

JULY 2022

CASA C RNER



UPCOMING COURT DATES

IBERIA PARISH

July 14, 2022

ST. MARTIN PARISH

July 6, 2022

July 29, 2022

ST. MARY PARISH

July 13, 2022

July 28, 2022

CASA BIRTHDAYS

Theresa Weary - July 3
Bobbi Williams - July 7
Catherine Roy - July 10
Brandie Landry - July 25
Kristie Mitchell - July 26

NIGHTLY AFFIRMATIONS

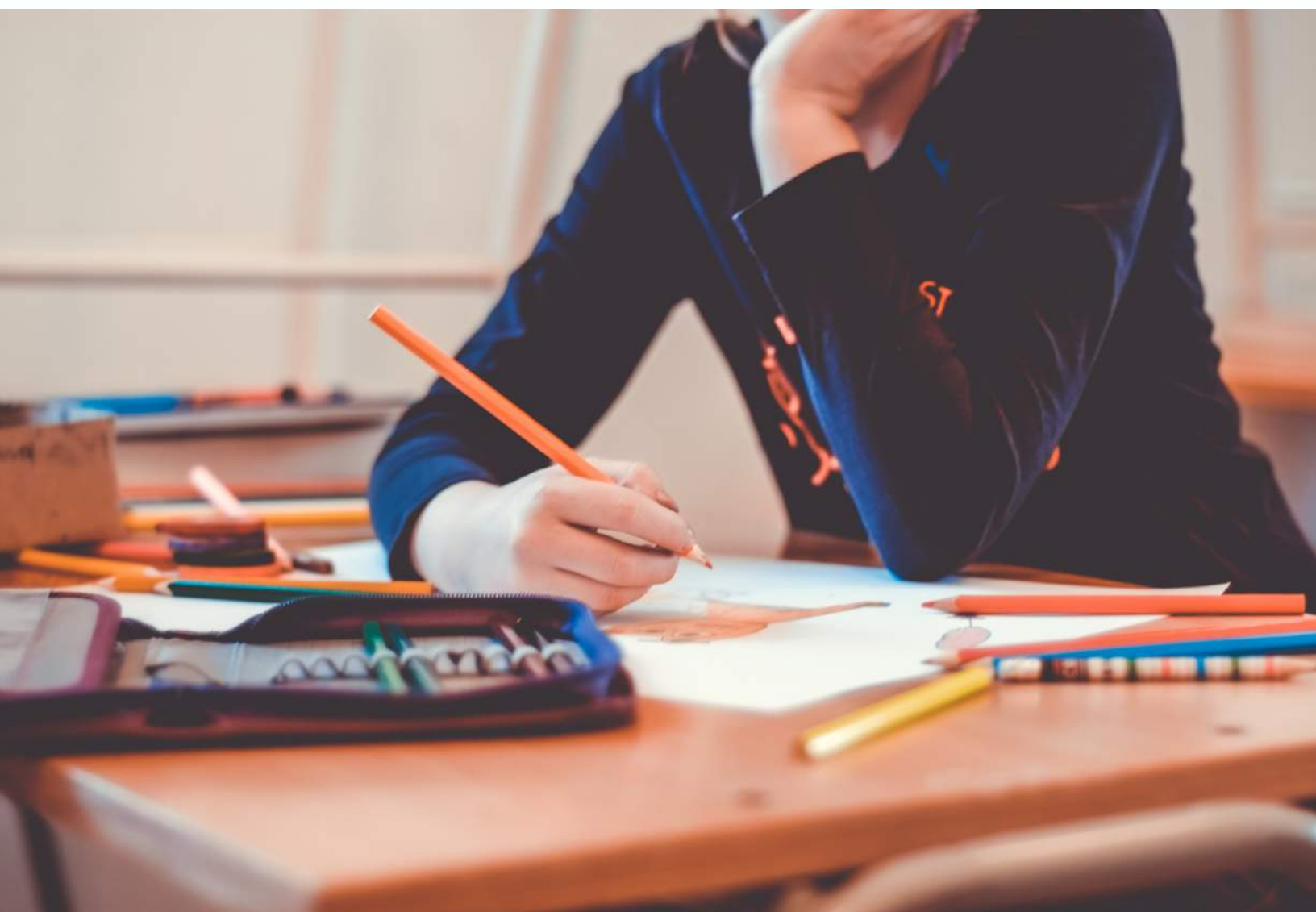
During the 2022 CASA Conference Judges Panel ("A View From the Judge's Bench"), Judge Gray shared her nightly routine which included looking herself in the mirror and saying, "**I worked hard today. I did my best in making the best decision today on the bench based on the information I had at that moment.**"

A Quote From the Judges Panel

"You as a CASA are the **ONLY** person in that room who is telling us about **THAT** individual child--what is going on with **THAT** child. Because, every other kid has a lot of people that are sort of paying attention, but not **YOU.**"

To all CASAs,

DOES YOUR CASA CHILD NEED HELP OBTAINING SCHOOL SUPPLIES?



BACK TO SCHOOL SEASON IS UPON US!

If your CASA child or family need help obtaining school supplies, [please create a list of items needed](#) and **forward it to your Advocate Supervisor** or email your list to **amanda.landry@casa16jdc.org**



CASA OF THE 16TH JDC, INC

JUMP FOR CASA

JULY 20, 2022 FROM 6PM-8PM

(open to CASA members and associated foster families only)

SURGE ENTERTAINMENT CENTER

2723 W PINHOOK RD, LAFAYETTE, LA 70508

If your CASA child is placed with a foster family,
please include the foster parents' phone or email
when RSVPing.

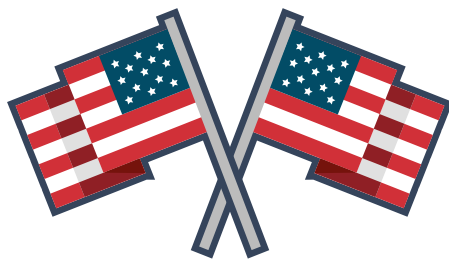
PLEASE RSVP BY PHONE OR EMAIL!

amanda.landry@casa16jdc.org (337) 359-9016



Happy **FOURTH OF JULY**

American Independence Day parades go way back. By the summer of 1776, Americans celebrated the 'death' of British rule with mock funerals, revelry, and feasting.



casa16jdc.org

CHANGE A CHILD'S STORY

July is National Make A Difference to Children Month! At CASA, the phrase "Change A Child's Story" is widely circulated, but what exactly does changing a child's life entail?

CASA of the 16th JDC, Inc. is committed to a single goal: advocating for abused children to secure their place in stable and nurturing homes. Children in need of care face a myriad of challenges during court proceedings, but court-appointed child advocates provide stability and support every step of the way. Preliminary findings show that children who have been assigned CASA volunteers tend to spend less time in court and less time in the foster care system than those who do not have CASA representation. Judges have observed that children who have a CASA volunteer also have better chances of finding permanent homes.

CASA volunteers come from all walks of life and possess a variety of professional, educational and ethnic backgrounds. There are more than 75,000 CASA volunteers nationally and many volunteers statewide. As an advocate for abused children in the 16th Judicial District (St. Martin, Iberia and St. Mary Parishes), you'll speak up for a child's best interests for as long as their case is in the court system, which could be up to 18 months.

The process of becoming a CASA starts with completing and submitting an application that can be found on our website (casa16jdc.org). Once your application has been approved by a CASA staff member, one of our Advocate Supervisors will contact you to set up an interview. In preparation for this interview, you will need your driver's license and auto insurance card so that copies can be made and inserted into your file. It is also best to check that your references have completed the surveys emailed to them by CASA of the 16th JDC, Inc! After your interview is conducted, you will be given your Pre-service Training Manual which includes everything you will need for the upcoming Training Session! The completion of a Training Session is followed by a swearing in, which, in turn, allows you to finally begin changing a child's life!

Follow Our Social Medias



CASA of the 16th JDC



CASA16thJDC



CASA Sixteenth JDC Inc



CHANGE A CHILD'S STORY

Each case is different. A CASA volunteer usually spends about 10 hours doing research and conducting interviews prior to the first court appearance--more complicated cases take longer. Once initiated into the system, volunteers work about 10 hours a month. The number of cases an advocate takes on varies from jurisdiction to jurisdiction, but an average caseload is one to two cases at a time. One of the primary benefits of the CASA program is that, unlike other court principals who often rotate cases, the CASA volunteer is a consistent figure in the proceedings and provides continuity for a child--continuing until the case is permanently resolved.

A CASA volunteer provides a judge with carefully researched background details about the child to help the court make a sound decision about that child's future. The CASA volunteer must determine if the best interest of the child is staying with their parents or guardians, remaining in foster care, or being freed for permanent adoption. The CASA volunteer makes a recommendation on placement to the judge and follows through on the case until it is permanently resolved. To prepare a recommendation, the CASA volunteer talks with the child, parents, family members, social workers, school officials, health providers and others who are knowledgeable about the child's history. The CASA volunteer also reviews all records pertaining to the child, including: school, medical, case worker reports and other documents.

Child advocacy programs make a difference in the lives of children. Our child advocates help children in need of care overcome challenges, represent their best interests, explain court proceedings to them in simple terms, and keep the court updated on their status and situation. CASA volunteers offer children trust and advocacy during complex legal proceedings. They help explain to the child the events happening involving the case, reasons they are in court and the roles of the judge, lawyers and case workers. While remaining objective observers, CASA volunteers also encourage the child to express his or her own opinion and hopes about the case.

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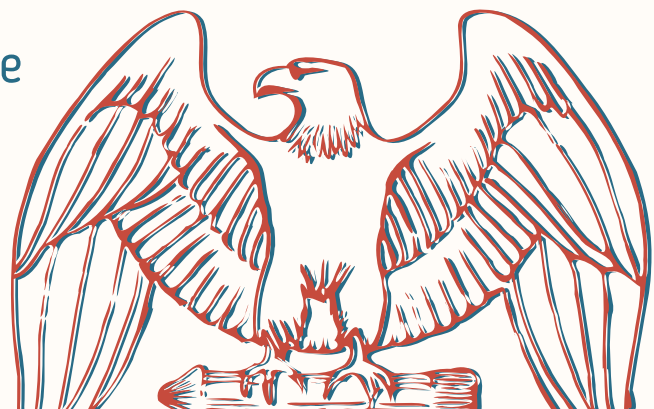


CELEBRATING



OUR NEWEST ADVOCATE

Candace Oubre



JULY 31 | 5PM

CASAS FOR CASA ANNUAL PLAYHOUSE FUNDRAISER

Baton Rouge, LA



The 29th annual Casas for CASA playhouse fundraiser generates public awareness and funding to support the work of Capital Area CASA Association. Please check back soon for additional details and ticket links.

JUL 31
CASA FIESTA

Casas for CASA 2022 will kick off with CASA Fiesta on Saturday, July 31 at the Renaissance Hotel, 7000 Bluebonnet Blvd. Guests will enjoy music and delicious Mexican cuisine while bidding on hundreds of silent auction items. Tickets for CASA Fiesta will be available for purchase soon.

JUL 27–AUG 17
PLAYHOUSE RAFFLE

A luxury children's playhouse will be raffled off. Raffle tickets will be available for purchase and a chance to win soon.

<https://www.casabr.org/casa-celebrates-the-27th-annual-casas-for-casa-playhouse-fundraiser>

CASA OF THE MONTH

LEAH COWIE

I am a mom, a wife, and I work with Special Ed children in Iberia Parish School System. My hobbies are kayaking, traveling, and pretty much any other outdoor activity. I am also a Lagniappe Lady; our group of women bring positivity all through Acadiana. We participate in Mardi Gras parades throughout Acadiana, the Sugar Cane Festival parade in New Iberia, various events at Acadian Village, and even do performances at assisted living facilities. The best advice I have received is to **be kind to everyone** because you never know what is going on in their lives at that moment. A smile and a kind word can go a long way. **My favorite thing about being a CASA is being a voice for the children.** There are so many CASA children that need guidance, someone to talk to, someone to take a walk in the park with, or someone to simply be a basketball partner. **I encourage everyone to become a CASA, so they too can make a difference in a child's life, big or small.**



CASA'S WITH CHILDREN WITH JULY BIRTHDAYS

Katherine Friend - 1 child (July 14th)

Leah Cowie - 1 child (July 21st)

Rosalyn Conrad - 1 child (July 21st)

PLEASE contact the office about your party in a bag.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, **July 11th** at 5:30 pm in the Court House Annex Conference Room.

FRIENDLY REMINDER

Apply to become a CASA Volunteer through our website: **casa16jdc.org**