

Good News from CASA

November 2022



Bell and Coryell Counties

From the Director

November kicks off a very busy season for CASA of Bell and Coryell Counties. We always want our advocates involved as much as possible and we have many, many activities and projects in the upcoming weeks for you to be part of. I know your casework alone keeps you busy, but we have so many opportunities to gather, to help, and learn coming up – I encourage each of you to participate as much as possible and get even more plugged in with CASA by the end of the year.



CASA Events coming up FOR YOU:

CASA Dine & Donate

When: Wed. November 2nd 5pm-8pm

Where: Chick-Fil-a in Copperas Cove
(202 Robert Griffin III)

**Let them know when you place your order that you are supporting CASA!

Advocate Appreciation Luncheon

When: Thurs. November 3rd 10am-1pm

Where: Garden of Hope Shelter at
Parrie Haynes in Killeen

Our chance to THANK YOU for your work!

Coffee with CASA

When: Fri. November 4th 9AM

Where: 1st Street Roasters in Temple
Chat and ask questions with CASA

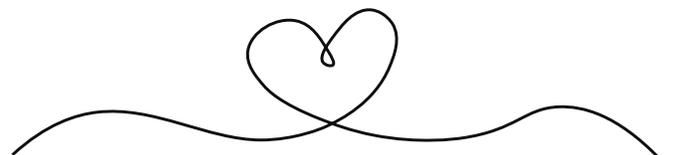
CASA Christmas Gift Campaign

When: Now thru November 30th

You can help by donating gifts, wrapping presents at the CASA office, soliciting donations, and delivering gifts to CASA kids.

Giving Tuesday

Tuesday November 29th is national day of giving to encourage gifts to your favorite nonprofit agency. Check the CASA website for a link to make your gift to CASA.



CASA Gains New Advocates



Six new volunteer advocates were sworn in on November 11th by Coryell County Judge Cheryl Mabray. These new volunteers bring the total for 2022 up to 44 new advocates added to serve CASA kids this year. Recruiter/trainer Lolita Gilmore led the swearing in event and recognized each of the new advocates for their efforts during the training process. Board President Lee Ann Deal provided some words of encouragement and thanks to the new volunteers for rising to the challenge and dedicating their time to serve as advocates.

Advocate Representative Dr. George Fennell provided an inspirational message about his experiences and the impact that serving children in dire need has made upon his own heart seeing firsthand how much his CASA kids have appreciated his efforts to advocate for their needs. Judge Mabray echoed those thoughts and told the new advocates that their sole purpose is to make good recommendations to the courts on behalf of the children they represent. She encouraged the advocates to learn how to observe, to get to know the kids, and to be fiercely loyal and not afraid to voice their opinions when the children have needs.

We are so pleased to welcome new advocates Cari Furst, Treniece Walker, Crystal Basham, Tiffany Kleypas, and Carmen Rivera Ferrer to CASA. Also sworn in with this group is CASA's new Volunteer Outreach Coordinator, Melissa Ward. She completed her training with this group and is ready to meet and greet all CASA advocates. Feel free to give Melissa a call or stop by to say hello soon.



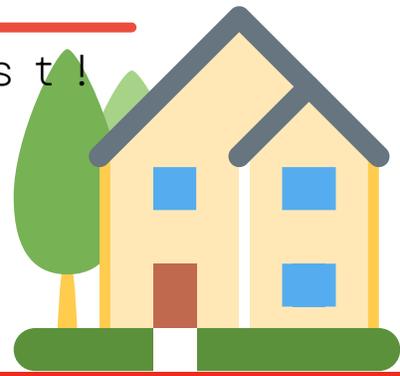
Want to Volunteer?

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



Advocates in Action

Doing what we do best!



Safe Place

Constantly changing placements can have a detrimental impact on a child's healing process. CASA Advocate Supervisor Sarah Beaty and Volunteer Kim Chambers recently shared their stories about working with a CASA kid who was having a hard time with constant changes and being repeatedly uprooted from placements. Sarah and Kim made a special trip on a whim to a potential placement to make sure it could provide a stable environment and act in the best interest of the child being placed. They quickly learned that the placement indeed would provide an excellent and safe space for a long term need for this particular child. Thanks to their efforts to make this visit and pave the way, the child has been happier, is thriving with newfound support, and beginning to come out of his shell and trust his CASA friends that they are able to look out for his best interests.



Giving All



New Advocate Supervisor, Kevin Lee, recently told me of a young girl he is working with that does not have a strong support system around her. He has observed that she is pushing the boundaries at her placement and challenging the DFPS authorities on a regular basis. He has devoted extra time to checking in on her so she knows someone cares about her. He's also told her that CASA does not give up on our kids. He sees her almost daily just to provide encouragement and let her know that CASA is always there to support and advocate on her behalf. Recently, Advocate LeighAnna Webb returned to the Central Texas area and offered to resume serving CASA of Bell and Coryell Counties and this young girl's case was the perfect fit for LeighAnna's volunteer efforts. LeighAnna has already put in many hours to show this young girl on a daily basis that she is important and has established a bond of trust so that she knows she must improve her efforts to have a real chance of reunification with her family.

CASA By THE WATER

La Rio Mansion in Belton provided a beautiful setting for a super successful CASA by the Water event on Thursday, October 20th. The fall fundraiser for CASA provided a fun evening under the Texas stars for guests, CASA advocates, local dignitaries, and supporters to gather and raise funds for a great cause – serving more children in Bell and Coryell Counties.

The highlight of the evening was great country music provided by local rising star Holly Tucker. Tucker has a big heart for supporting area agencies like CASA and she provided personal stories of her journey in the music business, popular music as well as songs she has written during her career. State Representative Dr. Brad Buckley provided a highly inspirational message of thanks and hope for the volunteers who serve CASA. He vowed to continue fighting for more resources from the state in his role representing the Central Texas area in the Texas House of Representatives. The evening was centered around a silent auction with a nice array of popular items that provided some feisty bidding action throughout the evening. The live auction featured auctioneer and County Commissioner Bobby Whitson who helped generate the most spirited part of the night.

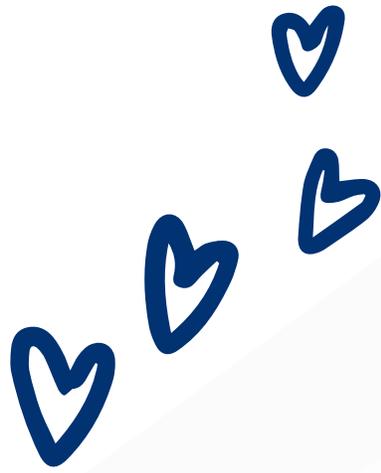
Whitson helped set a new high-water mark for the event by generating more than \$5,000 on the live auction alone. Items up for bid were Houston Texans tickets, a 72-inch cooking griddle from Sam's Club, a magical Cinderella package with Ballet Austin tickets to their production, a vintage bottle of Dom Perignon champagne complete with flute glasses, and a collection of jewelry, decorations, and other items to make the fairytale package complete. But the hit of the night was a luxury condo in the heart of the French Quarter in New Orleans that was for up to 8 guests for a full week in the Big Easy. Whitson's banter spurred the bidding even higher than expected and the big winner was CASA.

Wings, Pizza, n Things provided a wonderful variety of items for dinner as well as plenty of cold beverages for all the guests. It was a spectacular night for CASA to raise funds for a generous cause and allow more kids to be able to experience having an advocate by their side as CASA seeks to expand its base of volunteers. If you wish to get involved with CASA, please call (254) 774-1881 or go online at www.casabellcoryell.org





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United Way of Central Texas

UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN

Designate CASA as your preferred agency to receive your gift.

CASA CHRISTMAS GIFT CAMPAIGN

Call Missy Hlavaty at 254-774-1881 to find out how YOU or your company can help make Christmas special for CASA kids.



DONATE TO CASA -

Go to www.casabellcoryell.org and click the **DONATE NOW** button.