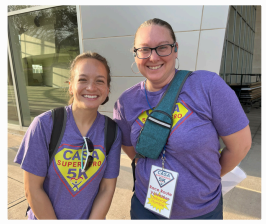


2024 CASA Superhero Fun Run

Our 2024 Fun Run went off without a hitch and was a huge success! We had over 400 registrations!



Welcome New Employees!

Hi, I'm Courtney Muñoz, the CFE Program Specialist for Big Country CASA. I am an advocate, former educator, and family woman. I have been married for 24 years with 2 amazing children. After many years in education, I decided to support children and families in a different way and joined the Big Country CASA team. I am excited about helping children find their voices and bringing hope to the Big Country, one family at a time!



"It is often the small steps, not the giant leaps, that bring about the most lasting change." — Queen Elizabeth II

Hi! I'm Jennifer Lemke - the new training specialist for Big Country CASA. I love children and have spent the last 12 years as an educator before I decided to seek other opportunities that would allow me to support the children of our community. I have been married to my husband for 26 years and we have three daughters and a bunch of fur babies. The Air Force brought us to Abilene back in 2012 and we have made this our forever home. We love the small town vibes of the area, and how much people care about each other here. As a CASA, I look forward to helping foster that love into children who are in need of more love in their lives.



"Be silly. Be honest. Be kind." -Ralph Waldo Emerson

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



Hope needs a helping hand

Info Meet Thursdays!

In Person:

June 6th, 9-10am @ Monks Coffee Shop

June 13th, 10-11am @ Tea2Go (North)

June 20th, 2-3pm @ Lustea

June 27th, 5:15-6:15pm @ Mezamiz

July 11th, 9-10 @ Summer Moon

July 18th, 10-11 @ Tea2Go (South)

July 25th, 2-3 @ Starbucks (Buffalo Gap)

Virtual Info Meet:

July 17th, 7-8 pm

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84430834190?pwd=SHZOcXk0UXlNYmdKUjI4bVBoT09xQT09>

Volunteers are Welcome to

Attend Info Meets and Bring a Friend!

Other Important Dates:

Blended New Volunteer Training

Refer a friend!

July 2024

****This is a Blended Format with complete chapters done online****

Mon July 8th @ 9am – 10:30am – Orientation/Hand out books and instructions

Thurs July 11th @ 9am – 12:00pm

Mon July 15th @ 9am – 12:00pm

Thurs July 18th @ 9am – 12:00pm

Mon July 22nd @ 9am – 12:00pm

Reminder:

CEU hours start over in 2024! 12 hours must be completed before the end of the calendar year!

Summer CEU Opportunity:

Please keep an eye out for CEU opportunities to be sent by our new trainer Jen Lemke!



“you are”
NOT ALONE
“in this”

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

Hi! I'm Hailey Shields, a CASA Advocate Supervisor for Big Country CASA. I am passionate about making a difference in the lives of children and families in Taylor County. I believe that our CASA Advocates



make a positive impact for families involved in the child welfare system, and I am honored to support them in their advocacy. I previously served as a CASA Supervisor at Mission Granbury and a Family Based Safety Services Specialist (FBSS) with Child Protective Services. I am a mother of two boys and a wife, celebrating 14 years of marriage with my husband. As a CASA, I look forward to assessing and addressing the needs of families involved in the child welfare system, striving to create safe and nurturing environments for children to thrive. "I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples." -Mother Teresa



New Volunteers!!

Congratulations to Hailey Shields, Gena Schnieder, Kasey Leavell, Courtney Munoz, and Cassie Aaron on becoming our newest volunteer advocates!

Every child has a chance--it's you!



Quote of the Summer:

“Volunteers are not paid- not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless.”
- Sherry Anderson



Drawing to be held June 8th!

Quilt is donated and fundraiser is conducted by the Abilene Quilters' Guild, quilt pattern by Deb Tucker, pieced by Dianne Hawley and Stephanie Patterson, quilted by Jana Bailey



**THE WORLD IS
71% WATER
YOUR CHILDREN ARE
100% CURIOUS**

WATER SAFETY SWIM PROGRAM

YMCA of Abilene & Foster Care Families

Help keep children safe with the YMCA's Safety Around Water program, where participants ages 3-18 learn essential water safety skills. This program is exclusive for Foster Care kids/students and families & FREE to Foster Care Participants.

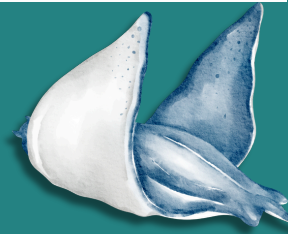
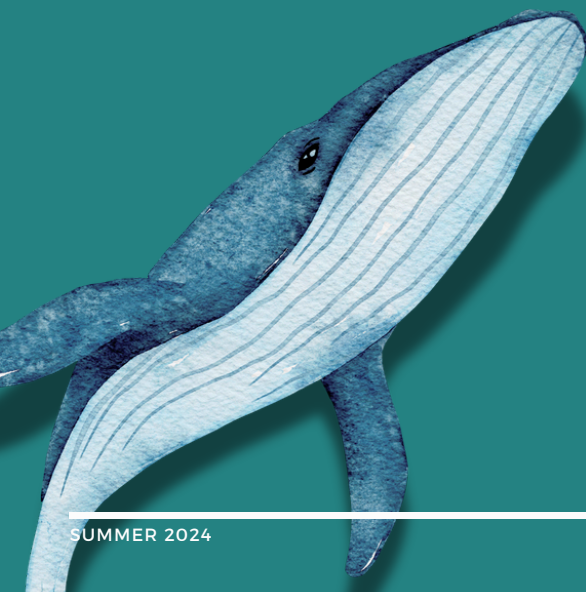


FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Please contact your supervisor for more information on this fun and safety-driven activity for your CASA kiddo!



Just a reminder, shorts are not court appropriate!



FOSTER LOVE CONNECTION

SOUTHERN HILLS' SUPPLY ROOM FOR FOSTER FAMILIES

We are grateful for the families in Taylor County who are providing foster care for children, stepping up to provide stable, loving homes for young people who have been through unspeakable trauma. In order to carry out such a challenging role, they need and deserve support from people like us.

To provide help and support for foster families, Southern Hills has launched a ministry called "Foster Love Connection," featuring a supply room stocked with essential items for families who receive foster placements. When a family is notified that a child will be placed in their home (which often happens at inconvenient hours and leaves little time to prepare), volunteers are able to quickly visit the Foster Love Connection room to gather items such as diapers, car seats, and gift cards for items like formula and clothes – which will help foster families and the children placed with them tremendously.

HOW IT WORKS

Families in our community who receive calls for foster placements can contact us through the [Foster Love Connection Facebook Page](#), or by calling or texting **325-671-9955**. Then, a Southern Hills volunteer will reach out to determine what items are needed, gather those items from our supply room, and arrange to provide them to the family.

To keep our supply room stocked, we depend largely on donated items from church members and friends. Here are items you can provide:

- The biggest ongoing need is a supply of **giftcards to Walmart and Target**, which will enable foster families to buy items specific to their child's situation.
- Gently used items** such as toddler beds, high chairs, etc. will be accepted. Due to space limitations, we will not receive used clothes.



The Foster Love Connection supply room is located near the Chapel, close to the entrance along Buffalo Gap Road with the overhang. Look for the door with the cross-shaped window that faces the playground.



Foster Love Connection
Private group • 163 members

FOSTER
Love
CONNECTION

3666 BUFFALO GAP RD.
325-671-9955
CALL OR TEXT

SOUTHERN HILLS
CHURCH OF CHRIST
3364 BUFFALO GAP RD.
325-692-2670



Texas CASA recently has reinstated reimbursements for volunteers visiting children over 50 miles one-way including mileage, hotel stays and per diems! Ask your supervisor for more details!

