

Foster Care Simulation at National CASA Convention:

Lee Ann and Rebel presented the Foster Care Simulation at the National CASA Conference in St. Louis on June 11th. The response was incredible with participants fully engaging and immersing themselves into their roles. Participants reported that this gave them renewed motivation for better serving children and families and better understanding of the challenges families face throughout their case.

Our local simulation will be presented on Wed, July 19th at Beltway Park South with limited open registration. To register to participate please go to:

<https://www.foster325.org/sim>



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

Volunteer of the Quarter



Hannah Horton has been an advocate since October of 2020, and she has been working diligently on the same case the entire time.

She has walked alongside the two brothers of her case as they have had 9 placement changes during this case. She has made it a point to try and visit them as soon as possible at each new placement to try and help them with the transition. As a teacher herself, she has advocated for the boys to receive help in school so they can work to catch up to grade level.

Not only has she been a calming influence on the boys, but the father has also come to see Hannah as a valuable asset as well and he has reached out to her a number of times.

Hannah just recently came back from maternity leave after giving birth to her first child, Claire. Even during her maternity leave she would still check in periodically to see if her supervisor, Rob, knew how the boys were doing. We are thrilled as a program that she has returned to "active duty." Let's all welcome Claire to our CASA family.

Congratulations, Hannah, for being Big Country CASA's Advocate of the Quarter!

Texas CASA 2022 Impact Report:

You don't want to miss all of the wonderful things that are available in the Texas CASA 2022 Impact Report. Such as a letter from our leadership, CASA program spotlights, a summary of Texas CASA services, how those services are put into action, a total of the amount of training from or facilitated by CASA, our impact numbers, how Texas CASA is advocating through legislation, a summary of the Texas CASA Conference, a bit about amplifying authentic voices, and a good portion about the finances.

<https://texascasa.org/fy22impactreport/>

Don't forget to like,
share, and comment on
our social media posts!



Info Meet Thursdays!

In Person:

July 6th 9-10am @ Monks Coffee Shop

July 13th 10-11am @ Tea2Go on E Nth 10th

July 20th, 2-3pm @ Mad Coffee & More

July 27th, 5:15-6:15 @ Mezamiz Coffee Shop

Virtual Info Meet:

July 19th, 7-8pm

Zoom link: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89911924344?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89911924344?pwd=ejhTVjBKWkVGNtVSBtBCdUjWkdWUT09)

pwd=ejhTVjBKWkVGNtVSBtBCdUjWkdWUT09

Other Important Dates:

August 2023 New Volunteer Training

Blended Daytime Volunteer Advocate Training Class

August 7-21

Other CEU Opportunities

July 18 – CASA Café Surrogate Parent Training

July 19 – Foster Care Simulation, 8-12, Beltway Park

Next Volunteer Advocate Class

September 7-28th, 5:45-9 or 9:30pm

Mondays and Thursdays

Office Closed

July 4th for Independence Day

CASA Connection Dates

Every Sunday in July, BCC will be at Pioneer Drive Baptist Church sharing about what CASA is and how the members and attendants can get involved.

Quote of the month:

*“For there is always light,
if only we're brave enough to see it,
if only we're brave enough to be it.”*
-Amanda Gorman

New Advocates!

June 27, 2023, six new volunteers were sworn in. Please welcome and congratulate Gretta Gerdau, Donna Hudson, Karla Canada, Andrea Eulenfeld, Ashley Skidmore, and Robert Leininger. We are honored to welcome you to the Big Country CASA family!

Every child has a chance-it's you!



Hope needs a helping hand

CASA on the GO! Advocacy for Children 0 to 5 Years Old and Their Families

In part one of this two-part conversation, Margaret Halpin will be joined by the seasoned team of Krystal Vann and Carollyn Thesing from Child Advocates of Fort Bend. They talk about best practices in advocating for the developmentally specific needs of children in this age group and how CASA advocates can work to support and partner with their parents and families.

<https://casapodcast.buzzsprout.com/>

Legislative Outcomes:

<https://texascasa.org/88th-legislative-session-outcomes/>