



GOOD NEWS FROM

CASA

July 2022



This month we are
highlighting

NORMALCY



Normalcy



This month we would like to focus on how important it is for children in foster care to experience normalcy. "Normalcy" is a term commonly used when discussing child welfare that refers to any

experience that may contribute to a child's autonomy and social functioning. The children who enter the foster care system have already experienced multiple traumas. It is our responsibility as a community to aide in providing children with a sense of normalcy while they are in the foster care system. Providing children with a safe space to participate in activities such as camping, swimming, playing sports, going to sleepovers at a friend's house and even going to the movies allows them to relax and enjoy their childhoods the way they are meant to. Socialization and friendship are key in helping children in foster care adjust to a life without chaos and uncertainty. This not only applies to children in foster care but to all of the children in our lives. Our futures are all uncertain but what we can do now is give these kids a shot at a childhood worth remembering.

From The Director



CASA Advocates and Friends:

Summer is off to a great start and CASA is busier than ever serving children, training new advocates, searching high and low for new donors, meeting with local civic clubs, and providing educational training opportunities for our existing advocates. It truly takes a village to make it all happen and I am so thankful for the dedicated CASA staff we have who are willing to diligently work their cases and make sure the kids we serve feel supported and loved.

We have seen an increase in cases assigned to CASA this summer which is normal. Summer is a stressful time for families with kids out of school and in need of entertainment or activity. Case numbers always go up this time of year and we are doing our best to find advocates available to be assigned to these cases and make a difference for these children. If you are an advocate on a break or have been sitting on the sidelines for a while – we need your help. Please give us a call if you are ready for a new case and we will be happy to get you reinstated and ready to go!

There are several in service training sessions coming up this summer online. Check our website or friend us on Facebook to stay updated on courses being offered and stay current on your required training hours this year. Volunteer Coordinator **Molly Miloy** is making it very easy to attend these training sessions and getting some great local experts in a variety of fields to share their information with us. Stay tuned for more info on upcoming trainings and watch your emails to learn more about future sessions.

From The Director

We will welcome 6 new volunteer advocates on Tuesday, July 12th. Please join us in person or by zoom to welcome these new volunteers. This has been a good recruiting year thanks to the efforts of Recruiter/Trainer **Lolita Gilmore**. If YOU know of someone who would make a great CASA advocate – please go to our website and nominate that person for us to contact. You can also call or email us with that info, and we will gladly reach out – you do not have to ask them! Think about nominating someone you know today who would be interested in advocating for children. We always need more CASA advocates!

Finally, summer is half over and soon our thoughts will turn to “back to school”. CASA will be conducting a Back To School project for the popular items most schools require of the kids. We will be announcing our needs and dates for this campaign soon. Please let us know if you are able to help by either donating supplies, backpacks, or other items when it is announced. We hope to equip every single CASA kid with all of the basic supplies they will need for the upcoming school year.

Thank you for everything you do to help CASA succeed and grow. We stay focused on serving more children and supporting our volunteers who advocate for these kids on a daily basis. If we can ever be of service to you, I encourage you to give us a call, send us an email, or stop by our office to let us know how we can help. Our advocates are the lifeblood of our organization. Please know that your time, talents, and energy are appreciated by all of us here at CASA.

Please enjoy a safe, healthy, and active summer season. I hope to see you soon at one of our upcoming CASA events. Happy Birthday America – celebrate July 4th!

Sincerely,

Kevin Kyle

Advocate Spotlight



Megan is a disabled mom of two young men with special needs. She enjoys participating in disability advocacy in the community and researching information about genealogy. Megan became a CASA because she personally knew two children that ended up in the care of the state and became frustrated by the disconnections she saw happening. Since becoming a CASA, she has helped several children and continues to work hard to help more.

Recently, Megan advocated for one of her CASA kids to have an Individualized Education Plan implemented at school as well as finding a more suitable placement for them to reside. Megan stated that her supervisor, Sarah Beaty, "is amazing and supportive". Megan is looking forward to volunteering for many years to come!

*Megan is pictured with her son, Aidan

THANK YOU

Funding Alert!

CASA recently learned that we will receive a \$10,000 grant from the City of Killeen. The funding was provided to the City of Killeen by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to pass along to non-profit agencies who have an impact on local youth populations. CASA was among nine local organizations to receive the funding from the City of Killeen. The funds received by CASA will be put to work in direct service and support of advocate training, recruiting efforts, and operational costs required for casework to support the CASA kids in our care.

CASA THANKS the City of Killeen for generously providing these ARPA funds to support advocacy efforts for children in foster care.

Area civic clubs meet with CASA!

CASA would like to thank the following civic clubs in Bell and Coryell Counties for allowing us to speak about the impact CASA is having in the foster care community. If you know of a club or organization, we should share the "CASA Story" with – please send us an invite! We are happy to speak with any group, anywhere, anytime.

Altrusa Copperas Cove

Fort Hood Volunteer Advisory Council

Temple Kiwanis Club

Temple Founders Lions Club

International Fellowship of Chaplains

Non-Profit Council of the Greater Killeen area

Copperas Cove Chamber of Commerce

SUCCESS STORY

Recently, CASA Advocate Jacinta Walker traveled out of state to meet with her CASA kid at her own cost and on her own time. Supervisor Brenda Cuney lauded the extra special efforts made by Ms. Walker to meet with her child. The visit required a flight, overnight hotel stay, and extended time spent with her CASA kid to make sure the child knows how much Jacinta cares about her progress and future. Ms. Walker reported that it was a touching and worthwhile visit for the opportunity to let her child know that CASA is always advocating for their best interest, and both enjoyed every minute of the visit.

CASA salutes advocate Jacinta Walker for taking it upon herself to schedule time to make the out of state visit and then bearing the burden of the cost of travel and other support she provided to the child in her case. THANK YOU, Jacinta Walker, for going the extra mile to work your case.

RECIPE CORNER

S'mores Cookies

Ingredients

- **1 cup graham cracker crumbs**
- **1 1/4 cups all-purpose flour**
- **1/2 teaspoon baking soda**
- **1/2 teaspoon salt**
- **1/2 cup unsalted butter, softened at room temperature**
- **1/2 cup brown sugar**
- **1/3 cup sugar**
- **1 large egg**
- **1 teaspoon vanilla extract**
- **1/4 cup graham cracker crumbs**
- **20 large marshmallows, cut in half**
- **24 Hershey Kisses**



1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line baking sheet with parchment paper or spray with cooking spray
2. In a large bowl, combine graham cracker crumbs, flour, baking soda, and salt.
3. In a separate bowl, beat butter, sugar, and brown sugar together until creamy and smooth. Add in egg and vanilla extract and continue to mix until well combined.
4. Slowly add dry ingredients and mix until just combined.
5. Scoop out about a tablespoon of dough and roll into a ball. Roll the cookie dough ball in the remaining graham cracker crumbs.
6. Drop rounded dough onto a baking sheet. Bake for 8-10 minutes or until edges are golden brown.
7. Remove from oven and gently press a half marshmallow (sticky side down) onto each cookie. Let cool completely.
8. Once all cookies are cooled down, preheat broiler. Place cookies back on baking sheet and broil for 30 -60 seconds, keeping a close eye on them so they don't burn.
9. Remove cookies from broiler and place a chocolate kiss on top of each cookie.

Upcoming Events

Keep an eye out for events and celebrations

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

July Birthdays

Molly Miloy - 11th

Sandra Velo - 13th

Sandra Miller - 15th

George Fennell - 17th

Nallely Pena - 18th

Megan Hill - 21st

Dolores Geier - 31st





Back to School Fill the Backpack!

The start of the next school year is right around the corner. CASA of Bell & Coryell Counties want our children to be prepared for their first day of school. You can help by donating school supplies for children from Pre-K through 12th grade.

Clicking on this page will take you to our school supply list!



CASA Community Partners:



Ever wonder if shopping online at AMAZON
can make a difference to
CASA of Bell and Coryell Counties?

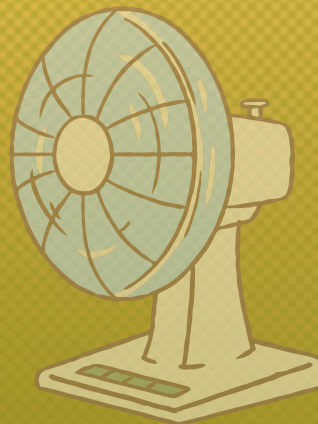
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Summertime Fan Donation For United Way!

Click this page to find out how and where
to donate a fan to a family in need



Want to Volunteer?

Check out www.casabellcoryell.org
or call the CASA Office at (254)-774-1881

