

# CASA Clippings

December 2015 Issue

"Maybe Christmas, the Grinch thought,  
doesn't come from a store."

~Dr. Seuss



**CASA**  
Court Appointed Special Advocates  
FOR CHILDREN

DENTON COUNTY

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**From the CASA of Denton County Family...  
Merry Christmas to you and yours!**

### Office Closings

December 11th

*Closing at 12:00 noon - Staff Christmas Party*

December 23rd - 25th

*Christmas Holiday*

January 1st

*New Year's Day*

**2015 CASA Adopt-A-Child**

[December  
2015 Court  
Calendar](#)

**Contact Us:**

Phone: (940) 243-  
2272  
Fax: (940) 243-1605

614 North Bell  
Avenue  
Denton, TX 76209

## Stocking Stuffers are Needed!



We are currently in need of stocking stuffers for the 2015 CASA Adopt-A-Child Christmas Gift Drive. Christmas wishlists have been fulfilled! Along with their presents, each CASA child and teen will receive a Christmas stocking with extra goodies!

### **Stocking Stuffer Ideas: Under 12 years**

- Small toys
- Cards Games - Uno, playing cards, etc.
- Stickers, Activity Books, small stamps with ink pads
- Crayons and Markers
- Slinkies
- Play Dough
- Cute socks or footies
- Baby toys (teething rings, small dolls, trucks)
- Candy (age appropriate)

### **Tweens and Teens (We need more teen boy items!)**

- Sunglasses
- Nail polish, lip gloss
- Lotion sets
- Watches
- Crazy socks, footies, slippers
- Glitter pens, note books, art supplies (color pencils, art journals, notebooks)
- Locker mirrors and accessories
- Candy, gum, mints
- Perfume, body sprays, cologne
- Earrings, necklace, bracelets, wrist bands

- Ear buds, ear phones
- Tablet or phone accessories - phone covers, screen protectors

Check out [101 Cheap Stocking Stuffers for Kids](#) for more ideas!

### **DROP OFF:**

You can drop off your items at anytime between 8:30 am - 5:00 pm Monday-Friday at the CASA of Denton County Office.

**Questions? Contact Celeste Salsman, Receptionist, at [csalsman@casadenton.org](mailto:csalsman@casadenton.org) or 940-243-2272.**

**Thanks for your help!**

### **Are you on track to earn 12 CEUs in 2015?**

The end of 2015 is coming soon...have you been working on your in-service hours?



CASA Advocates are required to complete 12 in-service hours per calendar year (January - December).

Click [HERE](#) for **Advocate In-Service Guide** which contains information about the various ways in which advocates can earn in-service hours.

Need to know where you stand? Contact Victoria Calvin, Training and Recruitment Coordinator, at [vcalvin@casadenton.org](mailto:vcalvin@casadenton.org).

Do you have in-service hours to submit? Send Victoria an email with all of the details pertaining to your in-service activities.

**Recognizing Lorinda Gomez  
CASA Advocate!**



**Lorinda Gomez**  
**Child Advocate with an Inspiring Heart!**

As a new advocate, Lorinda has wasted no time and has been very busy! She has taken on **three** cases in her short time with CASA of Denton County. And she is willing to help other advocates as needed!!!

**Thank you Lorinda for all that you do!**

**30th Annual Conference on the Prevention of Child Abuse**

**Stop The Harm Before It Starts**

**Registration Open**

**January 25-26, 2016**

**Westin Dallas Park Central Hotel**

**Dallas, TX**

**Presented by**



Registration is now open for 30th Annual Conference on the Prevention of Child Abuse. To take advantage of the Early-Bird discount rate, you must register before **December 25, 2015**, at <http://www.preventchildabusetexas.org/nextconference.html>

**About the Conference**

The Conference is designed to offer quality training and information on topics and model programs of interest to leaders in child abuse prevention: social workers, counselors, educators, child care and youth workers, law enforcement personnel, medical & legal professionals, foster parents, child welfare board volunteers, elected officials, and other interested child advocates. Participants may attend their choice of a variety of workshops on child abuse and neglect prevention and educational programs or may select workshops for specialized training credits and professional development.

To view the **Conference Program**, click [HERE!](#)

### **Reserve Your Housing at the Westin Dallas Park Central Hotel**

The Westin Dallas Park Central will serve as the 30th Annual Conference on the Prevention of Child Abuse hotel. Located at: 12720 Merit Dr. Dallas, TX 75251.

Make your hotel reservations now - call 1-888-627-7032 and identify the Conference for special rates good through January 24, 2016. If you would like to register online, click [HERE](#).

**Conference Rate:** \$107.00 for single and \$145.00 for double occupancy rates under a block of rooms reserved for the Prevent Child Abuse Texas Conference. Only a limited number of rooms are available at the conference rate so reserve early!

**Registration:** For more information and to register, click [HERE](#).

**\*\*CEUs (in-service hours) to be determined.\*\***

## **CASA Advocate Spotlight!**

### *Recognizing Emily Ruther, CASA Advocate*

Emily Ruther is a new advocate that accepted her first case in late September 2015. As her supervisor, I am blown away at how she has dug right in and been on the forefront of her CASA teens best interest. Aside from the already difficult task of advocating for an older teen with both



emotional and behavioral issues, her CASA child also suffers from a significant medical issue. There has been much difficulty in finding placement, and Emily has had to reveal the fact that CPS is not meeting her teens needs.

There has definitely been no delay in getting her feet wet with her case! Despite this, Emily has taken everything in stride, even while reviewing over 1,200 pages of medical, educational, and police records. Emily has already exemplified the CASA spirit in her commitment to her CASA teen and her attention to detail and follow-through. I look forward to being



Emily's supervisor and can't wait to see what's in store for her on this journey. Thank you, Emily!!

- Pattie Huestis, CASA Casework Supervisor

## 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, December 8, 2015**

**12:00 noon to 1:00 pm**

**\*\*There will be no evening session.\*\***

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](mailto:vcalvin@casadenton.org) or 940-243-2272.

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



## December Birthdays

Here's to you and many more!

Melisa Mitchell - 12/4

Kristine O'Neil - 12/5

Kate Beamon - 12/6

Robin Lyons - 12/7

Stacey Anderson - 12/8

Penny Dix - 12/8

Sarah Francis - 12/9

Holly Hill - 12/11

Susan Gleghorn - 12/18

Jean Friedland - 12/21

Joyce Rademacher - 12/25

Holland Richards - 12/26

Darlene Covich - 12/26

James Beavers - 12/28

Rena Sutphin - 12/30



# ANNIVERSARIES

*Thank you for your service to this wonderful organization!*

## **Celebrating 2 Years!**

Lindsey Roennau

Judy Agee