



CASA  
Court Appointed Special Advocates  
FOR CHILDREN

DENTON COUNTY



*Holiday 2017*

*The mission of CASA  
of Denton County, Inc. is to  
provide trained community volunteers, to advocate  
for the best interests of abused and neglected children, and  
to promote community awareness about child abuse issues.*

## President's Message



As we prepare for the upcoming holiday season, I am overwhelmed at the many sad, scary and disturbing news headlines these days with natural disasters, mass shootings, sex scandals and more.

However, I am even more overwhelmed at the sad, scary and disturbing headlines that you never see. The headlines that are the reality of children in our community who are abused and neglected at the very hands of those who are supposed to nurture, love and protect them. Our local communities are fortunate to have some courageous people who stand up for these children – CASAs (Court Appointed Special Advocates). These are community volunteers who provide life altering, court advocacy services for children in the worst situations - those who have been removed from their homes and placed in foster care because of the severe abuse or neglect they suffered at home. In 2016, 189 volunteer child advocates provided critical advocacy services to 583 children; and more volunteers will serve more children in 2017. AND...there are still more children needing CASA's services. They need your help! These children's futures are in jeopardy because of a system that desperately needs your voice and your support. We invite each and every person to stand up for a child. There are lots of ways to help. You can become a CASA volunteer child advocate, become a supporter, become an event volunteer, or invite us to share the CASA mission with your local club or organization. Please make a difference in the life of a child. Please help the many children who are waiting for you to stand up for them. Visit [www.casadenton.org](http://www.casadenton.org) or call 940.243.2272 to learn more.

**Shelly Krueger**, CASA Board President

## CASA Advocacy at its Best

Kyle entered the care of Texas Child Protective Services (CPS) at age 16 after being kicked out of his home because his mother was unable and unwilling to meet his needs. The mother had previous CPS cases in Michigan and Kyle had been in and out of foster homes in Michigan since his birth. Kyle's father had extensive criminal history and was not involved in his life at all.

Since being placed with CPS 2 ½ years ago, Kyle has been in three different residential treatment centers, five different school districts, and admitted to a psychiatric hospital at least four times. He was also incarcerated in the juvenile justice system for a period of time.

During his entire time in foster care, Kyle has had one CASA advocate – Ron. Ron was available as Kyle navigated all the different placements and changes. As Kyle's 18th birthday was approaching, Ron was inquiring with CPS about placement options for him to stay in foster care beyond 18, as Kyle was willing to do so and knew he needed the extended help. Kyle had yet to finish high school. The CPS caseworker hadn't identified any appropriate relatives, foster homes, or treatment facilities that would accept Kyle because of his behavior problems and CASA was told Kyle would be transported to a homeless shelter on his 18th birthday.

This simply was and is not acceptable to CASA. CASA, the attorney on the case, and even the CPS worker knew that if left to fend for himself at only 18 years old, Kyle would end up in a gang, jail or dead. The CASA Advocate asked the judge to order a psychological evaluation be completed for Kyle to determine if there are any mental diagnoses and an independent living skills assessment that could possibly make him eligible for extended care options. Once done, it shed light on Kyle's serious needs.

Ron, the CASA advocate, reached out to the clinic that performed the psychological evaluation and was given some suggestions for possible treatment centers for Kyle. One was identified that would accept and help him and one day before his 18th birthday, Kyle was transferred to a treatment facility that could address his problems and help him work toward independent living skills for the future.

This is one example of CASA advocacy at its best and how desperately critical our work with teens can be and the futures it can change.



## Board / Staff Listing

### Board of Directors

- Olulana Bamiro
- Rick Cain
- Jean Campbell, Emeritus
- Lisa Ferguson
- Carla Flowers, Secretary
- Melinda Galler, Treasurer
- Sheryl Goodson
- Mary Harris
- Shelly Krueger, President
- Brandon Martino
- Chad Rauschuber
- Denise Roberts
- Frank Scheer
- Pat Sherman
- Greg Studer
- Brenda Sweeten
- Paula Wagner, Vice President

### Advisory Council

- Dixie Berry
- Ray Croff
- Debby Grigsby
- Dana Haynie
- Russell Kerbow
- Steve Kuzmich
- Brenda Latham
- Janie McLeod
- Kay Schroeder
- Carrell Ann Simmons

### CASA Staff

- Lindsey Barnes, Casework Supervisor
- Mary Cartright, Casework Supervisor
- Cheri Fry, Program Director
- Sherri Gideon, Executive Director
- Mary Howard, Casework Supervisor
- Pattie Huestis, Casework Supervisor
- Debbie Jensen, Training & Recruitment Coordinator
- Chanel Knott, Casework Supervisor
- Brooke Moore, Development Director
- Betty Moran, Casework Supervisor
- Cindy Reid, Operations Director
- Julie Reiff, Casework Supervisor
- Celeste Salsman, Receptionist
- Theresa White, Casework Supervisor

## Welcome Graduates of Summer & Fall Advocacy Academies

Congratulations to 32 new volunteers who were sworn in as official CASA child advocates in July with Judge Margaret Barnes of the 367th District Court and in November with Judge Sherry Shipman of the 16th District Court.



Pictured above are: Ida Agosto, Katherine Anderson, Kaitlyn Carty, Alecia Cobb, Susan Davenport, Mark Davis, Trish Depew, Brenda Dulin, Jordan Friith, Terri Gonzalez, John Graham, Jacqueline Guardiola, Rebecca Herman, Eric Jackson, Larry Kestila, Valerie Kysiak, Mildred Love, Christy Martinez, Allison Moody-Gray, Clinton Page, Courtney Page, Paul Rando, Michael Rhea, Yvette Rhea, Christine Smith, Jill Sommerhauser, Laura Starzer, Cassidy Thatcher, Kelsey White, Jeanne Williams, Kim Williams.

Not pictured but part of the Summer Class was Susan Wienefeld.

*Thank you for recognizing a need in the community and  
stepping up to speak up for children who need you!*

## CASA "Info" Sessions

**Are you or someone you know  
interested in volunteering for CASA?**

We now host monthly information sessions to answer questions and provide more details on the various volunteer opportunities CASA has including becoming a volunteer child advocate, a member of the Champions for CASA team or other fun and meaningful activities. Sessions are mandatory for those who wish to become a volunteer child advocate. Dates and times are listed on the CASA website at [www.casadenton.org](http://www.casadenton.org).

## Shopping for a Cause

CASA of Denton County is a member of several community reward programs, such as AmazonSmile and Kroger Community Rewards. Don't forget to designate CASA of Denton County as your organization of choice during your gift shopping and holiday dinner grocery shopping, and CASA can receive a portion of the sales as a donation!





# Kudos Corner

Special thanks to the **Apartment Association of Greater Dallas** for their fun and generous donation of 46 Halloween costumes for CASA kids this season! You cannot imagine the bright smiles and "tricks" for treats that your generosity resulted in. We appreciate your continued support of our CASA kids in this unique way!

A bouquet of thanks to our friends at **Charming Charlie** in Highland Village for their generosity in hosting an event benefiting CASA in May! The weekend before Mother's Day, shoppers generated over \$485 for CASA – enabling us to serve a CASA child for an additional four months this year! Thanks to Charming Charlie and all those who enjoyed the beautiful weather and the shopping fun for CASA!

The Back to School Season is always colorful at the CASA office and this year was no different thanks to the generosity of **Mattress Firm** and the **Ticket to Dream Foundation's Foster Kids** initiative. We have received clothing, school supplies, shoes, pajamas, toys and other important necessities to help our CASA kids with basic and extended needs!



Thanks to our Friends at **Full Throttle Athletics** in Frisco for hosting a fund raiser for CASA that resulted in a \$500 gift for the services CASA provides to abused and neglected children! Their energy and spunk not only helped those who participated get in better shape but also helped us shape the futures for children!



Changing lives of children is especially meaningful to CASA when partnering with **Game Changers** in Denton! These folks welcomed CASA friends and associates to their facility and provided an afternoon of fun and festivities all to benefit our community's children! Special thanks for opening your business and your hearts!

The children's **Magic Festival** in Lewisville had a lot of CASA kids in attendance this year thanks to the generous gifts our members of the Lewisville Lions Club. Each year they ensure that children in our local foster care system get to experience fun and festivities that they might otherwise not be able to enjoy! We appreciate the 45 tickets you shared and your continued support of our kids!

CASA was fortunate again this year, for the third year in a row, to benefit from the generosity of members of the **Highland Village Rotary Club** and their annual Bunny Hop event! This unique and fun event in our local community benefits many charitable organizations, including CASA, and we could not be more proud to partner with them! Thank you for making the community brighter and with your \$750 donation, helping us serve another CASA child for six additional months this year!



Hats off to friends in **Jack and Jill of America, North Texas Chapter!** They chose CASA to benefit from their special event this year and donated more than \$3,400 in support of the services CASA provides to children. This will help CASA serve two additional children for a full year – ensuring that their individual and special needs are met while they are in the foster care system. Thank you for your generosity.

Some of the best blessings a child receives are those that come from their peers in the community. Heartfelt thanks are extended to the **Marcus High School Theater Arts Booster Club** for their generous donation of over \$530 and to the **Denton High School Honor Society Students** for their donation of hundreds of socks and undergarments for our CASA kids – their friends in need! We cannot thank you enough for caring for your friends and showing that care through your actions! You rock!!



The children and families served by CASA continue to be blessed with handmade gifts of love and labor. Many thanks this past quarter to friends in the **Land O'Lakes Quilt Guild**, the **Robson Ranch Material Girls** and the **Lewisville Senior Center Needlework Group** for their combined donations of 276 Christmas Stockings, 100 quilts and afghans, 38 tote bags, 26 caps and booties, 24 pillowcases and 11 snap happy bags! Such awesome gifts and made with the most beautiful craftsmanship and love you can imagine.



**Lloyd Banks and friends at the Rockin' Rodeo** in Denton really outdid themselves with a night to benefit CASA in May that resulted in a donation of over \$1,300 for the services CASA provides to children! This generous gift enables CASA to serve an additional child in need for a year! Thank you Lloyd and team for opening your business to CASA and allowing us to open your guests hearts to CASA! A perfect match!

Two church groups have chosen CASA kids as they do mission work in our local community this past quarter. Special thanks to **St. Barnabas Episcopal Church** for their unique gifts of Birthday in a Box gifts for CASA kids in care and to the **St. Philip Women's Club** for providing

"graduation" baskets to two CASA seniors this summer! Your generosity and love is deeply felt by those who received your blessings.

Kudos and Hugs to those who organized and participated in the **Denton Police Summer Girls Program!** This year the girls chose CASA to benefit from their community service project and what an impact they made. By hosting a Mexican Fiesta for the community to enjoy, these youth raised over \$1,000 for the services CASA provides to their peers in the community! Special thanks also to the Texas Narcotics Officer's Association for supporting this effort and adding their generous donation to the event!

CASA continues to be blessed with donations from the community at large through the **Mattress Firm** and **Ticket to Dream Foundation's Foster Kids** initiative. We have received clothing, school supplies, shoes, pajamas, toys and other important necessities to help our CASA kids with basic and extended needs!

We are honored on a regular basis to have many CASA friends who support the agency with in-kind donations. We hope you will share your business with those who do business for CASA – **Eagleton Photography, North Texas Print Solutions** and **TRT Communications**. These folks save CASA a tremendous amount of operating funds each year so that more money can be utilized for direct services to children!

CASA is grateful for the many donations we receive indirectly through **Denton County jurors**, through **United Way, state, federal and other employee workplace campaigns**, and through matching gift funds through **individual employers**. Your designated gifts to CASA are truly a blessing to the children and families we serve and we thank you for keeping the needs of these children in your hearts.



On September 14th, CASA of Denton County raised over \$8,800 during **North Texas Giving Day**, the largest giving day in the world! Big HULK thank you to **Chef Morris Salerno** for participating in our fundraising challenge. With the support of Chef Hulk's superhero powers, CASA gained an additional 33 new donors and had a whopping total of 88 donations

to CASA in less than 24 hours. The generosity of these donors ensures five additional children who have been abused or neglected receive CASA services. CASA donors aren't just heroes they truly are superheroes!



June 21st, CASA volunteers, staff, and their families were treated to a night out at the Ball Park in Arlington thanks to the **Texas Rangers Women's Club**. Attendees received free tickets to America's favorite game, hot dogs, drinks, chips and snacks all while watching the Rangers play the Blue Jays. We are truly appreciative of this gift to show our gratitude to all those that serve the CASA mission. Thank you to the Texas Rangers Women's Club for a wonderful time rooting for the home team!



# Gifts from the Heart

## Grant Funding Sources

- City of Carrollton
- City of Denton
- City of Frisco
- City of Highland Village
- City of Lewisville
- Cloud 9 Charities
- Cross Timbers Rotary Club
- Denton Benefit League
- Denton County Commissioner's Court
- Flower Mound Rotary Club
- The Henry Foundation
- Johnson Family Foundation
- The John G. & Marie Stella Kenedy Memorial Foundation
- Lewisville Noon Rotary Club
- The Maximus Foundation
- Office of the Attorney General
- Pacific Life Foundation
- The Perot Foundation
- The Rayzor Company
- Texas CASA, Inc.
- Town of Flower Mound
- United Way of Denton County, Inc.
- United Way of Metropolitan Dallas
- Victim of Crime Act Grant
- Wal-Mart Distribution Center #6068
- The Wal-Mart Foundation
- The Gil & Dody Weaver Foundation

## CASA is pleased to have received gifts in honor of...

- Andrew Lewis  
From Denise Spalding
- Clarice Darnell  
From Elizabeth Arnett
- Delaney Jo Carlson  
From Monica LanderosJiminez  
From Tiffany Purdue
- John and Vicki Graham  
From Patricia Haddock
- Mary Howard  
From Jerome Cassidy
- Wendy Leung  
From Don and Etta Smith
- Vicki Mielke  
From Jack Fry
- Sharon Miller  
From Michael and Betty Moran

## CASA is pleased to have received a gift in memory of...

- Diana Collier  
From Daniel Abasolo  
From the Law Firm of Coffey & Peace
- From Terry Collier  
From Thomas Collier
- From Mike Davis  
From Brad Freeman
- From the Law Firm of Hayes, Berry, White & Vanzant
- From Bryan Larson
- From Brett Lofthus  
From the Law Firm of Loveless & Loveless
- From Andrew Passons
- From Denise Spalding
- From James Striegel
- From Michael Wallace
- From Patrick Wright
- Jean Collier  
From M. Jean Greenlaw
- Robert Collier  
From Cathy Banks
- Frances Jo Davis  
From Joe Burt
- From Denton Baptist Temple
- From Mark Miller
- From Michael Mlinac
- From Robert Slaughter
- Paul Gansky  
From Michael and Betty Moran
- David Glass  
From The Gil & Dody Weaver Foundation
- Samuel Glassman  
From Mike and Betty Moran
- From David and Jan Williams
- Ray Harris  
From Jerry and Debbie Martin
- Justin Klindera  
From Denise Spalding
- Alexis Joy Lester  
From Janet Campbell
- Stephen Kirk Slaughter  
From Julie Cahoon
- Marjory Kent Vickery  
From Roy and Annell Bradford

## Power of 25 Campaign

As CASA wraps up a 25th year of services to abused and neglected children, we are truly grateful for the 188 donors who made 215 gifts to raise \$39,334 in the CASA 25th Anniversary Power of 25 Campaign! What an amazing gift of services to additional children in need in our Denton County community. In 2016, CASA was unable to serve 47 children. With these Power of 25 Campaign gifts, CASA was able to increase services to 26 additional children in need! No small accomplishment that simply could not have been met without your additional support. Your partnership and support are truly a blessing – thank you!

- Aaron Addison
- American National Bank and Trust
- Terry and Jacquelyn Angevine
- Andrew and Lauren Barker
- Meg Barry
- Carole Bassinger
- Mike and Dixie Berry
- Marcia Beverly
- Bob and Jane Bland
- Karen Boggus
- Bonded Lightning Protection Systems, Ltd.
- Chris and Keely Briggs
- Byron Brown
- Stacey Brown
- Joanne Bruce
- Eric and Kristi Burnthorne
- Steve and Andrea Calloway
- Gary and Pamela Cates
- Teri Clark
- Guido and Amy Climer
- Sheldon Connell
- Charles and Stephanie Correll
- Linda Crabtree
- Clarice Darnell
- Kaye Dotson
- Thomas and Joni Dudley
- Cheryl Ellis
- Kathy Eubanks
- Elaine Fannin
- R Neil Ferguson
- First United Methodist Church
- Jack and Nancy Fisher
- Richard and Mary Kay Fisher
- Ray and Carla Flowers
- Keith Francis
- Lisa Franks
- Jerry and Melinda Galler
- Nancy Gaudette
- Susan Gehrlein
- Tracy McCord
- Bill and Judy Giese
- Andrew Green
- Elizabeth Greenwood
- Debby Grigsby and Randy Salyers
- Charles and Kathleen Gross
- Bob and Mary Harris
- Todd and Jill Hawkins
- Passion Hayes
- David and Dana Haynie
- Robert and Linda Heilig
- Susan Hekman
- Jan Hillman
- Brett and Mary Howard
- Mark and Becky Ingram
- Greg and Jackie Jackson
- Rebecca Jackson
- Tracie Jackson and Anthony Gathers
- Craig and Leslie Jones
- Stan and Kimberly Karl
- Kenneth and Joan Katzen
- Gary and Elizabeth Keller
- Becky King
- Sennett and Carolyn Kirk
- Amy Lankford
- Andrew and Erin Macalik
- David and Jeanie Maxfield
- Josh and Shelly Mayfield
- Thomas and Adrienne McCrady
- Frances McDuff
- Ryan and Wesley McNabb
- Patricia Metting
- Cindy Meyering
- William and Andrea Milton
- Steve and Julia Moomau
- Mike and Heather Moran
- Linda Morrow
- William and Elizabeth Moyer
- Diane Naquin
- John Nguyen

# Wishful Thinking

You can help us meet needs that are not included in the agency's budget. As a small nonprofit agency, with limited resources, we depend on the generosity of our friends to help meet needs and cash donations are not the only way to become a CASA benefactor. The less funding CASA spends on operating costs, the more the children benefit. To donate, call 940.243.2272.

# Heartfelt thanks to donors who made contributions to CASA between June 1 – November 15, 2017.

CASA strives to remember all of those who have blessed us. Please notify us and forgive us if we failed to list your name and know that your generosity is deeply appreciated and truly helps us make a difference for children.

- Nancy Noah
- Billie and Vicki Northen
- Scott and Lisa Olson
- Mark Owens
- Marc and Lori Powell
- Todd and Chris Price
- Paul Rando
- Paula Reidy
- Patti Richard
- Mary Richards
- Kelly Robb
- Melissa and Emma Ryan
- Zane Sadler
- Morris Salerno
- Vickie Schallcock
- Brad and Frances Shelton
- Stan and Carrell Ann Simmons
- Marc Simpson
- Don and Etta Smith
- Diane Snow
- Southern Holdings LLC
- Steve and Jennifer Southwell
- Jerry and Donna Stevens
- Greg and Maureen Studer
- Sherrie Taylor
- Jackie Thames and Roger Cox
- Virginia Thomas
- Brad and Elizabeth Thurman
- Carl and Susan Trebesh
- Trinity Presbyterian Church
- Catherine Turner
- James and Cathy Turner
- Mark and Paula Wagner
- Jack and Susan Watkins
- Shirley Weidner
- Mark West
- James White
- Barbara Wilcox
- Lona Wolfe
- Carole Womack
- You Walk Bail Bonds
- Chris Young
- Chavel and Teresa Yzaguirre

## Donations To Help Meet CASA's Greatest Needs

(Monetary, In-Kind & through Workplace Campaigns)

- Kevin Albrecht
- Amazon Smile Foundation
- Lana Bamiro
- Chris and Sue Bancroft
- Norma Barker

- Barley & Board
- Stephen and Lindsey Barnes
- Baylor Heart Hospital of Denton
- Forrest and Jill Beadle
- Robert and Sheila Benson
- Mike and Dixie Berry
- John and LeAnn Birden
- Bistecca
- Larry and Billie Bobo
- Elizabeth Brannon
- Buckets & Bows Maid Service
- Stephanie Bui
- Eric and Kristi Burnthorne
- Daryl and Rhonda Cain
- Rick and Lisa Cain
- Jerome Cassidy
- Chuck and Lori Christensen
- Julia Christman
- Ciera Bank
- CJ's Sweets
- Justin Claunch
- Communities Foundation of Texas
- Compass Bank
- Covenant Clearinghouse, LLC
- Cross Timbers Gazette
- Ken Currin
- CW Floors and Lighting
- Dallas Digital Services L.L.C.
- DATCU Credit Union
- Denton Police Department
- Denton Police Department-Girls Summer Program
- Denton Record-Chronicle
- Kaye Dotson
- Brian Doyle
- Peggy Drapo
- Frank and Marta Dudowicz
- Eagleton Photography
- Tom and Rebecca Eveleth
- Sandra Faciane
- Lou and Charlene Fausak
- First United Bank
- United Methodist Women, First United Methodist Church
- Richard and Mary Kay Fisher
- Fisher59 – Denton
- Michael and Angie Fitzsimmons
- Flowergarden
- Ray and Carla Flowers
- Beth Frank
- Eric and Cheri Fry
- Jerry and Melinda Galler

- Rachel Gasser
- Wes and Sherri Gideon
- Goodson Engineering
- Kathy Grady
- James and Allison Gray
- Guaranty Bank & Trust, N.A.
- Alison Hardy
- Bob and Mary Harris
- David and Dana Haynie
- Jason Haynie
- John and Sue Hechinger
- John and Ashleigh Hernandez
- Honeywell
- Michael and Pattie Huestis
- Independent Bank
- Innovative Transportation Solutions
- Jackson's Virtuous Vending
- Andrea Jazo
- Brian and Debbie Jensen
- Ginnie Kelson
- Billy Kendrick
- KHA Accountants & Advisors, P.C.
- James and Melinda King
- Kroger Food Stores
- Shelly and Duane Krueger
- Paul and Valerie Kysiak
- Jerry and Gwen Baskett
- Brandon Martino
- Sharon McCallister
- Tracy McCord
- Glen and Cortney McKenzie
- Catherine McQuillen
- Medical City Denton
- Tom and Vicki Mielke
- Vicki Millard
- Steve and Julia Moomau
- Matthew and Brooke Moore
- Mike and Diane Morrison
- Harbert Mulherin
- Michelle Mumme and David Hineman
- Carlos and Leta Beth Muniz
- Mike and Jane Nelson
- North Texas Tollway Authority
- Michael Nowels
- Old Irish Bed & Breakfast
- Andrew Passons
- Samantha Pfaffly
- PointBank
- Marc and Lori Powell
- Todd and Chris Price
- Pro Tire, Inc.
- Raising Cane's Restaurants, LLC

- Chuck and Renae Redfearn
- David and Julie Reiff
- Michael and Yvette Rhea
- Eric and Denise Roberts
- Robison & Robison
- Alan and Liz Rodriguez
- Todd Romig
- Jessie and Carol Ross
- Glenn and Celeste Salsman
- Audrey Schaeffel
- James and Joan Schaub
- Frank and Linda Scheer
- Rob and Kimberly Seay
- Ben Segall
- Kackie Sexton
- Jud and Pat Sherman
- Don and Etta Smith
- Hallie Springer
- St. Andrew Presbyterian Church
- St. Barnabas Episcopal Church
- Kathy Stamm
- Star Local Media
- Lynn and Lori Stucky
- Greg and Maureen Studer
- Surface Materials, LLC
- David and Brenda Sweeten
- Zachary Tassin
- Brianna Tekell
- Title Resources
- Toni & Guy
- Mike and Joni Trent
- TRT Communications, Inc.
- UNT Child Welfare Class
- Verus Advisors
- Kari Voight
- Mark and Paula Wagner
- Brett Walford
- Mark Wallace
- Grace Weatherly and Michael Mayfield
- Margaret Wenzel
- Theresa White
- Megan Williams
- Lona Wolfe
- Wood Weatherly Trial Law, P.C.
- Denise Woods

## Needs for the Office

- 20 lb. White Copy Paper
- Paper products including paper towels, toilet paper, and paper plates
- Drinks for training classes including bottled water and sodas
- Gift Cards to Office Depot and Sam's Club
- Presentation Opportunities

## Needs for the Children

- Hugs!
- Tickets for local experiences including Dallas or Fort Worth Zoo, Perot Museum and other child-friendly places
- Gift Cards to Wal-Mart and Target
- Gift Cards to Clothing Stores



# 19<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL *Evening* of ELEGANCE

The 19th Annual Evening of Elegance Event was truly the best yet – simply a record breaking year for this event raising over \$82,000 for the services CASA advocates provide to abused and neglected children! With over 130 people in attendance the evening started with a fun red carpet arrival and a wine and hors d'overs reception on the patio of the esteemed Bistecca Restaurant in Highland Village. For the 19th year in a row, Chef Morris Salerno and his staff wowed guests with amazing food selections that were served to guests through the courtesy of fourteen local celebrity waiters. University of North Texas student Maryssa Vasquez shared her personal, powerful and very moving story through the foster

care system and really energized the crowd. Because of the generosity of event sponsors, live auction donors and those in attendance, the evening ended with record breaking amounts raised for the auction and Fund-A-Child initiative and the event overall. Thank you to everyone who played a part in making this event successful including Maryssa Vasquez, Brittanie Marion, Owner of Eagleton Photography, Mike Trent, Dixie Berry, Owner, North Texas Print Solutions, and members of the UNT Omega Delta Phi Fraternity.

## *Special Thanks to Sponsors:*

(RECORD BREAKING YEAR RAISING OVER \$82,000!)

### **DIAMOND Sponsor**

- DATCU Credit Union

### **Ruby Sponsors**

- Ciera Bank
- First United Bank
- Goodson Engineering
- Senator Jane Nelson

### **Emerald Sponsors**

- First State Bank
- Fisher59
- Guaranty Bank & Trust, N.A.
- Doug and Bonnie Robison
- Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Flower Mound
- Verus Advisors
- Wood Weatherly Trial Law

### **Thanks to Auction In-Kind Donors:**

- Bistecca and Chef Morris Salerno
- Brightside Boutique
- Buckets & Bows Maid Service
- CASA Board and Staff Members
- The Cross Timbers Gazette
- Denton Record-Chronicle
- Eagleton Photography
- Flowergarden
- The Heart Hospital Baylor Denton
- North Texas Print Solutions
- Martino Group
- Michael Nowels
- Star Local Media
- Toni & Guy Highland Village
- Mike Trent

### **Thanks to Celebrity Waiters:**

- Justice Lee Gabriel, 19 year waiter
- Judge David Garcia, 18 year waiter
- Judge Margaret Barnes, 16 year waiter
- Judge Bruce McFarling, 14 year waiter
- Judge Mary Horn, 13 year waiter
- District Attorney Paul Johnson, 11 year waiter
- Judge Doug Robison, 9 year waiter
- Judge Robert Ramirez, 7 year waiter
- Judge Bonnie Robison, 5 year waiter
- Judge Sherry Shipman, 5 year waiter
- Commissioner Andy Eads, 4 year waiter
- Judge Tiffany Haertling, 3 year waiter
- Judge Coby Waddill, 3 year waiter
- Judge Brody Shanklin, 2 year waiter





# ADOPTION DAY | 10TH ANNUAL NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY – *oh the places you will go*

Hosted by the Denton County Bar Association in partnership with CASA and Child Protective Services, the 10th Annual Adoption Day event took place in Denton County on Friday, November 3. This life changing event provides children and their adoptive families with a celebratory atmosphere to mark this most important milestone in their lives. This year, 23 children were adopted into 12 families,

with festivities including games, refreshments, and an opportunity for families to take their first family portrait together. Local businesses made in-kind contributions and gave their time to help the 10th Annual Denton County Adoption Day go off without a hitch. Thanks to everyone who helped make this a day to remember for some very special children and their new families.



## | MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR CHILDREN

CASA is fortunate to have many supporters from many different walks of life! Some are individuals, some are organizations, some are foundations and some are businesses. Ciera Bank is one of those businesses that locally, makes a difference for its customers and even more importantly, for its customer's community! With this newsletter, we salute and applaud those who work for Ciera Bank for the many ways they share support in the eight communities where their banking facilities are located. We are grateful that

the children served by CASA benefit from this generosity.

Ciera Bank first connected with CASA as a donor through a special campaign in 2005 to hire an additional staff to serve more children. Later, in 2010, employees came to the CASA annual Pulling for Kids Sporting Clay Tournament and have been loyal and generous supporters of CASA's two signature events each year since then. Giving over \$19,000 in the past eight years, Ciera Bank is truly making a difference in the

lives of children in need – not just with their financial support but through volunteerism and community awareness as well.

Local banking locations include Flower Mound, Denton, Aubrey and Hickory Creek but they also have branches in Graham, Aldeo, Bryson and Fort Worth. A full service bank with both personal and commercial services, Ciera Bank is one you would be proud to do business with as they not only take good care of their customers, they take good care of their community!



## KINSHIP FAIR 12TH ANNUAL KINSHIP FAIR

The 12th Annual Kinship Fair held Saturday, October 21, was great! Special thanks to event organizers, the Greater Denton County Young Lawyer's Association, Child Protective Services and students from Texas Woman's University and the University of North Texas for helping to support, honor and recognize relatives and close family friends who welcome abused and neglected children into their homes. These special "foster" parents provide a safe, loving home for these children with little support from the child welfare system to help them with the challenges and burdens they face in providing for these children. The Fair is an opportunity for the community to help these families with special and everyday needs by providing food, coats, clothing, school supplies, toys and other special needs items while at the same time, providing a "festival" type atmosphere for the children to enjoy.

CASA of Denton County, Inc.  
Phone: 940.243.2272  
Fax: 940.243.1605  
Website: [www.casadenton.org](http://www.casadenton.org)  
Email: [info@casadenton.org](mailto:info@casadenton.org)



[www.facebook.com/casadenton.org](https://www.facebook.com/casadenton.org)

CASA of Denton County is a member agency of Texas CASA, Inc., the National CASA Association, and the United Ways of Denton County and Metropolitan Dallas.

If you received two CASA newsletters, please give one to a friend and notify CASA at 940.243.2272 or [info@casadenton.org](mailto:info@casadenton.org). Thanks!

## SPEAK UP FOR ME IN COURT EVERY CHILD DESERVES A CHANCE — IT'S YOU.

As a Court Appointed Special Advocate, or CASA volunteer, you can keep abused and neglected children safe while they reach a safe, permanent home.



**CASA**  
Court Appointed Special Advocates  
FOR CHILDREN

DENTON COUNTY

614 North Bell Ave.  
Denton, TX 76209



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Nonprofit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Denton, Texas  
Permit 1050



Cindy Reid  
Alicia Salas  
Dana Doran  
Cheri Frey  
Acheri Liden  
Paul Jensen  
Julie Reiff  
Brooke Moore  
Judson Baskin  
Mary Cantelero  
Pattie Huels  
Mary Howard