

CASA BUZZ

SEPTEMBER 2024

CFE Tool of the Month

Collaborative Family Engagement really does have some of the best tools out there to use to connect with your CASA kiddos as well as their families and people they care for deeply!

Our CFE tool for March has finally been completed! PDF versions of CFE tools are now available for viewing and printing!

You can find them on our website under the "Resources" tab when you click on "Advocate Resources". The link under "Collaborative Family Engagement-Texas CASA" for "CFE Tools" will take you there!





New Employee!

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

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY UPDATE!

Regional Training Opportunities

Texas CASA's Public Policy Team is excited to be hosting a series of Pre-Session Public Policy Trainings around the state this summer and fall! We will be discussing effective legislative advocacy, child welfare trends, current hot policy topics, and legislative priorities for the 89th Legislative Session. Each training will be 3 hours and includes lunch.

Every CASA program is encouraged to attend a training, regardless of whether or not you are a part of a Legislative Advocacy Team. Feel free to email <u>publicpolicy@texascasa.org</u> if you are interested in attending any of these trainings.

The full schedule for the remaining in-person trainings is below. The date, time, and agenda for the virtual training is still being worked on. It will be shorter than the in person trainings.

In-person Training Sessions:

- Amarillo: Friday, September 6 from 10:30am-1:30pm
- Tyler: Thursday, September 12 from 12pm-3pm
- Dallas: Friday, September 13 from 10am-1pm
- Huntsville: Monday, September 23 from 11am-2pm
- Midland: Friday, October 11 from 10:30am-1:30pm
- Galveston: Wednesday, October 23 (Institute at the Texas CASA Conference)

Hope needs a helping hand



Hi, my name is Gary Reed, and I am an Advocate Supervisor at Big Country CASA. I graduated from Abilene Christian University and have worked in the Criminal Justice field for many years. I am a husband and father, and we have made Abilene home for over 20 years.

I came to Big Country CASA as I am passionate about making a difference in children's lives. All Advocates do a great job, and it is an honor to support them in all they do.

Each day I look forward to advocating for what is in the child's best interest, and to make sure their preferences and needs are being heard by those who are responsible for making decisions.

"It is never too late to be kind, polite, and a loving human being." Eddie Jaku

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

Info Meet Thursdays!

In Person:

September 5th, 9-10am @ Summer Moon September 12th, 10-11am @ Tea2Go (South) September 19th, 2-3pm @ Lustea September 26th, 5:15-6:15pm @ Mad Coffee & More

Virtual Info Meet:

September 18th, 7-8pm

Zoom Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84430834190? pwd=SHZOcXk0UXINYmdKUjl4bVBoT09xQT09

<u>Volunteers are Welcome to</u> <u>Attend Info Meets and Bring a Friend!</u>

Other Important Dates:

September New Volunteer Training

Begins September 5, 2024 through September 26, 2024! *For a complete schedule, please visit our website:* <u>www.bigcountrycasa.org</u>

<u>Refer a friend!</u>

Reminder: You have 4 more months to get your 12 hours of CEUs for the year!

September CEU Opportunity:

September 17th Lunch and Learn - 12pm-1pm





ACU HAS GENEROUSLY PROVIDED US WITH LIMITED TICKETS TO EACH HOME GAME THIS YEAR!



New Volunteers!

Congratulations to Gary Reed, Brooke Schuburt, Teresa Purcell, and Manzel McGhee on becoming our newest volunteer advocates!

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



Quote of the month:

"I am always doing what I cannot do yet, in order to learn how to do it." -Vincent van Gogh