



# CASA CONNECTION

Court Appointed Special Advocates

*Spring 2022 Update*

## Superhero 5K Fun Run

**APRIL 30, 2022 • 8:30AM • ACU CAMPUS**

Superhero costumes encouraged!

Children and pets welcome!

We are looking forward to runners from all over the Big Country joining us for this fun annual "chip-timed" 5K event! This year we have something special just for the kids: Chase the Villain! All children 11 and under are invited to participate in their own race as they try to catch our Villains! Free children's games, jump castles, and special guest appearances from Spiderman, Superman and Wonder Woman will make for a very fun morning! Whether you are a serious runner racing for your best time or a family full of kids out to have some great together time, we hope you will join us for what promises to be a Super-Duper day!

To register or sponsor this event, go to [BigCountryCASA.org](http://BigCountryCASA.org) or contact us at 325-677-6448 or [info@bigcountrycasa.org](mailto:info@bigcountrycasa.org).



## Abilene Gives

Join us on May 3rd for Abilene Gives, a community-wide day of giving in support of local non-profits! This fundraiser is especially important to CASA as it provides critical support for operations. We have peer-to-peer social network opportunities to help recruit the people in your life to join in Big Country CASA's mission and commitment to faithfully serve the foster children of Taylor County. To find out more, please visit [AbileneGives.org](http://AbileneGives.org) and search "Big Country CASA" or email [laurenanderson@bigcountrycasa.org](mailto:laurenanderson@bigcountrycasa.org).



## EVERYDAY ADVOCACY

CASA volunteers advocate for children inside the court room and in the community. This advocacy can be diverse, from speaking with teachers to testifying in court. Below is just a small glimpse of the work that advocates do every day.

Since September 1, 2021, the start of BCC's fiscal year, CASA volunteers have accomplished the following:

**247**

court hearings

**566**

face-to-face child contacts

**398**

contacts with parents

**1,205**

contacts with children's placements

**377**

instances of educational advocacy

## FOSTER CARE SIMULATION

On February 21, Big Country CASA partnered with child welfare agencies from Taylor County to host a Foster Care Simulation for key community members and partners. This simulation gave individuals the opportunity to take on the roles of a child, parent, foster parent, or support agency to channel their resiliency in making it through the foster system and achieving the best possible outcomes. It was a great time to come together as a community in order to better equip all of us to serve the children of Taylor County!



## RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING

Be on the lookout for Big Country CASA's new coffee sleeves that can be found all over town! We are thankful to Abilene's local coffee shops for helping us recruit more volunteers through this promotion. If you see our sleeves, please take a photo and tag us on social media @BigCountryCASA.

Next volunteer training begins March 17. Apply today at [bigcountrycasa.org](http://bigcountrycasa.org)!



## KEY CONNECTIONS

Key Connections is an event hosted by Judges Paul Rotenberry and April Propst and coordinated by Big Country CASA. This event brings together Attorneys, Child Welfare workers and stakeholders to share, learn and collaborate. The keynote speaker this year was Dr. Martin Irwin, who has done extensive research on psychotropic medications, particularly among foster youth. He shared insight on advocating for children who are prescribed psychotropic medications and who have experienced extensive trauma. Taylor County Child Protection Court Judge April Propst moderated a legal panel who answered questions from attendees. CASA is grateful to be a part of this wonderful day of training and learning!



## PARTNERSHIP WITH ACU STUDENTS

CASA is currently partnering with the Social Work, Graphic Design and English departments at Abilene Christian University! Two ACU social work students are interning with CASA this year. Additionally, a class of technical writing students from ACU is working to write two grant requests. These grants will bring in funding crucial to continuing our recruitment and training efforts as we seek to serve 100% of Taylor County's children in foster care!



## BIRTHDAY CAKES



We are so thankful for the support of Southern Hills Church and the children there who raised the funds for CASA to give our kids birthday treats. We are using these funds to provide children served by CASA a birthday cake for the coming year! McKay's Bakery has generously committed to providing cakes to us at a heavily discounted price.

## INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CASA VOLUNTEER?

Check out more at our website:  
[BIGCOUNTRYCASA.ORG](http://BIGCOUNTRYCASA.ORG)

325-677-6448  
[BigCountryCASA.org](http://BigCountryCASA.org)  
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