

THE NEWS

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month



Words from the Executive Director

BY TOMMY EDWARDS

Springtime is right around the corner, bringing new perspectives and hope. As adults, we look at time in a variety of ways, often depending on the stage of life we are in. Our children, especially those in foster care, see time differently. In the past during our preservice training, we used an audio 911 call during the training made by a young girl named Lisa. Lisa's mother was in an abusive relationship and at that time Lisa was six years old. Lisa had two younger siblings she mentions during the 911 call. Listening to the call it is easy to distinguish the fear, frustration and anxiety in Lisa's voice.

At one point during the call Lisa says to the 911 operator "this has been going on forever and ever". That statement by Lisa will remain with me for the rest of my life. To know that she felt that she has been in this dysfunctional family situation for her entire life is terrible. Regardless of society's efforts, an experience such as Lisa's will have a lifelong impact on the child.

As concerned citizens and caring adults we have a unique opportunity to invest our time and efforts in making our community and world a safer place. I would love for society to be able to eradicate child abuse and neglect. As we all know this proves to be a challenge, but it is a challenge that we should put our time, skills, and resources toward. I encourage you to find an organization that you feel comfortable investing your time and effort in to help that organization improve the quality of life for our children. CASA of West CenLA is constantly recruiting community volunteers to advocate for the Best Interest of Children in Foster Care.

We would love to speak to you or someone you know to tell them about the incredible work that CASA Advocates have done, are doing and will continue to do in the future. Become the voice for a child in Foster Care by contacting CASA of West CenLA Today.

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Supervisor Tips

BY BETH WILCOX AND JESSICA WALTER

We can change the world and make it a better place. It is in our hands to make a difference!

~Nelson Mandela

Organizational Tips & Tricks for CASAs

CASA Role Breakdown



Task Prioritization

	Not Urgent	Urgent
Important	<p><u>SCHEDULE IT</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">These tasks are important but not time sensitive.Put these on your calendar with realistic deadlines.	<p><u>DO IT</u></p> <p>Focus on these tasks first.</p> <p>They are both time sensitive and add value.</p>
Not Important	<p><u>LEAVE IT (FOR THE END)</u></p> <p>Try to avoid doing tasks that are neither urgent nor important.</p> <p>These are tasks we sometimes add on as "distractions" from our bigger responsibilities. They ultimately add stress as they push off other tasks.</p>	

casawestcenla.org

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DeRidder, LA 70634

113 S. 3rd Street
Leesville, LA 71446

All About Training

Pre-Service Training:

Pre-service training refers to training that takes place before a person becomes a sworn advocate. It prepares individuals to be confident and informed volunteers. You will learn about the four main focuses for volunteers. You will be the 'eyes and ears' for the judges.

When a volunteer completes their pre-service training they will have all the tools in their toolbelt that they need to advocate confidently and appropriately.

- Interview to gather the current facts thoroughly as a fact-finder for the judge.
- Advocate for the child's best interest by providing a factual written report to the judge and speaking for the child in the courtroom.
- Facilitate communication in the case between all parties involved.
- Monitor the case to ensure the services and orders of the court are being adhered to until case completion.



In-Service Training

Advocates must have a minimum of 12 continuing education hours each calendar year (January 1 – December 31). This is what we call in-service training. In-service maintains and expands on the knowledge and skills acquired during pre-service training.

There are a variety of ways an advocate can earn the 12 hours of in-service training needed. CASA of West CenLA offers 10 trainings a year in person. The only

months that CASA does not offer in-service training is July and December. Our trainings offer enlightenment into the roles of other child welfare stakeholders, mental health, human trafficking, and a large variety of other trainings. Volunteers can read books, watch movies, videos, or podcasts relating to true life experiences families may endure to help earn hours. We are always looking for new and interesting speakers for our in-service trainings.

"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted."

~Aesop



Upcoming CASA Events

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. During the month of April 2024 CASA of West CenLA will plant pinwheels all around Beauregard and Vernon Parishes. We will sign Proclamations with Mayors in both parishes, declaring April 2024 as Child Abuse Prevention Month in their town. Please join us at one , or more, of our scheduled plantings. Our planting calendar is below.



*Everyone can do
simple things to
make a difference,
and every little bit
really does count.*

~Stella McCartney

April Pinwheel Planting Schedule		
April 1	VP DCFS	10am
April 1	VPPJ	1pm
April 1	Simpson	5:45pm
April 2	VP Library	11am
April 3	KJAE Radio	1pm
April 3	DeRidder	11am
April 4	VPSB	11am
April 4	Hornbeck	1pm
April 8	Leesville	2:45pm
April 8	BHS	11am
April 8	Anacoco	6pm
April 9	BP Library	10am
April 9	New Llano	1pm
April 9	BPPJ	3pm
April 15	BPSB	10am
April 16	Rosepine	2pm

CASA of West CenLA
Advocate Appreciation

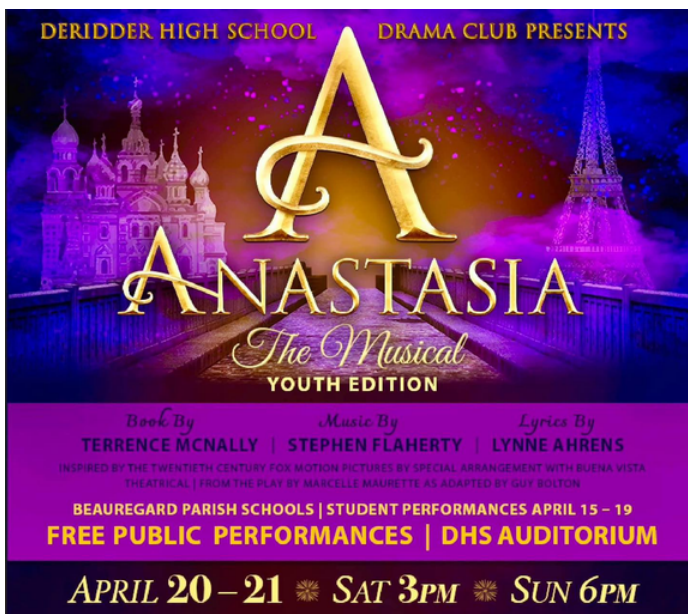
April 18, 2024
5:30pm - 8:30pm
St. Michaels Church
Leesville, LA
Western Themed -
Western Wear Optional

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Upcoming Community Events

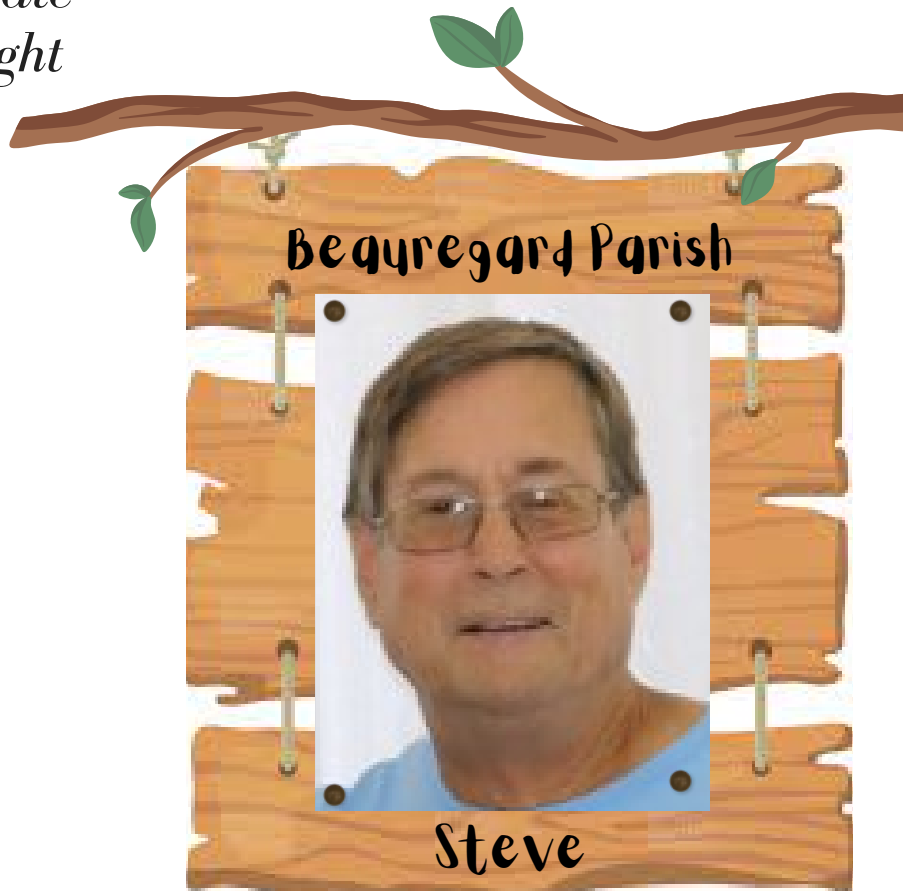


To make a difference in someone's world, you don't have to be amazing, rich, talented, beautiful, or perfect. You just have to be YOU and CARE.

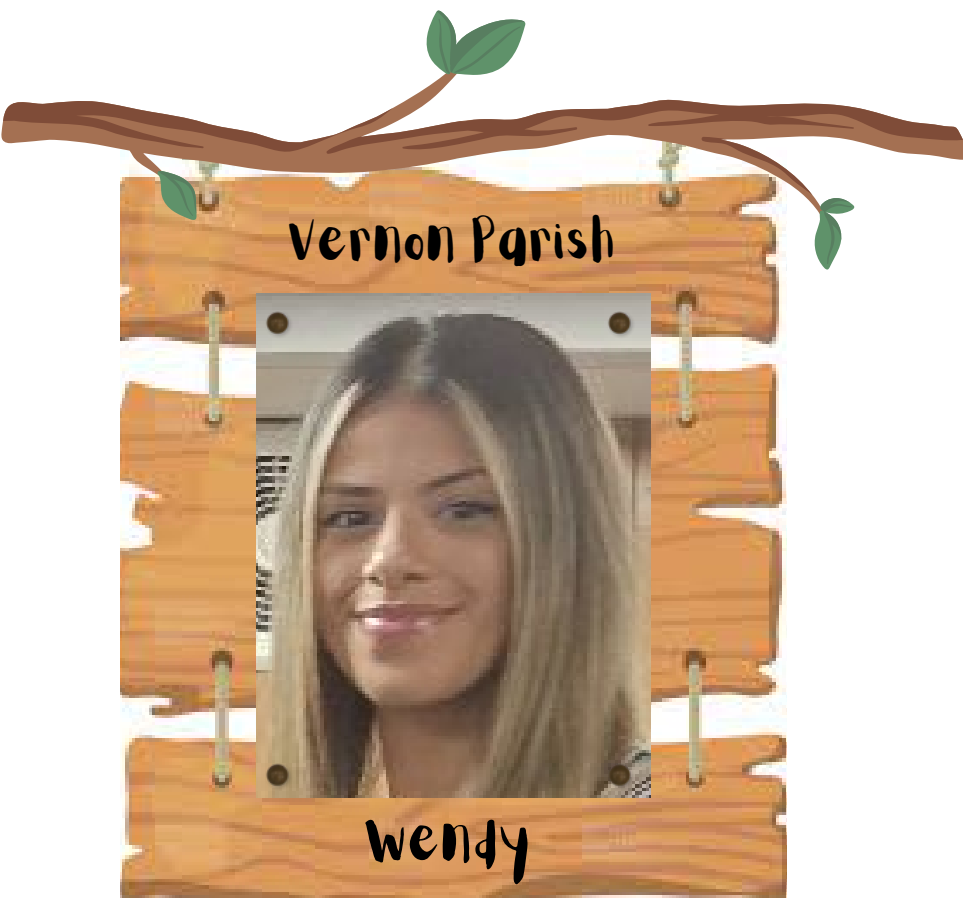
~Rebecca Fox



*Advocate
Spotlight*



*"You may only
be ONE person
BUT you can be
ONE person who
makes a
DIFFERENCE!"*



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