorrow but one day, just like me, the child you are advocating for will see the bounty of your love and will know the fullness of unconditional love.

From my heart to yours and my love and admiration always,

Hugs – Frances

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September Birthdays

September 3
Liz Lassere

September 18
Karen Whitford

September 26
Candy Emge

September 4
Shana Lane
Mark Mosley

September 19
Candi Cripps

September 29
Judy Colson
Miguel Saavedra

September 9
Taylor Kirksey
Courtney Weatherford

September 20
Pat Stockman

September 21
John Braudis



Abuse Hotline
1-800-222-8000

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 if you are not able to attend**.

Confidential

Information unavailable

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.

MANDATORY IN-SERVICE: This month the CASA staff will host the final three In-Service sessions that will update the volunteers on the changes in the policies and procedures of our program. This will also be a time to update your personnel file and have your photo taken for your new badge. For more details see page 3, **MANDATORY IN-SERVICE**.

The Gulf Coast Women's Center for Nonviolence will host a professional training focused on understanding interpersonal violence and how it affects family members throughout the lifespan. This training will be held at the Pascagoula Senior Center Wednesday, 1912 Live Oak Ave., Pascagoula, September 9, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. and will provide 5 hours Social Work CEUs as well as Law Enforcement training hours. There is limited space so if you are interested you will need to register as soon as possible! Registration: email smyers@gcwcfn.org or online at gcwcfn.org/shf

Contact our office to sign up to participate in any of these events.

MANDATORY IN-SERVICE

First, we want to thank those of you who participated in the August Mandatory In-Service sessions. Your assistance in helping us to meet our obligation to National CASA is greatly appreciated. We also want to thank those of you that have already signed-up for your session in September. However, there are a few of you that have yet to contact the office regarding your plans.

There is still time to sign-up or reschedule if necessary. Please review the schedule below and select a date that works best for you. It is essential that you attend one of these sessions. If you are unable to attend any of the dates or times please contact Brenda to schedule a time that is best for you.

September 18 9:00 a.m.
September 21 6:00 p.m.
September 25 1:00 p.m.



Contact Brenda at 228-762-7370 or brenda_lancaster@co.jackson.ms.us if you have any questions.

HERE COMES SANTA CLAUSE

Here comes Santa Clause... Here comes Santa Clause... Right Down CASA Lane!

Yes, it is that time of the year when we have to think about Christmas for our CASA children. We are already receiving calls from our many Friends of CASA requesting lists of children so they can begin their shopping.

To assist with this, we ask that you talk with your children and make a list of their Christmas wishes. It would be helpful if you could find out their favorite game, sport, team, color, etc. Sizes are important too; pants, shirts, shoes, jackets, undergarments, and anything else that will help them as they shop for the children.

We know it seems early, but it really is not. We will have to have all gifts ready for deliver by December 4. So we need to have the Christmas wish lists in by the end of this month. This will give our Friends time to shop.



Contact the CASA office if you have any questions.

Bells are ringing, children singing, all is merry and bright.

MISSISSIPPI DAY OF GIVING

Jackson County CASA, Inc. will be participating in the Mississippi Day of Giving, which will be held on October 24, 2015. The Mississippi Day of Giving is a 24 hour fundraiser that spotlights all of the different charitable organizations throughout the state that individuals may support with monetary donations. This is a day to celebrate the spirit of philanthropy in our state by uniting Mississippians with causes they care deeply about.

We would love to have your support! There is no donation too big or too small! We will send out a reminder on our Facebook and Twitter pages as the day grows closer. For more information go to <https://www.msdayofgiving.org/> or #MSDayofGiving and search Jackson County CASA!

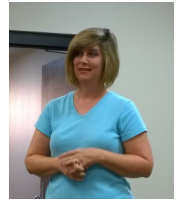
We would also appreciate your efforts in helping to spread the word. Please share this information with your friends and family.

Don't forget, OCTOBER 24 is the Mississippi Day of Giving!



FYI

The PROMISS In-Service August 3 was very informative. Thank you to Rachel Neilson for providing us with the valuable information that has been added to our resource files.



August 4 we were honored with a surprise visit from Judge Emily Baker and her daughter-in-law Alice. Judge Baker presented us with a donation from a friend and even matched the contribution. Thank you Judge Baker! We are honored by your continued support.

August 24 Board members Marilyn Montgomery and Karen Whitford joined Frances and Brenda at a welcome reception honoring Board member Dr. Shannon Vincent as the new Superintendent of Moss Point School District. Congratulations Shannon!



We want to thank the Biloxi-Ocean Springs Junior Auxiliary and MAD/PIF for providing backpacks and basic supplies for each CASA child. Their generous donations will help the children as they begin the school year.

Thank you to Pascagoula-Moss Point Junior Auxiliary for coming to the aid of one of our children in need. Their support and donations has made an impact on the life of a very deserving child.



Dixie Dart Association has done it again! They invited Frances to come and speak August 30, her birthday, and "WOW", much to her surprise tables and tables of school supplies were spread out for our kids! This group certainly has a heart for children. Thank you Dixie Dart Association for your support and dedication in delivering smiles to our children.

It's a **GROOVY** thing ;-)

July 30 we received notice that our Self-Assessment for National CASA Association was accepted. We want to thank our Board of Directors and all the volunteers that helped with this endeavor.



Jackson County CASA, Inc.

Has received the Certificate of National CASA Membership and Standards Compliance

Effective 2015—2019