

JAN 2023

CASA CORNER



UPCOMING COURT DATES

IBERIA PARISH

January 04, 2023

January 17, 2023

ST. MARTIN PARISH

January 03, 2023

January 19, 2023

ST. MARY PARISH

January 09, 2023

THANK YOU

With the help of our community CASA of the 16th JDC was able to provide every child in our care with a wonderful Christmas season! In December, we were able to host a Pancakes with Santa event for our CASA children where they received gifts from Santa himself! The Grinch was even available to make a special appearance! No words can capture the joy that could be felt in the room, but you can see all the smiles that were had on our Facebook page!

CASA BIRTHDAYS

Shala Walls - Jan. 15

Carla JeanBatiste - Jan. 26

The 2023 Annual CASA Gala is...

scheduled! Mark your calendars, **March 16, 2023** will consist of a wonderfully fun night of celebration and awareness! We love sharing this night with the public and showing you just how much we are able to achieve with your help. Our Galas are not only to celebrate all things CASA, we want to celebrate **YOU!** Further details to be determined.

BECOME A

Casa Gala Sponsor

ONE SPOT ONLY

~~\$5,000~~

WHAT'S INCLUDED

2 FRONT ROW TABLES W/ PREMIUM SEATING FOR 10, VERBAL & SCREEN RECOGNITION THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT, COMPANY NAME & LOGO ON ALL EVENT MATERIAL, SHARED ADS & SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS PRE & POST GALA NIGHT

TWO SPOTS ONLY

~~\$2,500~~

WHAT'S INCLUDED

TABLE W/ SEATING FOR 7, VERBAL & SCREEN RECOGNITION THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT, COMPANY NAME & LOGO ON ALL EVENT MATERIAL, SHARED ADS & SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS PRE & POST GALA NIGHT

ONE SPOT LEFT

~~\$1,000~~

WHAT'S INCLUDED

TABLE W/ SEATING FOR 5, COMPANY NAME & LOGO ON ALL EVENT MATERIAL, SHARED ADS & SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS PRE & POST GALA NIGHT

UNLIMITED SPOTS

~~\$500~~

WHAT'S INCLUDED

SEATING FOR 2, COMPANY NAME & LOGO ON ALL EVENT MATERIAL, SHARED ADS & SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS PRE & POST GALA NIGHT

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BECOME A GALA SPONSOR PLEASE EMAIL

AMANDA.LANDRY@CASA16JDC.ORG

thank you for your contribution

NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH

[LEARN MORE](#)[VOLUNTEER](#)

HISTORY OF MENTORSHIP

The custom of mentoring is so traditional it even dates back before Greek mythology. In “The Odyssey,” there is a character—called the mentor—whose sole purpose is to guide others in life. In more recent times, some of us would think of Yoda, Albus Dumbledore, or Mr. Miyagi as our most memorable mentors. Mentoring does not only include professional development, but one can also be mentored in beauty, life skills, craftsmanship and hobbies. The supportive, healthy relationships formed between mentors and mentees are both immediate and long-term and contribute to a host of benefits for mentors and mentees.

- Increased high school graduation rates, higher college enrollment rates, and higher educational aspirations
- Healthier relationships and lifestyle choices (decreased likelihood of initiating drug and alcohol use; stronger relationships with parents, teachers, and peers)
- Enhanced self-esteem and self-confidence, improved behavior (both at home & school), & improved interpersonal skills

MENTORING CASA CHILDREN

While CASA is not a youth mentorship program, the outcomes of children involved in CASA programs mimic those of children involved in mentorship.

Some CASA cases can remain open for up to a year or more, and Advocates are often engaging with a child in need; constantly watching out for their best interests and providing them a voice in court. It's no surprise that this, in turn, can build a relationship of trust between a volunteer and the child(ren) they are advocating for. These relationships can last even past the closure of the child's case!

CASA programs are positively impacting the lives of abused and neglected children, and data shows that children who are assigned a CASA volunteer advocate are more likely to:

- Find a safe, permanent home
- Spend less time in foster care
- Have fewer moves between foster placements
- Do better in school
- Receive the services they need
- Avoid re-entry into foster care

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GLOBAL POVERTY

According to UNICEF, more than 700 million people still live in extreme poverty today--children are disproportionately affected. An estimated **356 million** children live in extreme poverty, struggling to survive on **less than \$1.90 a day**.

Across the world, about **1 billion children are multidimensionally poor**, meaning they lack necessities as basic as nutrition or clean water. Due to COVID-19, in less than two years, some **100 million additional children** have been plunged into multidimensional poverty as well (a 10% increase since 2019).



FAMILY POVERTY

Families below the poverty line are **22 times more likely** to be involved with the child protection system than families with incomes slightly above the line. Neglect allegations include concerns over inadequate food, clothing, shelter, child care or medical care--conditions related more to poverty and its stressors. In 2017, **27,871 children** in the U.S. were removed from their homes to foster care due to inadequate housing. It is estimated that **30 percent of children in foster care could be returned home if their families had adequate housing**.

As of December 2022, the 16th JDC had **164 children** in foster care. In its entirety, Louisiana had **3,742 children** in foster care. **Research shows that one year of CASA advocacy costs less than one of foster care.** Children with an advocate not only receive more services critical to their well-being, they are more likely to succeed in school, and leave the foster system sooner than a child without an advocate.



THE ALICE PROJECT

*Asset Limited, Income
Constrained, Employed*

ALICE represents the growing number of households in our communities that do not earn enough to afford basic necessities. With income above the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) but below a basic survival threshold – defined as the ALICE Threshold – **ALICE households earn too much to qualify as “poor” but are still unable to make ends meet.** Of Louisiana’s 1,735,620 households, **314,968 earned below the FPL** (\$12, 140 for a single adult or \$25,100 for a family of four) in 2018, and another **576,381 were ALICE**. The average ALICE Household Survival Budget in Louisiana was \$24,252 for a single adult, \$27,000 for a single senior, and \$69,732 for a family of four in 2018 – significantly more than the FPL. The cost of living for ALICE is growing significantly in both urban and rural areas, driven by the cost of housing, health care costs, natural/human-made disasters, and college living expenses. Factors affected by this rising costs of living are the child care industry, commuting times, food insecurity, college living expenses, and financial instability.

*"CHILDREN ARE MORE LIKELY TO LIVE IN POVERTY THAN ADULTS
AND THEY'RE MORE VULNERABLE TO ITS EFFECTS."*

QUICK TIPS FOR

NATIONAL BATH SAFETY MONTH

READ
MORE

- Children are especially at risk when left alone in the bathtub. Just 2-3in of water can be enough for them to slip below the surface and become submerged. This can happen quickly and silently, leaving little time for adults to respond--it's essential to never leave your little one alone in the bath.
- Install non-slip mats or non-slip stickers on the floor of your bathtub or shower. Covering water faucets with cushioned covers will help prevent your child from getting hurt should they slip and bump their head. Ensure the bathroom floor has anti-slip rugs and that toilet lids are permanently shut and locked. A curious toddler can easily fall in if trying to play with the water in the bowl.
- It is generally recommended to keep the temperature for a child's bath water at around 100°F (35°C). To ensure the water is at a safe temperature, you can use a thermometer or test the water with your elbow or wrist. Water that is too cold can be uncomfortable and may discourage children from wanting to take a bath. On the other hand, water that is too hot can make children feel overwhelmed and anxious and can even scald a child's skin, causing severe injury.
- Keeping medicine and toiletries out of reach of toddlers and small children will help keep them safe and prevent accidental poisonings or injuries. Store all medicine and toiletries in a locked cabinet or on a high shelf that is out of reach of children. Use child-resistant caps on all medications to make it more difficult for children to access them.
- If you keep any electrical appliances in the bathroom, such as hairdryers and electric razors, keep them securely stored far away from the sink, tub, or shower. Do not use any electrical appliances near the water or while in the tub or shower.



TEEN DRIVING AWARENESS MONTH

Your teen sees a driver's license as a step toward freedom, but you might not be sure your teen is ready for the road. One thing is certain: teens aren't ready to have the same level of driving responsibility as adults. Due lack of skills and experience, teen drivers have a higher rate of fatal crashes. They speed, they make mistakes, and they get distracted easily – especially if their friends are in the car. To help your teen stay safe behind the wheel, all 50 states and the District of Columbia have a three-stage graduated driver licensing (GDL) system that limits high-risk driving situations for new drivers. This approach can reduce your teen's crash risk by as much as 50%.

LOUISIANA'S GDL SYSTEM:

- **Learner Stage:** supervised driving, cumulating with a driving test
- **Intermediate Stage:** limiting unsupervised driving in high risk situations
- **Full Privilege Stage:** a standard driver's license.

EACH STAGE HAS IT'S OWN REQUIREMENTS. YOU CAN FIND LOUISIANA'S HERE.

NHTSA's Teen Driving site contains information on states' driver licensing requirements for teens as well as ideas and resources to help you—the parents—lay down the ground rules with your aspiring driver before you hand over the car keys. Their website provides in-depth information on some of the most common safety problems novice teen drivers should avoid. Learn about the consequences of illegal alcohol use by minors, the benefits of seat belt use, the growing epidemic of distracted driving, and much more.

READ MORE ON TEEN DRIVING SAFETY