



GOOD NEWS FROM

**CASA**

June 2022



# **PRIDE AND REUNIFICATION MONTH**

**Help us build a safe,  
inclusive and diverse  
space for all of our  
children**





# **REUNIFICATION MONTH**



At CASA, family reunification is one of our biggest priorities. When children are removed from their home, we don't take that lightly. Those families have gone through a trauma by experiencing that separation.

It is our responsibility as an organization and community to come together in speaking up for the children to get them reunified with family as soon as possible. According to Texas DFPS, there were 863 removals in the fiscal year of 2021 throughout Bell and Coryell Counties. As of September 1, 2021, the 87th Legislature changed the parameters for the removal of children from their family homes. While this does help reduce the number of removals the state of Texas will see, they will still happen. Children thrive when living with their families but when their home becomes unsafe, we step in to try and find family for them stay with until all resources have been exhausted to make their home of origin safe again.

Our Volunteers, Supervisors, Parents, Guardians, Families and Support Networks work hard to ensure that each child has a family to come home to every day.

**If you want to learn how to help the children in our communities, please reach out to the office at 254-774-1881 or visit our website at [www.casabellcoryell.org](http://www.casabellcoryell.org).**

# PRIDE MONTH



We come together to celebrate June as PRIDE month. This celebration is held in June to remind us how far we've come as a country since the Stonewall Riots in New York in 1969. At that turning point in history, our fellow humans fought to

bring equality and peace to a group of people that had never experienced such things. It's been almost 53 years since that historical moment took place and we, as a society, still fall short of giving the LGBTQ+ community the same acceptance and protections that non-LGBTQ+ people have. The children within that community have even less protection and experience being accepted for who they are than the adults because, like most children, they struggle to have their voices heard.

As tough of a topic as it is, suicide is the second leading cause of death among our youth (10-24 years old). Devastatingly, LGBTQ+ youth are four times as likely as their peers to make a suicide attempt. The children within the LGBTQ+ community need our voices and the safety of our presence. Studies have shown that having at least one accepting adult in their lives can reduce the risk of a suicide attempt by 40%. **One accepting adult** is all it takes to make a world of difference in a child's life.

*We advocate for the acceptance of all children to provide that loving, safe space for them to thrive*

# SUCCESS STORY

*This month's success story comes from Texas CASA:*

*\*Names have been changed to protect the identities of the children involved*

Diana and her sister grew up in a home where her father struggled with alcoholism and her mother was a victim of domestic violence. Her father called the child welfare agency for support when they were struggling with housing and money, however Diana and her sister were removed from the home. While her parents have made mistakes, Diana says they are her best friends. She stresses the importance of courts supporting visitation, especially with incarcerated parents. Diana stated "not only does it make the child happy but it also reminds the incarcerated parent what they are living for". Today, Diana is a psychology major in college and hopes to help children who are going through the same experiences she once did.

*You can read Diana's full story here:*

[https://www.americanbar.org/groups/public\\_interest/child\\_law/project-areas/national-reunification-month/diana/](https://www.americanbar.org/groups/public_interest/child_law/project-areas/national-reunification-month/diana/)

## RECIPE CORNER

### *Cast Iron Apple Crisp*

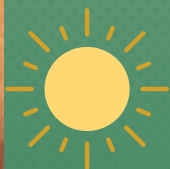
#### Filling

- 6 medium apples peeled, cored and cut into small pieces
- 3 tablespoons unsalted butter
- ½ cup brown sugar
- 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- ⅛ teaspoon Diamond Crystal kosher salt

#### Topping

- 1 ¼ cup old fashioned oats
- 2 tablespoons all purpose flour
- 5 tablespoons cold unsalted butter cut into 5 pieces
- ½ cup brown sugar
- ⅛ teaspoon Diamond Crystal kosher salt
- Sprinkle of ground cinnamon

1. Preheat the oven to 350 F.
2. Add cut up, peeled and cored apple slices to a large mixing bowl and set aside.
3. Preheat a 10 inch cast iron skillet over medium low heat and melt the butter for the filling.
4. Once the butter is melted, whisk in brown sugar, cinnamon and salt.
5. Pour the butter mixture over the apples in the mixing bowl and toss until the apples are well coated.
6. Add the apples and butter mixture back into the skillet and turn the heat up to medium. Stir occasionally while it cooks for 5 minutes, until the apples begin to soften. Remove the pan from the heat, but keep the apple mixture in it.
7. After the apples are partially cooked, cut the 5 tablespoons of butter into 5 separate pieces.
8. In a medium mixing bowl, add all the toppings EXCEPT the ground cinnamon. Combine ingredients using either your hands or a pastry cutter. It is okay to have small lumps of butter throughout the mixture.
9. Top the apples in the skillet with the topping evenly and sprinkle on the cinnamon. Place in the oven.
10. Cook for 35-40 minutes, until the apples are tender, slightly bubbling and the topping is crunchy.
11. Allow to rest and cool at room temperature for about 30 minutes before serving.



# Upcoming Events

Keep an eye out for events and celebrations

## **Pre-Service Training for New Advocates**

June 7th-July 7th

CASA Office/Zoom

## **Think Tank Thursday**

July 7th at 5:30 PM

Fuzzy's on W. Adams in Temple

## **New Advocate Swearing In**

July 12th at 5:30 PM

CASA Office

## **Children's Advocacy Event by Children's Advocacy Center of Central Texas**

*Divine Desserts, Sweet Celebrations*

July 16th at 7:00 PM

Mayborn Convention Center





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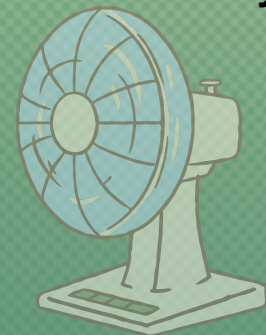
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**Want to Volunteer?**

Check out [www.casabellcoryell.org](http://www.casabellcoryell.org) or call the CASA Office at (254)-774-1881

