



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

CASA OF WEST CENLA

The News

October 2025



In this Issue

Words from the Director
Supervisor Tips
Training
What's Happening
Red Ribbon Week
October Fun Days
Halloween Safety
Myths and Facts
Spotlights
Snapshot

Our Local Offices

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Websites

casawestcenla.org
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For more information
please scan the QR code





From the Director

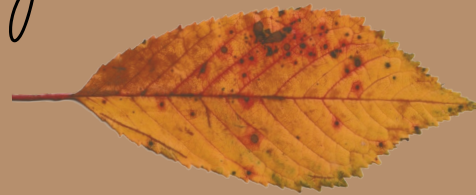
As we move through the seasons of life, one truth remains clear: family and meaningful connections are at the heart of who we are. In the midst of our busy lives, it's often the simple, shared moments—laughing around the dinner table, reading a bedtime story, or taking a walk together—that become the cherished memories we hold onto for years to come.

For children, especially those in foster care, these moments of connection are more than just comforting—they are essential. Positive memories help build a sense of belonging, resilience, and hope. They remind children that they are loved, valued, and never alone, no matter what challenges they may face.

Whether you're a parent, caregiver, or someone who supports families from afar, thank you for being part of a community that believes every child deserves a chance to make joyful, lasting memories.

Let's continue to create those moments—big or small—that children will carry in their hearts for a lifetime. Please contact the CASA of West CenLA staff if you would like information on our mission.

~Tommy



Supervisor Tips

Utilize Your Support System

Contact your supervisor:

- Your Advocate Supervisor is there to guide you, help you understand the foster care system, and provide support when you're unsure. Don't hesitate to call them, as they are a key resource for navigating your case.

Build relationships:

- Develop strong working relationships with the professionals on the case team, such as caretakers, social workers, teachers, counselors, and medical providers.
- Maintain a Team-Oriented Approach

Communicate openly:

- Stay in regular contact with the entire team involved in the child's life. This teamwork allows for a more unified and effective approach to supporting the child's needs.

Attend meetings:

- Participate in court hearings, case reviews, and child and family team meetings to stay informed and advocate for the child's best interests.

Practice Confidentiality:

- Memorize a phrase you can comfortably repeat to teachers, foster parents and neighbors who genuinely want to know how a child is doing: "I'm so sorry that I can't give you that information. I can see that you need it. Please speak to the social worker about this."
- Because our cases can involve dangerous or criminal behavior, names and addresses of caretakers should never be disclosed in order to keep the child and caregivers safe.
- When a case is closed or you are no longer on the case, make certain that your files get back to the program. Your trash or recycling bin does not meet confidentiality requirements.



Supervisor Tips

Focus on Your Well-being

Set realistic expectations:

- Understand that you are one person on a large team, and there will be complex cases. It's important to acknowledge your boundaries and limitations.

Prioritize self-care:

- While making a difference is fulfilling, it's crucial to take care of yourself. This includes setting boundaries and recognizing that you're doing your best.

Remember your training:

- You don't have to remember everything from training, but know that your program provides ongoing support and resources, ensuring you won't be alone.
- Embrace Growth and Impact

Embrace personal growth:

- Volunteering with CASA is a great opportunity to develop strong communication and advocacy skills, which benefit both your professional and personal life.

Focus on positive contributions:

- Recognize the positive impact you have by helping to build trust, foster connections for the child, and provide valuable information to the judge.

Celebrate accomplishments:

- Take time to celebrate milestones with your program, such as graduation ceremonies and volunteer appreciation events.





Harvest the lessons from every season

Training

In-Service

October 16, 2025

5:30pm

Location TBD

November 20, 2025

5:30pm

Location TBD

Pre-Service

October 7, 2025

Session 4

5:30pm - 8:45pm

October 14, 2025

Session 5

5:30pm - 8:45pm

Upcoming Pre-Service Classes

1/13/2026 - 2/7/2026

3/10/2026 - 4/14/2026

5/5/2026 - 6/9/2026

9/8/2026 - 10/13/2026

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October

What's Happening Beauregard

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	29	30 Beauregard Parish Fair	1 Beauregard Parish Fair	2 Beauregard Parish Fair	3 Beauregard Parish Fair	4 Beauregard Parish Fair
	6	7	8	9	10	11 Worship in the Boot 5pm
12	13 Columbus Day	14 Women in Business Luncheon 11am	15	16	17	18 Fall in Love with DeRidder Main Street 10am
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 Together We Can Conference	28 Together We Can Conference	29 Together We Can Conference	30	31 Halloween	1



October

What's Happening Vernon

20
25

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	29	30	1 Vernon Parish Fair	2 Vernon Parish Fair Lions Club Rodeo	3 Vernon Parish Fair Lions Club Rodeo	4 Vernon Parish Fair Lions Club Rodeo
5 Vernon Parish Fair	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13 Columbus Day	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 Derby Daze Soapbox 8am
26	27 Together We Can Conference	28 Together We Can Conference	29 Together We Can Conference	30	31 Halloween Witch Way to Main & Giggles and Ghouls Movie Night 5:30pm	

LIFE IS A
PUZZLE,
SOLVE IT
DRUG
FREE



RED RIBBON WEEK® OCTOBER 23-31
WWW.REDRIBBON.ORG



Red Ribbon Week

October 23 - 31, 2025



October Fun Days

Oct 1

International Coffee Day

Balloons Around the World Day

Oct 3

World Smile Day

Oct 4

Card Making Day

Taco Day

Oct 6

Mad Hatter Day

Oct 7

Frappe Day

Oct 8

Pierogi Day

Oct 9

Curious Events Day

Oct 10

Handbag Day

Oct 11

It's My Party Day

Oct 12

Old Farmers Day

Oct 13

International Skeptics Day

Oct 15

I Love Lucy Day

Oct 16

Dictionary Day

Oct 17

Wear Something Gaudy Day

Oct 18

Chocolate Cupcake Day

Sweetest Day

Oct 20

International Sloth Day

Oct 24

Bologna Day

Oct 25

Sourest Day

Oct 26

Howl at the Moon Day and Night

Oct 28

International Animation Day

Oct 30

Candy Corn Day

Oct 31

Magic Day





Halloween Safety Tips



For Trick-or-Treaters

Be Visible:

- Wear bright-colored costumes with reflective tape, and carry a flashlight or glow sticks to help motorists see you.

Walk Safely:

- Stay on sidewalks, use crosswalks, and walk in groups or with a trusted adult. For kids under 12, an adult should accompany them.

Check Candy:

- Wait until you get home to inspect all candy for tampering or choking hazards. Throw out any opened or homemade treats.

Stay Safe:

- Avoid masks that obstruct vision, and don't enter strangers' homes or vehicles.

For Drivers

Slow Down:

- Reduce your speed in residential areas and watch for children who may dart into the street.

Be Alert:

- Turn on your headlights and be especially careful in intersections.

Watch for Pedestrians:

- Scan the roads, medians, and curbs for trick-or-treaters, and look carefully when backing out of driveways.

For Everyone

Review Fire Safety:

- Know the "stop, drop, and roll" procedure in case a costume catches fire.

Test Makeup:

- If using Halloween makeup, test a small area first and remove it before children go to bed.

Carry a Phone:

- Keep a fully charged phone with you for communication.





Myths and Facts about CASA

1) Myth: Relevant experience or degree is needed

Fact: Some people believe that you must have a specific degree in social work or related fields, but this is not a prerequisite for volunteering with CASA. While backgrounds in these areas may be helpful, it is not at all necessary.

In fact, CASA provides comprehensive, free training to all prospective volunteers to build understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the position, the inner-workings of the dependency system, cultural sensitivity, childhood development, and the impact of trauma on children, amongst a range of other topics. The key requirements to be an effective CASA are to be a consistent, reliable, trusted adult in the life of a child. Equally important is the ability to deal with complex situations with compassion and without judgment.

2) Myth: Volunteers are typically middle-aged, white, and affluent

Fact: While retirement and an “empty nest” provides an opportunity for many to volunteer, CASA volunteers come from a very diverse background.

CASA recognizing the importance of advocates who represent the culture and ethnicity of the youth who are served. Volunteers come from various racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds, and span a broad range of ages, all united by their shared commitment to advocating for children in need.

3) Myth: Being a CASA is a consistently rewarding experience

Fact: Being a CASA provides deep satisfaction for volunteers who see the impact they are making in the life of a child. However, not every moment of CASA service brings immediate gratification. Volunteers often face challenges where their efforts may not yield immediate positive outcomes.



Myths and Facts about CASA

While the responsibilities of a CASA often involve navigating complex situations and advocating for children in difficult circumstances, every CASA volunteer is always under the careful supervision of a CASA Advocate Supervisor. Advocate Supervisors are CASA staff members who provide guidance and support every step of the way including joining their advocates for every court appearance. The CASA journey is filled with successes and setbacks due to the many challenges faced by the youth who are served, but most CASA volunteers report a deep sense of meaning and purpose in what they do and many say it's the most rewarding work they've ever done.

4) Myth: Younger volunteers may experience ageism

Fact: Some prospective volunteers assume that being an effective CASA requires being a certain age and having tremendous life experience. However, younger volunteers, often in their early twenties, report their age is an asset in developing a bond with their youth.

Youth in foster care are surrounded by so many adult “authority figures,” that a younger volunteer, who's closer in age, is often a welcome relief. Younger CASAs report sharing many of the same interests as their youth including playing video games, hiking and enjoying sports together.

5) Myth: Volunteers must have a deep understanding of the foster care system

Fact: Some prospective CASA volunteers share a concern that they don't fully understand the complexities of the foster care system and should defer to professionals. Before being matched with a youth, every CASA goes through comprehensive training which provides an overview of the dependency system. Once being sworn-in, every CASA is accompanied, throughout their journey as a volunteer, by a CASA staff member appointed to be their Advocate Supervisor.



Myths and Facts about CASA

While professionals play a crucial role in the foster care system, CASA volunteers provide special one-on-one attention and advocacy for a child that is not provided anywhere else in their lives. Many children are profoundly moved to learn that their CASA is a volunteer who chooses to spend time with them, and often the only adult in their life who is not being paid to be with them.

6) Myth: Being a CASA is too big of a commitment

Fact: The traditional CASA volunteer role matches an advocate with a youth in the foster care system. This typically involves visits at least one time per month scheduled at times that are convenient for both the advocate, the youth, and the caretaker. Because children in foster care experience so much disruption in their lives due to frequent changes in their placements, schools, friends and social workers, CASA volunteers are asked to dedicate two years to the program.

Separating fact from fiction when considering this very special volunteer opportunity will help potential advocates better understand the important role of a CASA. Learn more by contacting us to schedule a time to come in and talk with us about the CASA program.

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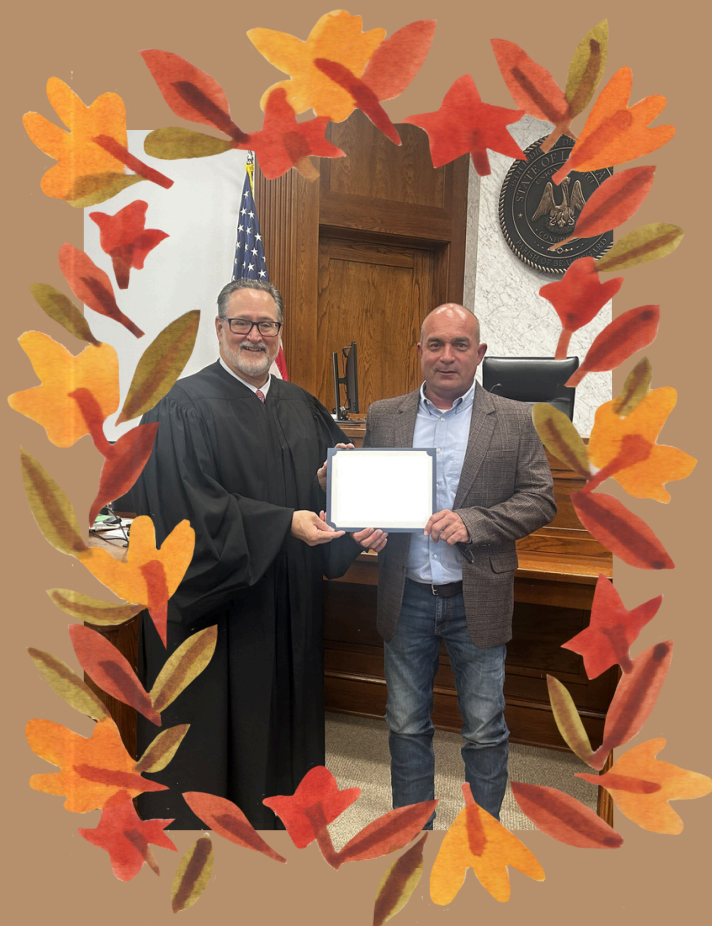
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Spotlights

Welcome to the Team
Kevin!

Thank you Judge
Anderson!



Board Member
Laura





Snapshot

A Snapshot is a quick look at what we are doing at
CASA of West CenLA



2024

**Children
Served**

82

Cases

56

**Children Served
Under Age 10**

47

Advocates

42

**2025 to
Present**

**Children
Served**

69

Cases

40

**Children Served
Under Age 10**

56

Advocates

45



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