

CASA Clippings

July 2016 Issue

"We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

~Thomas Jefferson



CASA
Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

DENTON COUNTY

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CASA of Denton County office will be closed on Monday July 4th in observance of Independence Day!

Hope you have a safe and enjoyable holiday weekend!

Contact Us:

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2272
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614 North Bell
Avenue
Denton, TX 76209



New Names, Faces & Positions at CASA - Lots of Change Happening In the Office

Cheri Fry is the new Program Director for CASA effective July 1. Many of you already know Cheri as she has been with our CASA program since July 2005. Her transition from Casework Supervisor to Program Director (PD) has been a smooth one as we bid Lori Powell best wishes upon her retirement and welcome Cheri to the PD helm. Having been a casework supervisor for the past 10 + years, Cheri completely understands the ins and outs of the program and already has great relationships with staff in the District Attorney's office and Child Protective Services. Cheri will no doubt be a great asset to the CASA Leadership Team.

Debbie Jensen is the new Training & Recruitment Coordinator (TRC) for CASA effective June 1. Many of you already know Debbie as she has been with our CASA program since August 2012. Her transition from Casework Supervisor to TRC has also been a smooth one as we said farewell to Victoria Calvin and welcome Debbie to the helm of training and recruitment activities. Debbie has already been involved with training for CASA and since coming to our agency, has participated in many CASA and community events including recruitment related activities. She is well positioned to lead our program into new areas of recruitment and training.

Ashleigh Hernandez is a new Casework Supervisor for CASA effective June 1. Some of you already know Ashleigh as she was previously a conservatorship worker for Child Protective Services in Denton. Her education in social work, reputation as a worker who cares about children and families, and her experience in the trenches at CPS are all carried forward to the work she is doing with our CASA

volunteer advocates and CASA kids in very positive and effective way!

Julie Reiff is a new Casework Supervisor for CASA effective July 1. Some of you already know Julie as she has been a CASA advocate since July 2011. Her transition from volunteer to paid staff will be a smooth transition as she will be working with her peer volunteers from Cheri's supervisor unit! Her education in social work and her experience at CASA will be of great benefit to her in this new role with the agency.

Cindy Reid is the new Operations Director for CASA effective July 1 as Debbie Martin retired in May. Cindy comes from a combined corporate and non-profit operations background and will be working to learn her way around CASA and the services we provide. Her previous experience and leadership will help keep CASA organized and effective from an operations standpoint. Cindy is eager to meet each of you.

Next time you are in the area, stop by the office and help welcome Cheri and Debbie to their new positions and Ashleigh, Julie and Cindy to our CASA staff family!

Sincerely,

Sherri Gideon
Executive Director



Small Group Meetings: July or August

A good time to catch up with your Advocate Team members, get up to date on new policies, and reminded about old ones. Be sure to keep in touch with your supervisor to see when yours is planned!

Fill the Backpack Campaign!



We are getting a donation of 200 backpacks and we will be having a "Fill the Backpack" school supply campaign where people can pick up a backpack and it will be like our Angel Tree at Christmas time-it will have the child's name, gender, and school supply list on it!

What I will need from you is a list of CASA children you think will need school supplies, their name, their school (school supply list if possible) and the grade they are in!

Please have these requests to me by July 11th so I can create the tags for the backpacks and we can begin the campaign!

thank you!

Celeste - CASA Receptionist
csalsman@casadenton.org

**Volunteer to Help CASA of Denton County at the
Denton Community Market!**



DENTON COMMUNITY MARKET

Advocates! Want to help spread the news about CASA of Denton County?

We are currently looking for advocates who would be willing to represent CASA Denton at the 2016 Denton Community Market! Last year CASA Denton had awesome success at this market and we are looking to participate in 2016!



Cindy Carmack, CASA Advocate

It's so easy, all you would have to do is:

- Sign up for 1 or more Saturdays during the market season (April - November) - participate when you have time, no pressure!
- Show up and set up! Typical shifts - 8:30 am - noon...you can even split a shift with another CASA Advocate.
- Chat with market goers.
- Hand out information.
- Enjoy the market.

We are currently looking for volunteers on the following dates:

July 9th

July 23rd

August 6th

August 27th

September 3rd

September 17th

October 1st

October 22nd

November 12th

**If you are interested in volunteering, contact
Debbie Jensen at djensen@casadenton.org.**



In-Service Opportunity:
CASA Denton Lunch and Learn
Achieve Beyond
Wednesday July 20, 2016
12:00 Noon to 1:00 pm at our office

Bring your lunch, we'll provide the drinks

Achieve Beyond Pediatric Therapy and Autism Services provides pediatric therapy to help children reach their full potential. Education, therapy, and family support services are provided throughout the greater Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. Located in Lewisville, Texas, they offer initial screenings, parent or school consultations, comprehensive evaluations and assessments in addition to therapy services.

Learn more about their services and how they can benefit your CASA child.

RSVP: Email djensen@casadenton.org or call 940-243-2272.

In-Service Opportunity:
**"CASA's Secret Weapon --
Court Reporting and Documentation"**
Wednesday, August 3, 2016, 6-8 p.m.
at the CASA Office,
614 N. Bell Ave., Denton, TX
Facilitated by Pattie Huestis and Debbie Jensen

This will be a repeat of our May 2016 session. Come and learn more about how and why we do what we do in our documentation and court reports.

We will share best practices, show you how to avoid common mistakes, and help you bring your work to a whole new level!

RSVP to djensen@casadenton.org and claim your spot





In the Spotlight

2016 Summer Advocate Training Class



*A new class started June 17, and our newest
Advocates will be sworn in on July 26.
Welcome to the CASA Family!*

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:

Wednesday, July 13, 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.

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

To reserve your spot, contact Debbie Jensen,
at djensen@casadenton.org or 940-243-2272.

**Evening session tentative depending on the number of RSVPs received.*

CASA Connect Users...Did You Know?

Did you know that you can now view, review, and print all **NOTES** submitted through CASA Connect? No need to keep a separate Word document of your notes. Simply click on the **Notes Report** tab next to the **Notes tab**! Please contact your Casework Supervisor if you have any questions.



Happy Birthday

July Birthdays

Here's to you and many more!

Advocates

Sandra Faciane

2nd

Nancy Acee

8th

Carol Delbecq 15th

Nicole Cook 18th

Colleen Evans 21st

Wani Yuoh 24th

Board Member

Brandi Matous-7th



CASA Advocate Anniversaries

Thank you for your service!

15 Years

Susan Gleghorn

Colleen Evans

12 Years

Scott Cameron

Connie McAnnally

11 Years

Pam Pedigo

8 Years

Lynn Schwartz

7 Years

Wani Yuoh

5 Years

Kim Muench

Julie Reiff

4 Years

Sarah Barker
Melisa Mitchell
Joyce Rademacher

3 Years

Tracy McCord
Dawn Hicks
Joy Lasley
Bonnie North
Laura Meilinger

2 Years

James Beavers
Lynnette Beavers
Christina Brown
Julie Geldert
Aaron Robb
Franki Saldivar

1 year

Kate Beamon
Samantha Belson
Debby Fiorentino
Alyexys Maritt
Geri Smith
Rachel Watts

Board Members

Bob Mancino	9 Years
Brandon Martino	3 years
Brandi Matous	2 years