

Spring 2026 • • • • •

Friends of CASA Newsletter



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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April

Child Abuse
Prevention Month

• • • • •
May 1

25th Annual Pulling
for Kids presented by
LeadsOnline

June 13

Handbags for Hope
presented by
Irwin Steel

October 25

Evening of Elegance

BUILDING BRIGHTER FUTURES: Fern Ramsey's commitment to showing up for children as a **CASA Volunteer**.



Fern Ramsey
CASA Volunteer

Fern Ramsey was sworn in as a CASA Volunteer this February, but her journey with CASA started over 5 years ago. She first learned about CASA in 2020, and the mission stayed with her. "It was always in the back of my mind," Fern shared. "I knew I would make it a priority when the time was right."

Fern saw a need for stronger community support for children and realized that anybody can carve out some time to make a difference — including her. So, after years of consideration, she decided the time was now and took

the steps to become a CASA Advocate.

Like many new volunteers, Fern felt some hesitation at first. She worried about navigating a process that can be complex and different for each case, but she leaned in despite her hesitation.

Read more inside

**"When you help
a child, you help
the community,
because we are
all connected"**



Debbie Jensen
Executive Director

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

On Friday, May 1, the **25th Annual Pulling for Kids Sporting Clay Tournament presented by LeadsOnline** and co-chaired by Rick Cain and Kyle Blalock will mark a powerful milestone: a quarter century of community members coming together to change the trajectory of the lives of children in Denton County who are in the child welfare system. What began as a grassroots effort by Chief Russ Kerbow and Steve Kuzmich has grown into one of the region’s most impactful annual fundraisers—raising more than \$1.5 million over the past 24 years.

This incredible achievement belongs to the countless volunteers, sponsors, and participants who have shown up year after year with generosity and heart. From dedicated planning committee members

and team captains to corporate partners and first-time donors, each person has played a vital role in building an event that directly supports children who need the stability of a volunteer advocate and the hope of a brighter, more secure future. Their commitment has helped fund volunteer recruitment, training, and critical support services that make a meaningful difference in young lives.

As we celebrate 25 years of impact, we also look ahead with purpose. What better way to honor this milestone 25th year than by raising \$250,000—funds that will further strengthen programs serving children and their families across Denton County? Reaching this goal will require the same spirit of collaboration and compassion that has defined Pulling for Kids since day one.

Anniversaries are a time to reflect, but they are also a time to recommit. Every sponsorship secured, every team registered, and every dollar raised represents a tangible investment in a child’s future. Together, we are not just hosting an event—we are building brighter tomorrows, not just for the children served by CASA, but for Denton County itself, because our future lies with our children.

Join us on Friday, May 1, at Northlake Shooting Sports as we celebrate 25 years of pulling together for kids—and help us make this milestone year the most impactful yet!



FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2026

Northlake Shooting Sports
13055 Cleveland Gibbs Rd
Northlake, TX 76262

Morning and Afternoon Flights Available

Scan the QR code
to view sponsorships or
reserve your team!



From the Cover: **BUILDING BRIGHTER FUTURES**

Even when inclement weather limited some in-person instruction time, Fern stayed engaged. She asked questions, connected with staff and built relationships with fellow advocates. "The training prepares you," she says, "the staff is there for support, and there is always someone who can direct you to the right place."

Fern believes in the power of community. Drawing from her experience as a facilitator for a local mom's group, she saw how both parents and children thrive when they feel connected and supported. "Sometimes, kids don't realize that they have a community," says Fern, "and we can help find the community for those kids."

For Fern, serving as a CASA means stepping up when a child's life has been turned upside down and helping connect them with people who care. "Most people want to help, they just don't know how," she said.

Fern believes that when children receive steady support from their friends, family, and community, that stability carries over into every other part of their lives, from school and friendships to future jobs and opportunities. When volunteers like Fern step forward, they don't just impact one case; they create ripple effects that extend far beyond the courtroom. "When you help a child, you help the community," Fern says, "because we are all connected."

If you've ever wondered whether you have the ability to make a difference, Fern's story is proof that you do. The right time might be now, and one 'yes' can make lasting impact on a child's life. We call this "The CASA Effect."



Care
4KIDS

Presented by



CARE4KIDS FUND **Presented by Exeter Finance**

For children in temporary state custody, life can change in an instant, but small moments of stability can make a lasting impact. Through the *Care4Kids fund presented by Exeter Finance*, you can help meet the immediate needs of the children we serve, bringing comfort, and a sense of normalcy during uncertain times. Care4Kids supports children directly by providing essentials like clothing, school supplies, and special items that make them feel cared for.

Scan the QR code to give today and help create brighter days for children who need it most!



CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month, and we are proud to raise awareness about child abuse and neglect throughout our community. Prevention begins with awareness, but lasting change happens when we come together to support children and families year-round.

You can help. Make an impact beyond April by supporting our Fund a Child campaign. Your donation helps ensure children experiencing abuse or neglect have a dedicated advocate and the support they need to thrive.

To get involved or schedule a speaker, email Beth Potter at bpotter@casadenton.org



EVENING OF ELEGANCE ILLUMINATING HOPE

Presented by  **DATCU**

On October 26, 2025, we gathered some of our closest friends and supporters at Bistecca for the **26th Annual Evening of Elegance presented by DATCU!** Staying true to the evening's theme, guests came together to illuminate hope for children in our community. Thanks to our sponsors, attendees, and dedicated supporters, the event raised over \$470,000 to benefit CASA's mission and the children we serve. The evening was a beautiful reminder of what is possible when our community unites around a shared goal—ensuring every child has the opportunity for a brighter future.

Save the date for this year's event on October 25 at Bistecca!

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS!

Presenting Sponsor



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CASA of Denton County, Inc.
Phone: 940.243.2272
Fax: 940.243.1605
www.casadenton.org



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!



CASADentonTX



CASA_Denton



CASA of Denton County, Inc.



BECOME A CASA VOLUNTEER

We need CASA Volunteers! Will you answer the call?

Each year, our volunteers serve hundreds of children in our community affected by abuse and neglect. Start your journey towards becoming a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Volunteer by attending a one-hour Info Sessions.

We hold several Info Sessions each month to provide an introduction to CASA and serve as a starting point for anyone who wants to be a CASA volunteer!

**SCAN THE QR TO
VIEW UPCOMING
INFO SESSIONS AND
TO RSVP!**

