

CASA Clippings

September 2015 Issue

I journeyed alone for almost ten years before I found home. Adoptions are like very delicate gardening with transplants and grafts. Mine took hold, rooted, and bloomed, even though there were inevitable adjustments to the new soil and climate. Yet I have not forgotten where my roots started."

**~Ashley Rhodes Courter,
Author, Three Little Words**



CASA
Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

DENTON COUNTY

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The CASA of Denton County Office will be closed on Monday, September 7, 2015 in observance of Labor Day. Have a safe and happy holiday!

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Contact Us:

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

614 North Bell Avenue
Denton, TX 76209



2015 Evening of Elegance Event

Sunday, October 25, 2015
Red Carpet Arrival begins at 5:45 pm
Bistecca - An Italian Steakhouse, Highland Village
Cost: \$150 per person

Look for more information to come!



**In recognition of Michael Fitzsimmons,
CASA Advocate!**



For the month of September, we are recognizing CASA Advocate Michael Fitzsimmons. Here's what Debbie Jensen, CASA Casework Supervisor shared about Michael.

"Michael Fitzsimmons has hit the ground running as a new CASA volunteer this year. He originally took on a case involving a baby who was placed with the grandparents. When things unexpectedly settled down on that case, he took on a second case at the same time, this one involving two young girls, one of whom is experiencing her second time in foster care. Now he's busy chasing down parents' services, keeping in touch with a grandmother and watching some very sweet kids grow up. Mike has been invaluable on both of his cases, offering support to the parents but always staying mindful of the best interest of the children. In other words, being awesome is now all in a day's work for this incredible CASA volunteer. Thanks, Mike!"

Thank you Michael for all of your hard work!



**In-Service Opportunity! Understanding TBRI®
Trust-Based Relational Intervention®
CASA of Denton County Office
614 N. Bell Avenue, Denton**

**Facilitated by:
Lori Powell, CASA Program Director and Amy Lord, J.D.**

Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI)® is a holistic approach that is multi-disciplinary, flexible, attachment-centered, and challenging. It is a trauma-informed intervention that is specifically designed for children who come from "hard places" of maltreatment, abuse, neglect, multiple home placements, and violence. However, the TBRI® principles can be applied to all children. TBRI® consists of three sets of harmonious principles: connecting, empowering, and correcting principles, which will be explored through the training.

Lori Powell and Amy Lord will provide an introduction to TBRI® that will cover an overview of the principles and how trauma informed training can help advocates and others understand the real-life trauma of children who experience abuse and neglect.

Two sessions will be offered, each covering different topics. Participants are encouraged to attend both Part 1 and Part 2, but have the option of only attending one session. The training dates are listed below:

PART 1:

Monday, September 14, 2015

11:00 am - 2:00 pm **-OR-** 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

In-Service Hours: 3 CEUs

PART 2:

Monday, October 5, 2015

11:00 am - 2:00 pm **-OR-** 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

In-Service Hours: 3 CEUs

To reserve your spot contact:

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, September 8, 2015
12:00 noon to 1:00 pm (or) 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.*

Texas CASA invites you to...

IMAGINE

that the possibilities are endless.

NOVEMBER 5-7, 2015 | SAN MARCOS

With the right resources and a spark of imagination, there are no barriers we, as a unified CASA network, cannot overcome to create a brighter future for Texas' children. The possibilities are endless!

We hope you will join us in San Marcos on November 5-7 for innovative speakers, institutes and workshops that will challenge you to think outside of the box so that one day every child has the safe, loving home they deserve.

Early bird registration will open on **August 19** and will last until **September 18**, and standard registration will close on **October 2**.

Mark your calendar and stay tuned for more details on the conference in the coming months!

CASA Advocates can earn in-service hours for attending this conference!!!

For more information or to register, click [HERE](#).

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.

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



2015 Child Welfare Conference Pathways to Permanency Through Collaboration, Initiatives and Practice

Presented by Texas Woman's University

Friday, October 23, 2016

8:00 am to 4:30 pm

TWU MCL Bldg, Auditorium 101
(Corner of Bell and College)

In-Service Hours: 6 CEUs

Registration: \$20.00 (includes food and beverage)
Parking is FREE - Permit Required

Texas Woman's University presents Pathways to Permanency. This conference will focus on how permanency can be achieved through collaboration, child focused initiatives, and practices in the child welfare arena.



Workshops include:

- Strengthening Connections Panel
- Supervised Independent Living Program for Foster Youth
- Life Without a Safety Net, Transitioning from Foster Care
- Texas Legislative Updates
- and much more!

To learn more about this conference or to register, click [HERE](#). An information flyer can be found [HERE](#).

For additional information contact:

Michele Bland at mbland@twu.edu or 940-898-2075

The CASA Advocate Yard Sign Found Judy and Tim Fogarty!



Judy and Tim Fogarty are amazing CASA Advocates - there is no end to

their dedication to their CASA kids and to this program. Thank you for truly making a difference in the lives of a children in foster care!

Thanks for all that you do!



September Birthdays

Here's to you and many more!

Bonnie Olsen - 4th
Robert O'Connor - 9th
Julie Reiff - 11th
Lelia Stone - 13th
Vicki Elder - 14th
Lynna Means - 16th
Samantha Belson - 16th
Tracy Germansen-McCord - 21st
Stephanie Jackson - 21st
Vicki Mielke - 28th
Jane Challendar - 28th

Board Members:

Kay Schroeder - 7th



ANNIVERSARIES

Thank you for your service to this wonderful organization!

5 YEARS

Tish Becker
Mary Hunter
Lynna Means
Traci Thompson