

CASA CORNER

www.casa16jdc.org

337-359-9016

121 West Pershing St.

Dec/Jan 2020-2021



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

CASA OF THE 16TH JDC, INC.

The Mission of the CASA of the 16th JDC, Inc.
is to recruit, train and engage community
volunteers to advocate for abused or neglected
children in the 16th Judicial District Court
System.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming Court Dates

Iberia- 1/14/2021
St. Martin- 1/8/2021
& 1/20/2021
St. Mary – 1/5/2021

**Next board
meeting** will be
held January 12th in the
Courthouse Annex
Conference Room. At
5:30pm

Contact
Logs should
be
completed
within 48-72
hours of ANY
contact.
Thank you!

A Message from the Executive Director

During our celebration of the season of gratitude and love, we have faced a challenging time with determination and sacrifice in bringing joyous wonder to the children we serve and all those we encounter. CASA of the 16th JDC, Inc. through the generous work of our Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, and several private donors have brought an abundant offering of gifts to the children this year. I witnessed an increased amount of generosity during life-altering difficulty and the amazing power of the human spirit.

“When the promise is clear, the price gets easy.”
The renewed promise in a brand-new year of providing stability and support to the most vulnerable among us demonstrates the strength and hopefulness of our program. It is a privilege to work with everyone associated CASA of the 16th JDC, Inc., and the multitude of programs across our wonderful state and country.

God Bless You and Happy New Year.

In Gratitude,
Bonnie

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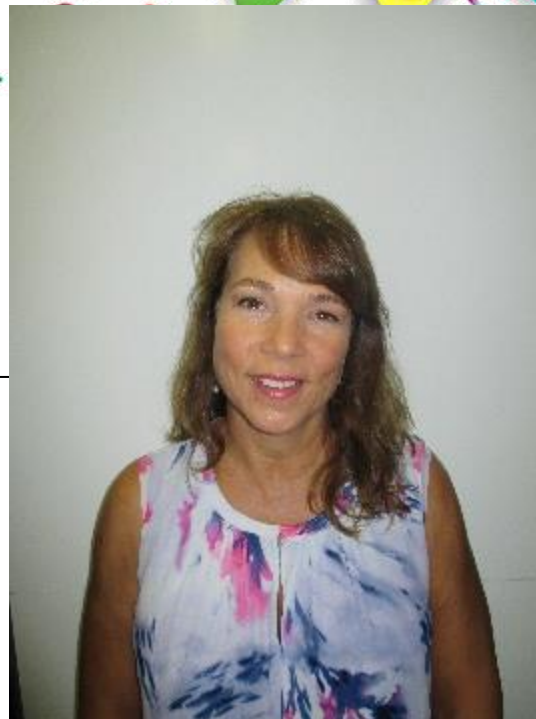
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CONGRATULATIONS!!
CASA OF THE MONTH



Please join us in
congratulating
Susan McFarland, as
CASA of the month of
December 2020.
Her dedication is
greatly appreciated.



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CONGRATULATIONS!!
CASA OF THE MONTH



Please join us in
congratulating
Tricia Molaire, as the
CASA of the month for
January 2021.
Her tireless efforts are
appreciated!

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**DECEMBER WAS A
MONTH FULL OF
ACTIVITY!**



THANK YOU TO THE
BOARD MEMBERS
AND ADVOCATES
THAT CAME HELP
US WRAP THE GIFTS
FOR OUR KIDDOS!



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WITHOUT THE HELP OF THE COMMUNITY,
ALL OF OUR VOLUNTEERS, STAFF AND
BOARD MEMBERS THIS CHRISTMAS WOULD
NOT HAVE HAPPENED FOR SO MANY
CHILDREN. THANK YOU FROM THE BOTTOM
OF OUR HEARTS!

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WE WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND A SPECIAL
THANK YOU TO THE LADIES NIGHT OUT
GROUP. THEIR GROUP DONATED HALF OF
ALL THE GIFTS TO EACH CHILD IN CASA
CARE.



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The staff would like to give a shout out to the Volunteers that did In-service hours in November and December. Your dedication does not go unnoticed!

November

Leah Cowie

Krista Magars

Susan McFarland

Theresa Weary

December

Leah Cowie

Krista Magars

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General Office Updates

★ Amy has a new CASA phone, call or text 24/7. 337-551-2021

If you have a facebook account we ask that you please Like and Share CASA of the 16th JDC, Inc.'s

★ Facebook page. The more exposure
The more volunteers we can recruit
To help Change A Child's Story!



Next online Preservice training is tentatively scheduled to start on January 17, 2021.

★ These trainings will be held for 6 consecutive Sunday evenings starting at 6pm.

If you would like to join us, please contact Amy or Amanda with your request.

★ Reminder that we have toys and school supplies available in the office for the CASA kids. If you are need stop by and pick something out for your kiddo!

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Reflecting on Our Work in 2020 A Message From CEO Tara Perry

As this year draws to a close, I'd like to take a few minutes to reflect on what we have accomplished during these difficult times. Through it all, I have a deep sense of gratitude for the myriad ways CASA/GAL staff and volunteers have demonstrated resilience, creativity and determination to continue the important work of serving children and families. It bears repeating that you all have risen to the challenge with each and every new obstacle, and I cannot thank you enough. You have made a heavy year lighter for the thousands of children and families being served by CASA/GAL volunteers. Though we have had many challenges this year, it's important to pause and reflect on some of our accomplishments:

- National CASA/GAL provided guidance and support by offering member programs the opportunity to apply for financial support and emergency grant in response to the immediate impact COVID-19 had on the network's in-person training, meetings and program operations. We **distributed more than \$300,000 in funding** to the CASA/GAL network through emergency grants, personal protective equipment (PPE) grants and technology grants.
- An adjustment to our pre-service volunteer training, combined with webinar trainings for the CASA/GAL network, led to **3,694 staff and 5,246 volunteers receiving training** during the pandemic.
- This summer, we **launched a network-wide book club** in which staff and volunteers engage in facilitated dialogue on a series of readings. The first series of the book club focusing on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI), led to thoughtful small group dialogues and virtual discussions with renowned authors, Dr. Ibram X. Kendi and Richard Rothstein.
- National CASA/GAL successfully hosted our **first virtual conference** in October. The event had record attendance, with 2,374 CASA/GAL staff and volunteers joining our plenary and learning sessions, "Reconnect & Recharge" workshops and Awards of Excellence Ceremony. Though we would have preferred to see you all in person, the virtual experience allowed participants to connect and engage, many attending our conference for the first time.
- The **2020 Standards for Local CASA/GAL Programs** were completed and approved. Through this collaborative effort, engaging our six Leadership Councils and members of the network at large, feedback that strengthened and improved the draft was

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incorporated into the standards. Thanks to all of you who gave your time and leadership on revising these standards.

- National CASA/GAL provided more than **250 pass-through grants, totaling over \$4.8 million** to state organizations and local programs in 44 states and the District of Columbia. These grants were awarded in several categories, including growth, development, mentoring, state branding and professional development.
- We continued to **build relationships and corporate sponsorship opportunities** to enhance our ability to reach more volunteers, more children and more communities than ever before.
- Our **Change a Child's Story™** marketing campaign continued to increase public awareness of our mission and build the reputation of the brand, with state organizations receiving branding grants to implement the campaign locally.
- CASA and GAL programs gained national media attention by being featured in **New York Times** columnist **Nicholas Kristof's 2020 Holiday Impact Prize guide**, encouraging individuals to volunteer with a local CASA/GAL program.

Thank you for working alongside us to carry out these initiatives and for engaging with us in these activities. The year ahead still holds some uncertainty, but it also brings a sense of hope for good things to come. It will be critical for us to continue to be nimble in our planning as we adapt to changing circumstances, and to remain focused on our mission. As we continue with our strategic planning process in the year ahead, I look forward to continued network engagement, and to hearing your perspectives about opportunities and issues facing the CASA/GAL network. The strength of our national network benefits us all, and I am grateful for the role you play in pursuing our collective goals.

Thanks to Council and Committee Members!

I want to especially thank those from our CASA/GAL Network who have served on one of our **Leadership Councils or Committees**. These individuals have dedicated their time and energy to supporting National CASA/GAL and all of our programs. Their focus and dedication have helped us accomplish a lot this year, and I hope you'll join me in thanking them for their service!

I hope you are having a wonderful and safe holiday season. Thank you again for working together this year to positively impact the lives of children and families.

Warm wishes,

Tara Lisa Perry
Chief Executive Officer

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Board of Directors

Hester
Bourdier

Sharon Russo

Walter
Thibodeaux
Jr.

Rebecca
Borel

Cynthia
Provost

Austin
Milke

Taylor
Robison

Shelley
Guillory

Executive Directors

Interim President

Ben Lilley

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Treasurer

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