

Fall 2025 • • • • •

# Friends of CASA Newsletter



**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

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**Oct. - Dec.**  
**Care4Kids Christmas  
Gift Card Drive**

**Oct. 26, 2025**  
**Evening of Elegance  
Presented by DATCU**

**Nov. - Dec.**  
**Fund a Child  
campaign**

**April 2026**  
**Child Abuse  
Prevention Month**

## SHOWING UP ANYWAY: Sheri Littrell's Bold Journey as a CASA Advocate



**Sheri Littrell**  
**CASA Volunteer**

When Sheri Littrell became a CASA advocate, she didn't know what to expect. She did know that there was a vulnerable group of kids, and she wanted to help. She admits there have been times during her CASA journey when she felt apprehensive—not knowing what behaviors or situations she would walk into, but she showed up anyway. "The unknown can be scary," she said, "but you do it anyway because that's what is needed."

That mindset is what makes Sheri a powerful advocate. Since 2022, she has served on five cases, each filled with complexity, trauma, and uncertainty. In one case, she supported two young boys who had been living in unstable conditions, bouncing between placements, and struggling with severe behavioral challenges. Sheri was there through every transition.

**"The unknown  
can be scary, but  
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what's needed."**

*Read more on page 3*



**Debbie Jensen**  
**Executive Director**

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In a world that often feels overwhelmed by uncertainty and hardship, hope is not just a feeling—it is a necessity. At CASA of Denton County, we believe hope begins with action, and our volunteer advocates are the ones who bring that light into the lives of children navigating the child welfare system.

This year's Evening of Elegance, themed "Illuminating Hope," is a celebration of those advocates and the supporters who make their work possible. On Sunday, October 26, at 6 p.m., we will gather at Bistecca, an Italian Steakhouse, to raise funds to support our Court Advocacy program and honor the people who bring light to children and families in their darkest moments.

As we see an increase in the number of cases referred to CASA, the need for advocacy continues to grow. As demand rises, so does the importance of shining light into the lives of children facing uncertainty. Our advocates are more than volunteers. They are consistent, compassionate voices for children who often feel unheard. Every donor, sponsor, and community partner who supports CASA is part of that light. Together, we illuminate paths toward healing, stability, and hope.

I invite you to join us for this special evening. Sponsorships and individual tickets are available at the **QR Code Below**. Your presence and support help us continue this vital work and remind every child we serve that they are not alone.

### 26th Annual EVENING OF ELEGANCE Illuminating Hope

Presented By  **DATCU**

*October 26, 2025*  
6 PM At Bistecca

### Join Us for an Evening Dedicated to Brighter Futures

Our 26th Annual Evening of Elegance is set for October 26, 2025 at Bistecca! This year's theme, *Illuminating Hope*, celebrates the unwavering support and advocacy CASA volunteers bring to children in the child welfare system, helping them light the way to a brighter future.

#### Guests will enjoy:

- An exclusive five-course menu
- A live auction with new and unique prizes
- Moving stories of impact

Together, we can shine a light on the children who need it most and give them hope for a better tomorrow.

**Scan the QR code** to reserve your spot and be part of this unforgettable night. Sponsorships and tickets are limited!





## NORTH TEXAS GIVING DAY

Every year, charities across North Texas call on local philanthropists to fund their critical work. This year, our CASA supporters helped us meet our goal and raise \$50,970 for North Texas Giving Day- Thank you! Huge thanks to Jerry Lincecum (in memory of Brian Jensen), Dana and James Shay, and our Board of Directors for matching gifts that doubled your impact.



## From the Cover: SHOWING UP ANYWAY

She visited them in moments when they felt scared and alone. She brought crafts, stickers, and comfort. She brought consistency and care.

One of her most impactful moments came when a child's placement was about to fall through. Sheri didn't wait for someone else to solve the problem. She picked up the phone and tracked down extended family in another state, who were thrilled to reconnect and welcomed the child into a loving, permanent home. That connection had been sitting on a list, but Sheri made it real.

Her story is a reminder that being a CASA is not about having all the answers. It's about being willing to take the next step, even when the path is unclear. That same principle applies to CASA of Denton County.

We don't know what the ever-changing child welfare system will look like in the future, what funding will continue to be available, or how many children will experience abuse and need a CASA. We do know that we must be ready to move forward with courage and purpose. Just like Sheri, we must be bold enough to step in and say, "I'll be there."

And we don't do it alone. When our community walks alongside us by volunteering or donating, we are empowered to meet uncertainty with action. Together, we can ensure that every child who needs a CASA has someone like Sheri who will show up, no matter what.

## HANDBAGS FOR HOPE

### PRESENTED BY



Wood Weatherly  
TRIAL LAW

The inaugural Handbags for Hope presented by Wood Weatherly Trial

Law was held on July 26, 2025 at Sparrow on Main in Lewisville. Guests were treated to brunch bites and six exciting rounds of bingo to win luxury handbags.

Thanks to our generous Sponsors and event donors, this event raised over \$40,000 to help fund our court advocacy program.





## FUND A CHILD

Our Fund a Child campaign helps ensure children navigating the child welfare system after abuse and neglect have a dedicated advocate by their side. It costs approximately \$2,500 to provide one year of advocacy for a child. Your gift can be the light in their darkest chapter.

Donate today to change a child's story.



## PULLING FOR KIDS

PRESENTED BY  LEADSONLINE

On May 2, 2025, we held our **24th Annual Pulling for Kids** sporting clay tournament presented by LeadsOnline. Teams, sponsors and volunteers gathered at Elm Fork Shooting Sports for a day of friendly competition and fundraising. The event was a monumental success, raising over \$218,000. These funds will go directly towards our mission of providing trained and supported CASA volunteers as they amplify the voices of children who have been impacted by abuse or neglect.

Though the weather was dreary, attitudes were anything but! Competitors enjoyed a day of competition, delicious food, and exciting new raffle and auction items. Thank you to all attendees, volunteers, and donors for making this event possible.



**Presenting Sponsor**  
LeadsOnline

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**Dinner Sponsor**  
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REDLEE/SCS, Inc.

**High Velocity Sponsors**  
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**For children in temporary state custody,** so much of life feels uncertain. Through our *Care4Kids Fund*, you can help provide stability, joy, and normalcy for the children we serve. Care4Kids is reserved exclusively for the direct needs of children, whether that's clothes, school supplies, or, during the holidays, gifts that bring them comfort and joy. Your donation makes a meaningful difference. Scan the QR Code to make a gift and help bring joy and normalcy into children's lives.



## Welcome, New Advocates

Congratulations to our new advocates for completing their advocate training and being sworn in as CASA Volunteers!

# CASA IN THE COMMUNITY



**Robson Ranch Kiwanis Club** made a contribution to our Care4Kids fund.



**Enterprise Holdings** donated bicycles to be given to children on our cases.



**Cross Timbers Rotary Club** funded our court advocacy program with a \$2,000 grant.

## ARE YOU PART OF A COMMUNITY CLUB, GROUP, OR ORGANIZATION?

Have CASA of Denton County as a speaker at your next meeting! Email [bhartung@casadenton.org](mailto:bhartung@casadenton.org) for more information.

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**DENTON COUNTY**

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CASA of Denton County is a member agency of Texas CASA, Inc., The National CASA Association, and the United Way of Denton County.



## STAY IN TOUCH!



## VOLUNTEER INFO SESSIONS

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

Join us for a one-hour Info Session to discover how you can make a lasting impact in a child's life. We offer three sessions each month: two in person at the CASA office and one virtual via Zoom. These sessions are the first step toward becoming a volunteer advocate and also share other meaningful ways to support CASA of Denton County.

Visit [casadenton.org](http://casadenton.org) for additional dates and times.

### In-person Dates

November 4 at noon & 6 PM  
December 16 at noon & 6 PM

### Virtual Dates

November 19 at 5:30 PM  
December 17 at 5:30 PM

**SCAN  
TO RSVP**

