

CASA Clippings

April 2016 Issue

"You were born with the ability to change someone's life. Don't ever waste it."

~Anonymous



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REMINDER! We hope to see you there!
Tuesday, April 5, 2016 at 6:30 pm
Denton County Club

Continuing
Education

LUNCH AND
LEARN

Wed., April
20th

12:00 noon to
1:00 pm
Denton Child
Advocacy
Center

TWU Ethics
Conference
Friday, Apr.,
22nd

8:00 am - 12:00
noon
Cumberland
Presbyterian
Children's
Home

April
2016 Court
Calendar

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NATIONAL
CHILD
ABUSE
PREVENTION

CASA Denton March to the Square National Child Abuse Prevention Month

**Friday, April 8, 2016
10:30 am Sign-In at the Civic Center
11 am March to the Square**

Did you know that CASA of Denton County served 507 children in 2015? Join CASA of Denton County as we march from the Denton Civic Center to the Denton Square on "Wear Blue Day" in awareness of child abuse. We'll pass out pinwheels on the Square to help spread info about how to get involved! Wearing blue is encouraged to honor "Wear Blue Day" and help us stand out.

Please RSVP to Jessica Ferricher at jferricher@casadenton.org or at 940-243-2272 if interested in attending to help us get a headcount.

Blue t-shirts can be ordered at
www.preventchildabusetexas.org/00369.html

COME JOIN US AND BRING A FRIEND!!!!
Feel free to share the attached flyer with everyone you know!

Join us at the CASA Office any time during business hours on March 30th to help make signs for the march!

CASA Advocate Spotlight!

Recognizing Karen Murrell, CASA Advocate



This month's we would like to recognize CASA Advocate Karen Murrell. Here's what Pattie Huestis, CASA Casework Supervisor had to share about Karen:

"I'd like to tell you a little bit about an amazing advocate who has been with CASA for over 8 years. I have had the privilege of being her

supervisor for the past 3 years. She is thorough, passionate, dedicated, and in more ways than one, exemplifies the CASA spirit.

Karen Murrell was weeks away from closing her current CASA case, and anticipating an end to her CASA tenure, for now, to focus on her new role as "grandma". Her plans changed quickly when her CASA child's situation changed abruptly, halting her anticipated adoptive placement with relatives, and resulting in the downward spiral of her CASA child's emotional health and subsequent placement in a psychiatric hospital. Since that point in time two months ago, Karen has changed course from finalizing an adoption, to advocating for the specific needs for her CASA child, who is also now a teenager.

Karen is committed to her youth, and is demonstrating that she will do everything she can to make sure that there is a successful outcome, if possible, for her CASA child. She has embarked on uncharted waters, so to speak, but has been quick to ask questions when she doesn't know the answer, and making sure she is armed with whatever information she needs to navigate through her case at this point in time. I feel so fortunate to supervise such amazing advocates, including Karen. To watch her work diligently to make sense of her CASA youth's new journey with the system is remarkable and I know as long as she is around, one more child will not fall through the cracks in foster care.

Thank you, Karen, for all you do, and for being a hero for your CASA child.



In-Service Opportunity!

CASA Denton Lunch and Learn
Denton County Child Advocacy Center
Guest Speaker: Suzy Gange, Clinical Director
Wednesday, April 20, 2016
12:00 noon - 1:00 pm

BRING YOUR LUNCH! WE'LL PROVIDE THE DRINKS!

Come join us for a CASA Denton Lunch and Learn, featuring a Suzy Gange,

Clinical Director with the Children's Advocacy Center for Denton County.

The Children's Advocacy Center for Denton County is committed to a multidisciplinary response to child sexual abuse. Established in 1997, the agency coordinates with law enforcement, child protective services, medical and mental health professionals to help children and their non-offending family members seek justice and find healing.

In an effort to protect Denton County's children from sexual abuse, the center offers free training and community outreach programs designed how to help the public recognize and react responsibly to child abuse.

Come learn more about the services offered a CAC. We hope to see you there!

To reserve your spot, contact Victoria Calvin,
Training and Recruitment Coordinator at vcalvin@casadenton.org or
940-243-2272, ext. 104.

2016 Annual Ethics Conference

**"Adolescent Mental Health: Legislation,
Practice, and Ethical Issues"**

Hosted by TWU Social Work Practice III Group and C.A.P.S.

Friday, April 22, 2016

Cumberland Presbyterian Children's Home

909 Greenlee, Denton

8:00 am - 12:00 pm

In-Service = 3 Hours



Texas Woman's University Social Work III Group and C.A.P.S. will be hosting the 2016 Annual Ethics Conference. This year's speaker is Dr. Jackie Contreras, Direct Service Managing Director for CASEY Family Programs and Dr. Mark Sandal, TWU Professor and director of the TWU Social Work program.

Dr. Contreras will present an overview of the adolescent mental health issues facing teens today as well as information on legislation, practice, and ethical issues within the field of mental health. Dr. Sandal will address social work ethical issues in the mental health arena.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION:

Deadline: April 12, 2016

\$45 Professionals
\$15 Students (Undergrad and Grad)

Register Online at
<http://www.getmeregistered.com>

FREE CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST!

There are limited spots available!
No refunds, but will accept replacements.

For more information contact,
Michele Bland at mbland@twu.edu

The Traveling CASA Yard Sign! Recognizing CASA Advocate Julie Reiff!



Here's to you Julie, for your commitment to the CASA of Denton County program and for your dedication to your CASA kids! Thank you so much for all that you do!

Critical Need - Foster Children Sleeping at the Denton County CPS Office: How CASA Can Help

As CASA is well aware, the availability of foster placements is critically low. As a result, CPS in Denton County has at any given time a child or children of various ages who are "CWOP"-Child Without Placement. At least 2 CPS workers must supervise these children 24 hours/7 days per week.



Our Denton County workers are making a request: Any CASAs who would be willing to be on an "on call" list to visit with, play games, have lunch, with a child waiting for placement at the Denton County office should contact Lori Powell (lpowell@casadenton.org).

[CLICK HERE](#) to read an article from the Dallas Morning News that highlights this critical situation.

Texas foster-care crisis: Children sleeping in CPS offices again as more removed from homes but state out of places to care for them, Dallas Morning News (March 2016)

Thank you for your help and dedication to the children we serve.

CASA of Denton County Info Session



Do you know someone who would be a great CASA Advocate?

CASA Advocates and supporters are the BEST at spreading the word about our dynamic program. Bring a friend and come join us at the CASA of Denton County Volunteer Info Session!

Tuesday, April 12, 2016
12:00 noon to 1:00 pm
and
5:30 pm - 6:30 pm

During this info session, guests will have the opportunity to learn more about the

CASA advocate program, the role of a CASA Advocate, requirements of becoming a CASA, and how to get involved.

Light refreshments and beverages will be served.

RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY...AND BRING A FRIEND!

To reserve your spot, contact Victoria Calvin,
Training and Recruitment Coordinator,
at vcalvin@casadenton.org or 940-243-2272.

**We will hold the evening session dependent on the number of RSVPs received.*



CALL FOR PFK VOLUNTEERS!

Pulling for Kids is a sporting clay tournament to benefit the children served by CASA of Denton County. Now in its 16th year, Pulling for Kids raises more than \$109,000 annually, or approximately 12% of CASA's annual revenue. We need your help to ensure another successful year!

We have a need for pullers/scorers, registration, breakfast set up & clean up, lunch set up & clean up, dinner set up & clean up, flush station, and event tear down/clean up. Please indicate your availability and preference by clicking on the follow link.

Link: <https://casadenton.ejoinme.org/pfkvolunteer>

This year's event will take place Friday, May 13, 2016 at the Dallas Gun Club in Lewisville, TX. For more information, please contact Jessica Ferricher at jferricher@casadenton.org or 940-243-2272 ext. 112.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!



April BIRTHDAYS
Here's to you and many more!

Peggy Foster, 4/3
Geri Smith, 4/3
Tony Coaxum, 4/4
Trudi Jenner, 4/6
Audra Taylor, 4/8
Robin Watts, 4/9
Timothy Fogarty, 4/11
Roger Janosek, 4/12
Elizabeth Tobias, 4/13
Emily Ruther, 4/17
Karen Murrell, 4/18
Paula McReynolds, 4/19
Edward Van Patten, 4/28
Barbara Willcox, 4/29
Sarah Olivares, 4/30

Board Member:
Brandon Martino, 4/8