

NOV 2023

CASA CORNER



UPCOMING COURT DATES

IBERIA PARISH

November 09, 2023

November 20, 2023

ST. MARTIN PARISH

November 06, 2023

November 27, 2023

ST. MARY PARISH

November 02, 2023

CHRISTMAS FOR A CASA CHILD

Christmas is around the corner once again and our CASA children have been preparing their wish lists for Santa! As always, we love when our community is able to get involved with CASA in any way possible. Similar to last year, our **Sponsor A Child** donation page is open to help provide each CASA child with \$50 in gifts, or a \$50 gift card for those 14+. We've also created a **Google Doc** that includes each CASA child's wish list if you'd like to do the shopping yourself (these gifts will have to be delivered to our office)! If you'd prefer a hands-free take, we've created an **Amazon Gift Registry** with gifts specifically catered to each CASA child's wish list. Each gift purchased through this registry will be directly shipped to our office, ready to be wrapped by CASA elves!

[SPONSOR
A CHILD](#)

[AMAZON
GIFT
REGISTRY](#)

[CHILD
WISH LIST](#)

CASA BIRTHDAYS

Susan McFarland - Nov. 9
Thomas Zaunbrecher - Nov. 9
Rosalyn Conrad - Nov. 19
Sharon Russo - Nov. 23
Krista Magers - Nov. 25
Brandon Trahan - Nov. 27

CASA'S WITH CHILDREN WITH NOV BIRTHDAYS

Chasity Morales - 1 child (Nov 14)
Rhonda James - 2 children (Nov 14th & 28th)
Krista Magers - 1 child (Nov 19th)
Erin Romero - 1 child (Nov 25th)

**PLEASE contact the office about
your party in a bag.**

HAPPY
CASA
VERSARY

TOM
Z.





NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH

And then my soul saw you & it kind of went,

"Oh, there you are. I've been looking for you."

As of September 30, 2021, there were **114,000 children and youth** waiting to be adopted who were at risk of aging out of foster care without permanent family connections. The average time in care for children waiting to be adopted after termination of parental rights was **19 months**.

National Adoption Month is an initiative of the Children's Bureau that seeks to increase national awareness of adoption issues, bring attention to the need for adoptive families for teens in the U.S. foster care system, and emphasize the value of youth engagement. The 2023 National Adoption Month theme, "**Empowering Youth: Finding Points of Connection,**" emphasizes the importance of providing opportunities and services that connect youth to their backgrounds to support meaningful permanent relationships. When youth are connected to their roots, they can build a strong identity. But for approximately **114,000 children and youth** waiting to be adopted who are at risk of aging out of care, it's difficult to experience these connections when they are separated from their families. Without access to or knowledge of their history, many teens may leave foster care disconnected from their roots and wondering, "Who am I?"

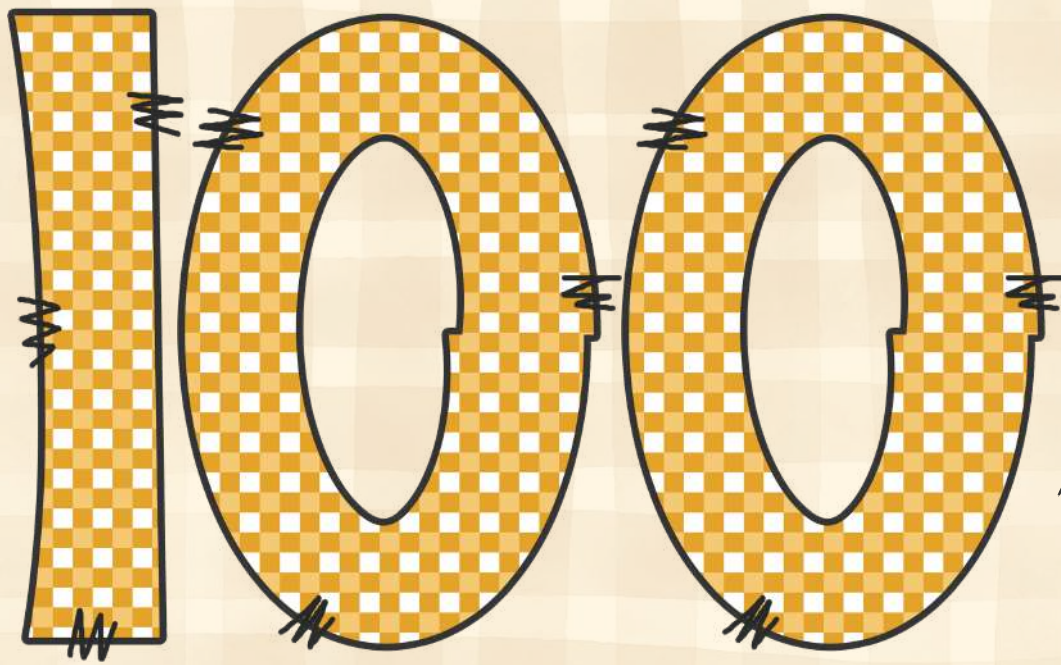
When youth are connected to their roots, they can build a strong, positive identity. This theme emphasizes the importance of providing opportunities and services that connect youth to their backgrounds to support meaningful permanent relationships, and set a strong foundation for permanency planning. Together, we can make a difference in how we support and partner with youth in planning their future by making identity a part of the conversation from the very beginning.

learn more about
Empowering Youth



Recent CASA Adoptions





STATEWIDE COVERAGE

Louisiana CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates), the statewide association overseeing a network of dedicated local CASA programs, is proud to announce a significant milestone: 100% statewide coverage of all 64 parishes and 42 Judicial District Courts in Louisiana. This achievement comes as the result of the recent addition of CASA of the 18th Judicial District Court, serving West Baton Rouge, Iberville, and Pointe Coupee Parish.

For 29 years, Louisiana CASA has been at the forefront of child advocacy in the state, striving to ensure that every child in the foster care system receives the care, support, and representation they deserve. With the establishment of CASA of the 18th JDC, Louisiana CASA now boasts a comprehensive network of 18 local programs, each committed to advocating for the best interests of children within their respective communities.

With this achievement, Louisiana now stands as the 3rd non-profit structured state in the nation, and the 15th overall to reach this accomplishment. This milestone was made possible through the collective efforts of countless CASA staff and volunteers, stakeholders, and partners.



THANK YOU

Words will never be enough to convey how grateful we are for our hands-on community members and CASA Advocates. With your help we are always able to achieve every goal we set each year; all of them benefitting the children of the 16th JDC.

