

What's Going on at Big Country CASA?

At CASA our DEI committee is working diligently to put together a tool kit for recourses for our advocates! With topics ranging from health and beauty to aging out of care.

In our efforts to compile these resources, we decided to ask our advocates because they are already aware of some of these resources!

A survey will be sent out to our volunteers and we would encourage you all to fill in different places, websites, books, videos, articles...anything you feel would be beneficial for each of the categories stated.

Please feel free to email danaward@bigcountrycasa.org if you have any suggestions on other categories or questions about the survey.

Keep an eye out for the survey in your email!



Please reach out to staff and supervisors if you are feeling overwhelmed or in need of assistance!

Hello, SUMMER!

This summer, if you're headed to the swimming pool, help keep kids safe through constant supervision, teaching kids how to swim, keeping kids away from drains, and learning CPR. Learn more at www.poolsafely.gov.



Spotlight!

Gordon brings a unique blend of experience to his role as an advocate supervisor. Since the day he came on staff in June of 2021, his skills gained in the military, his educational background as a teacher and principal, and his



experience running a non-profit organization have given him what it takes to supervise 23 volunteers who work 26 cases—serving 46 children— in addition to working two cases of his own. One of his advocates, Roseann Seelke, says, "Gordon is great! He's always there for his advocates and goes above and beyond to support us as we work our cases." Gordon's program supervisor, Sandra Shirey, continues to be impressed with his ability to calmly and methodically complete all the tasks necessary to keep his advocates on track to serve these vulnerable children. "Gordon's presence in court, always in a tie and jacket, brings professionalism and dignity to the proceedings. He has a quiet, questioning manner which invites children to open up to him. His years working with parents and children in a middle school setting have definitely prepared him for this role." Way to go Gordon!

Dolly's Imagination Library:



United Way of Abilene is thrilled to bring Imagination Library to children 0-5 years of age in Taylor County.

All children whose parent or guardian enroll them in the program will receive a free book in the mail each month until their fifth birthday. A child can be enrolled by mail, online, or in person at any of the 3 Abilene Public Library locations.



Scan to sign up and learn more!



Advocates with LGBTQ Youth:

Challenges faced by LGBTQ+ youth are changing, but what they always need is support from adults in their lives. It is possible a youth may express concerns or be questioning his or her gender identity. If you need to, give yourself some time to process your feelings. Find a way to be outwardly supportive or neutral without letting the young person you are working with experience feelings of rejection. They are going through their own journey, and you are going through yours.

It is important to note that although a child may talk to you about their sexual orientation or gender identity, referring them to their case worker, a supportive adult, or healthcare professional, is the best way to support them if you are uncomfortable with the conversation.

Remember that you do not always know whether someone identifies as LGBTQ, and you can't tell based on their appearance or behavior. For this reason, avoid making derogatory or negative comments about LGBTQ people. The act of coming out is a personal decision. LGBTQ youth do not come out once, but over and over in all kinds of situations. Don't "out" the young person to others without their permission unless you feel that you absolutely need to do so to advocate for them.

While you cannot change how other people treat your CASA child, the way that you treat your CASA child can serve as a protective buffer and help them build resilience. Your support means that your CASA child can keep coming to you as they navigate relationships and stressors. Other supportive adults — such as teachers, coaches and mentors — are also likely to play an important role in the well-being of young people, especially in the absence of family support.

Info Meet Thursdays!

In Person:

June 1st, 2-3pm @ Bahama Bucks

June 8th, 5:15-6:15pm @ Front Porch

June 15th, 9-10am @ Summer Moon

June 22nd, 10-11am @ Tea2Go

June 29th, 2-3pm @ Starbucks on 351 and Enterprise

Virtual Info Meet:

June 21st 7-8pm

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89911924344?pwd=ejhTVjBKWkVGNTVSbTBCdUtjWkdWUT09>

Other Important Dates:

Summer 2023 New Volunteer Training

Thursday, June 1st through Thursday June 22nd

Other CEU Opportunities

Book Club: Thurs, June 8th 6 – 8pm @ The Winery at Willow Creek

Fatherhood Forum, June 14th 1-5pm @ New Horizons

Next Volunteer Advocate Class

August 7-21 – Blended Daytime Volunteer Advocate Training Class

Office Closed

June 19th for Emancipation Day

Quote of the month:

"It's you I like...every part of you. Your skin, your eyes, your feelings, whether old or new. I hope that you remember, even when you're feeling blue. That it's you I like, it's your yourself, it's you. It's you I like!"

-Fred Rogers

Juneteenth Celebration by the Black Chamber of Commerce @ the Convention Center

June 16th, 2023

Basic Truth Band Juneteenth Celebration Dance: 7:30-11pm

June 17th, 2023

Opening Ceremony: 9:30am

Health Fair 9:30-2pm (CASA will have a booth)

Business Expo: 9:30-4pm