

SPRING
2024



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

DENTON COUNTY

The mission of CASA of Denton County, Inc. is to advocate for the best interests of children who have experienced abuse and neglect. Our trained and supported community volunteers build a strong, consistent relationship with each child and their family, promote community resources, and make informed recommendations to the court.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, April 5
Blue Friday

Friday, April 5
Cocktails for CASA
@ Andersons

Saturday, April 20
Kendra Scott
Gives Back Event

Sunday, April 28
Frisco Roughriders
CASA Benefit
Game

Friday, May 3
Pulling for Kids
Clay Shoot



**EVERY CHILD
HAS A CHANCE-
IT'S YOU!**

Attend one of
our upcoming
Info Sessions
to find out how you
can become a CASA.

DEDICATED TO THOSE MOST VULNERABLE



Catherine Tripp saw first-hand the impact CASAs had on children during her time working in law enforcement. When she left law enforcement and became a new stay-at-home mom, she knew she wanted to become a CASA. During her three years working as a CASA, Catherine has served on four cases, mostly all involving babies. When asked how her background helped her serve in this role, she didn't mention her time in law enforcement. Instead, she said she draws from being a mother, because

she advocates for these babies the way she would want someone to advocate for her own child if they ever needed it.

"I love to advocate for babies because I get to help them overcome hurdles and thrive. Because many of the children in my cases have been physically abused, they are more likely to have developmental delays. Making sure that an infant gets services like occupational and speech therapy can make the difference in overcoming adversity during these crucial development years."

Catherine was assigned to a case with a baby who had suffered significant trauma to the head and ribs without a plausible explanation from the parents. Because of his injuries, he needed numerous follow-up medical appointments and several different types of therapies. Neither parent acknowledged that he had any symptoms from his injuries, nor did they want him to receive any further treatment. CASA stood alone in this case, advocating for the newborn to remain in his placement so he could receive services that would help him heal and develop. The judge took CASA's recommendation, and because of this, several of the side effects from his injuries, including seizures and vision impairment, were resolved.

"I felt like I made a huge difference in his quality of life. Had CASA not advocated for this newborn, he would have been returned home at the beginning of the case and would have never had the opportunity to recover in a safe environment."

**“
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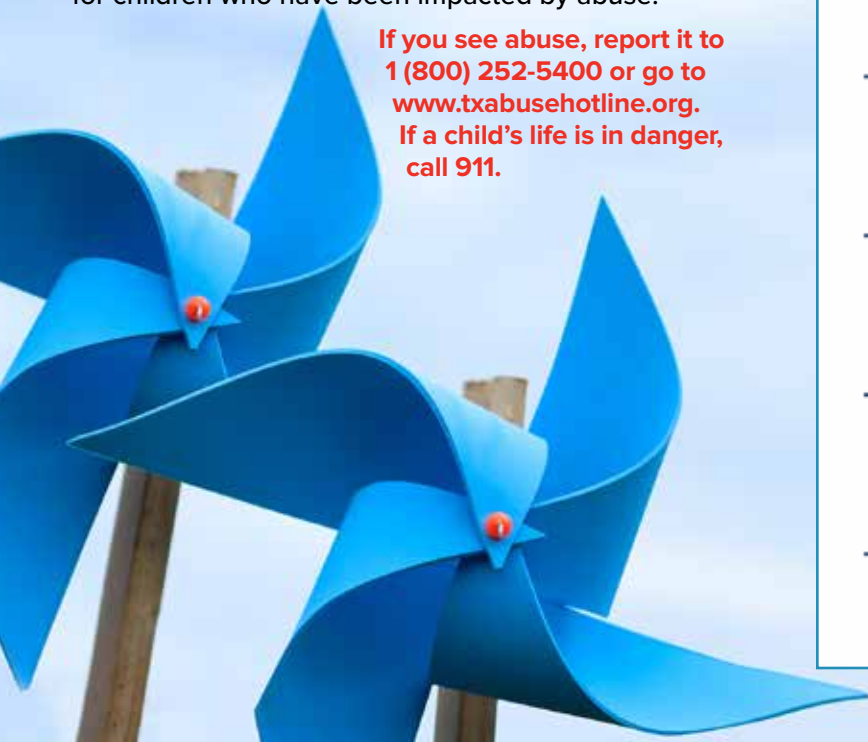
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WWW.CASADENTON.ORG

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month, and CASA of Denton County is raising awareness about how, with your help, we can work toward the goal of a safe and loving home for every child. Consider becoming a CASA advocate or participating in one of our community giveback events with local businesses to take a stand for children who have been impacted by abuse.

**If you see abuse, report it to 1 (800) 252-5400 or go to www.txabusehotline.org.
If a child's life is in danger, call 911.**



CASA OF DENTON COUNTY CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH EVENTS



05
APRIL

WEAR BLUE DAY

05
APRIL

COCKTAILS FOR CASA AT ANDERSON'S

10
APRIL

WAKE UP WEDNESDAY WITH DENTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

16/17
APRIL

INFO SESSIONS

20
APRIL

KENDRA SCOTT GIVEBACK EVENT

28
APRIL

BLUE SUNDAY

28
APRIL

CASA BENEFIT NIGHT AT FRISCO ROUGHRIDERS



SCAN TO LEARN MORE!



GIFT CARD DRIVE

Help us provide school supplies for kids!

In 2023, we were able to provide back-to-school needs and holiday gifts for over 310 children using gift cards from our summer and fall gift card drives—THANK YOU! We depend on gift cards to fund these experiences, and our gift card inventory is running low.

Please consider dropping off Target, Walmart, Mastercard, or Visa gift cards at our office or donate online at the link below!

Scan the QR code to donate to our gift card drive online!



COMMUNITY BASED CARE



Debbie Jensen
Executive Director

Legislature in 2017 but has been in the works in Texas for more than a decade.

We are accustomed to change – it's a constant in child welfare, but this transformation is hoped to bring about new services, more family involvement, and an increase in local placements for children affected by abuse and neglect. We all want our children to remain in their community, rather than being moved to other parts of the state. We are particularly excited to welcome growth at Cumberland Youth and Family Services as they develop foster, adoptive, and kinship homes locally.

CASA of Denton County has already formed a strong partnership with OCOK, and we look forward to growing that partnership as we work closely together. They have a lot of experience from their work in Tarrant County and other counties in our area from the earliest days of Community-Based Care.

During this time of yet more change, many children already in substitute care will need CASA more than ever. As systems around them transform,

these kids need someone to hold their history, someone who knows where they've been and what they have experienced. That someone will be one of our amazing CASA volunteers, who will continue their personalized advocacy for our community's youngest citizens, serving as Guardian ad Litem on each case that is assigned by Denton County District Courts.

We'll continue to get to know these children, their families, and those who are helping them develop and thrive despite trying circumstances. We'll continue studying medical reports, talking to therapeutic providers, and finding family members. We'll be at each court hearing, giving verbal testimony and submitting written court reports. We will make informed recommendations considering each child's best interests.

No matter what changes, we will be there for Denton County's vulnerable children, as we have for 32 years. Join us at this critical time for Denton County's future by attending an Info Session, following us on social media, or making a gift in support of our Fund A Child campaign.

In April, Denton County's child welfare system began a major shift to Community-Based Care. This means that a private non-profit entity, known as Our Community, Our Kids (OCOK), will take over certain aspects of the care for children affected by abuse and neglect. This overhaul of the way children's care is managed was authorized by the Texas



CASA KIDS NEED FUN

Having the opportunity to do fun activities is crucial to healthy social, emotional, and cognitive development of children in foster care.

- summer camp
- amusement parks
- field trips
- girl scouts
- soccer camp
- swim lessons

Can you help bring the FUN this summer?



Scan the QR code to donate to Care4Kids online!

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Thank you to our amazing local community businesses for supporting the mission of CASA of Denton County!



▲ Beaver Builders Playhouse Raffle raised over \$8,000 for us with their Playhouse Raffle.



➤ Mayor Richard Boyer of the Colony participated in the Mayoral Pizza Cookoff and designated CASA of Denton County as his beneficiary non-profit.



▲ Nothing Bundt Cakes of Denton donated 10% of their sales to us as the beneficiary of their birthday celebration.



▲ Heart Hospital of Denton collected over \$2,000 in gift cards for holiday gifts for CASA kids through their employee gift card drive.



< LJ Artisan Designs donated 10% of their December sales to us.



< Apartment Association of Greater Dallas donated \$1,914 for Halloween costume gift cards through their annual Costumes4Kids fundraiser.

24TH ANNUAL EVENING OF ELEGANCE

PRESENTED BY



The 24th Annual Evening of Elegance, presented by DATCU Credit Union, was a huge success. The event took place at the legendary BISTECCA Italian Steakhouse in Highland Village on October 29, 2023, and featured a wine reception and gourmet five-course meal prepared by Chef Morris Salerno and served by celebrity waiters -- Denton County elected officials. Some of CASA's favorite people were honored, including Judge Darlene Whitten, one of the original founders of CASA of Denton County. The evening raised over \$350,000 through the live auction and Fund a Child paddle raise, which kicked off the annual Fund a Child campaign.

PRESENTING SPONSOR

- DATCU

DIAMOND SPONSORS

- Ciera Bank
- Cima Solutions
- Irwin Steel
- Friends of Vail
- Furst Ranch
- VERUS

RUBY SPONSORS

- Dex Imaging
- First United Bank
- Netze Homes
- Rob Seay
- Wood Weatherly Trial Law



DEDICATED TO THOSE MOST VULNERABLE *continued from page 1*

As a seasoned expert in advocating for the needs of babies, including those with complex medical conditions, Catherine is now serving as a mentor for other advocates serving similar cases. Although every advocate is professionally supervised by a CASA Casework Supervisor, CASA has implemented a mentor program to provide an additional layer of support for new advocates.

"I was matched up as a mentor because a new advocate was serving on a medically complex case involving an infant. I support her by attending court hearings with her and helping her with potential placement visits. I'm here to help as little or as much as she needs. I'm also here to answer all of those strange or unusual questions that might come up in cases like this."

Although immensely rewarding, serving as a CASA can be challenging for volunteers. When asked how she perseveres to fight for what is best for these babies, Catherine says she learns about perseverance from the young children she serves.

"The kids are examples of perseverance. If they can persevere after what they've gone through, I certainly can. I have learned a lot from them. I can never imagine not being a CASA because these kids need us, and they deserve to have someone looking out for their best interests".

CASA of Denton County, Inc.
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info@casadenton.org



www.facebook.com/casadentontx

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. 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.



DENTON COUNTY

614 North Bell Ave.
Denton, TX 76209

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



PRESENTED BY

LeadsOnline

FRIDAY
05.03.24

ELM FORK
SHOOTING SPORTS
1075 LUNA RD
DALLAS TX 75220

7:30 AM
Breakfast &
Shooter
Registration

9 AM
Morning
Shoot Begins

11:30 AM
Lunch,
Morning Awards
& Afternoon
Registration

1 PM
Afternoon
Shoot Begins

4 PM
Dinner &
Awards

2 FLIGHTS
AT 9 AM & 1 PM

100 TARGETS

2 MEALS
INCLUDED

GUN RAFFLE

4-MAN TEAM

MAJOR
SPONSORS



BREAKFAST
PROVIDED BY



LUNCH
PROVIDED BY



DINNER
PROVIDED BY



Scan the QR code or visit
casadenton.org/pfk to learn more!
Sponsorship opportunities available.

Proceeds will benefit CASA of Denton County Inc. which trains
community volunteers to advocate for the best interests of
children who have experienced abuse and neglect.