

JANUARY 2022

CASA C♥RNER



UPCOMING COURT DATES

IBERIA PARISH

February 22, 2022

ST. MARTIN PARISH

February 17, 2022

ST. MARY PARISH

None scheduled for February

CASA BIRTHDAYS

Shelly Guillory - January 4
Carla JeanBatiste - January 26

THANK YOU!

Those are the two words that sum up how 2021 ended for us here at CASA of the 16th JDC, Inc. Because of you, CASA was able to meet so many goals that allowed us to provide for so many children in our care. What started with Easter gifts, continued with birthday gifts, school supplies, and ended with Christmas gifts; we made sure to never let a CASA child miss out on any celebration, and it was with the help of our Donors and Sponsors that made it possible!

As for our Advocates, you took the step towards changing a child's life that many are unable to. It's because of you that our CASA kids are able to permanently leave abusive and neglectful lifestyles and walk the path to a better future. By simply using your voice, you give the children in our care a chance, and that's the greatest gift anyone could ask for.

THE 2022 ANNUAL CASA GALA

CASA of the 16th JDC, Inc is always trying to think of ways to thank everyone who is involved with our program, and this year we are celebrating with our first ever Annual CASA Gala!

Join us **March 10th at 6:30pm at the Cade Community Center** for a night of great music from DJ Mike Parish, complimentary hors d'oeuvres, and a cash bar! Events of the night will include guest speaker, former Super Bowl Champion, Pastor Chris Reis, followed by a live auction. Tickets are complimentary for CASA Advocates (please RSVP) and **\$25 to the general public!** Please contact us for **Gala Sponsorship** opportunities at advocatesupervisor@casa16jdc.org

BECOME A GALA SPONSOR



THE FAIRY HOUSE

\$100

Half page ad included in Gala Program



THE SIREN LAGOON

\$1000

- Full page ad included in Gala Program
- 8 tickets for you + guests
- Advertisement at the ball
- Wine + party tray at table



THE FOREST NYMPHS

\$250

- Half page ad included in Gala Program
- 2 tickets for you + guest
- Advertisement at the ball
- Wine + party tray at table



KEEPERS OF MAGIC

\$500

- Full page ad included in Gala Program
- 6 tickets for you + guests
- Advertisement at the ball
- Wine + party tray at table

HEAD TO OUR SOCIAL MEDIAS TO PURCHASE A \$25 TICKET!



ADMIT ONE
TO CHANGE A CHILD'S STORY

CASA OF THE 16TH JDC ANNUAL GALA

CHANGE A CHILD'S STORY INTO A FAIRYTALE

CADE COMMUNITY CENTER
1688 SNEDE HWY SAINT MARTINVILLE, LA 70582

THURSDAY MARCH 10, 2022 AT 6:30 PM
WEBSITE: CASA16JDC.ORG
PHONE: 337.359.9106



YOU'VE CHANGED A CHILD'S STORY

PLEASE WEAR FORMAL/SEMI FORMAL ATTIRE

HORS D'OEUVRES WILL BE PROVIDED



GUEST SPEAKER
PASTOR CHRIS REIS
SUPER BOWL CHAMPION

Louisiana Child Welfare Training Academy

LCWTA is a partnership between the Department of Children and Family Services, the Pelican Center for Children and Families, and the University Alliance comprised of seven university partners within the public schools of Social Work in Louisiana. The Academy ensures that child welfare staff and stakeholders (such as foster parents, mental health providers, various medical and educational professionals, law enforcement and other legal professionals, as well as child welfare staff) will have a comprehensive, fundamental, and common base of knowledge and skills necessary to effectively intervene within the child welfare system by providing both live and online in-service training and professional development opportunities.

LCWTA provides resources for many different topics that involve children, from anything LGBTQ related, to Human Trafficking, to Bullying, and so much more. With issues of compassion fatigue and burnout so prevalent in this line of work, the Academy encourages those involved to take the initiative when it comes to focusing on their wellness. The Academy provides Child Welfare Staff Wellness Resources to help lead a healthy, balanced life and continue to be a compassionate professional.

The LCWTA is the perfect resource for CASA Advocates to receive their annual 12 training hours by simply completing their online courses! Your LCWTA is already created for you by us here at CASA, so the first step to getting your hours is already completed! You can access your account at <https://moodle.lcwta.org/> If you have forgotten your account login or haven't received a login, please contact your Advocate Supervisor.

Follow Our Social Medias



CASA of the 16th JDC



CASA16thJDC



CASA Sixteenth JDC Inc



CASA OF THE MONTH

NIAJA JONES

"Becoming a CASA Advocate started as a way for me to become reacclimated to the world. Outside of the pandemic that turned all of our lives around, I underwent a total of 8 brain surgeries from July 2020 to Jan 2021. When I became a CASA, it started as something selfishly for me. I saw the 'Advocates Needed' posting appear on my Facebook and it spoke loudly to me, '**THIS IS IT!!** This is how I can prove that after 8 brain surgeries, meningitis, and Covid, **I CAN BE HUMAN** again.' Being a mother and wife, life seemed scary. That was until I underwent Advocacy Training, until I raised my hand in front of a judge and swore to protect and speak for the innocent children who can't speak for themselves, until I received my first case.

When I took a step back and actually evaluated the situations around me, I started to realize MY life is not that scary at all. God kept me around for a purpose, and that purpose is to help as many children, parents, and families as I'm allowed to help. I wholeheartedly enjoy **EVERYTHING** about being a CASA Advocate. From the Office Staff support, who I consider additional family, to the smiles on my CASA kids' faces, seen in pictures sent by foster parents, to all the awesome baby milestones. Those children, MY kids, stop being a case after our first meeting. **If I could grab the hands of 20 more strong minded and selfless individuals like myself, I'd lead a parade.**

I've told my amazing supervisor and fabulous director, '**I'm a CASA because CASA brought me back to life.**'

CASA'S WITH CHILDREN WITH JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Bonnie Bonin - 1 child (January 29th)
Chasity Morales - 1 child (January 28th)
Alta David - 3 children (January 13th, 15th, 29th)
Brandie Landry - 1 child (January 22nd)

PLEASE contact the office about your party in a bag.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, February 15th at 5:30 pm in the Court House Annex Conference Room.

FRIENDLY REMINDER

CASA Advocates are required to complete 12 hours of training annually. LCWTA is a great way to achieve these 12 hours!