



# CASA BUZZ

APRIL 2025

## FUN RUN IS HERE!

Don't forget to spread the word about our Big Country CASA Superhero 5K! We are only a month away, so register today!



## April is Child Abuse Prevention Month!

### Zoo Event in honor of Child Abuse Prevention Month!

Big Country CASA is partnering with other organizations interested in child welfare to host a Child Abuse Prevention Event at the Abilene Zoo on April 11<sup>th</sup> starting at 6:30pm. We hope to see you there!

## IT'S OK TO NOT BE OK

BUT IT'S NOT OK TO STAY NOT OK



free, confidential access to mental health and wellbeing resources you can trust

### Abilene Gives is coming!

We are a participant in Abilene Gives again this year! Please be on the lookout for how you can amplify your gifts through prizes and matching funds! We have \$35,000 in matching funds already! Get ready to give on May 6th from 8am-8pm!



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT\*  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



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

KEEP THEM SAFE:

**FREE Water Safety Swim Lessons**

Teaching children how to be safe around water is not a luxury; it is a necessity. The YMCA's Safety Around Water program can help you make sure they learn essential water safety skills, which can open up a world of possibilities for them to satisfy their curiosity safely. For more info, contact: [rdantzler@abileneymca.org](mailto:rdantzler@abileneymca.org)



Registration forms available at the office!

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



**Info Meet Thursdays!**

**In Person:**

- April 3rd, 9-10am @ Monks
- April 10th, 10-11am @ Tea2Go (North)
- April 17th, 2-3pm @ Majestic Coffee
- April 24th, 5:15-6:15pm @ Mad Coffee and More

**Current New Volunteer Training going on now with 8 Volunteers in the class.**

- Thurs Apr 3rd @ 5:45pm – 9:00pm
- Mon Apr 7th @ 5:45pm – 9:00pm
- Thurs Apr 10th @ 5:45pm – 9:00pm

**Summer Schedule**

- Mon June 2nd @ 8:45am – 12:15pm
- Thurs June 5th @ 8:45am – 12:15pm
- Mon June 9th @ 8:45am – 12:15pm
- Thurs June 12th @ 8:45am – 12:15pm
- Mon June 16th @ 8:45am – 12:15pm

**Please feel free to attend to refresh. Let Jennifer know so she can have dinner for you.**

**Tour de Abilene Dates:**

April 8th at the Child Advocacy Center  
4473 South 1st Street



**CASA on the Go:**  
**Continuing Education for CASA Volunteers** and abundance of sources to get training hours and learn about specific challenges you may be experiencing in your cases.

**Free Legal Help for Children & Families!**

Texas Family Help Link connects children and their caregivers with local legal aid and self-help resources-in one simple application!  
[www.texaslawhelp.org/fhl](http://www.texaslawhelp.org/fhl)

Often times when people find out we are GALs they may think we can help with their case, and although we may want to, we are only assigned cases that are involved with foster care and must be assigned by a judge. This is a good resource to pass along in those instances.

**Free Baseball Tickets!**



If you are interested in getting some ACU baseball tickets reach out to Dana at [danaward@bigcountrycasa.org](mailto:danaward@bigcountrycasa.org) and she can get you hooked up!

**89th Legislative Session!**

Check out the policy priorities for this legislative session below and for the CASA Bill Tracker go to [Texas CASA Bill Tracker - Texas CASA!](#)

**POLICY PRIORITIES**

- Texas CASA supports policies that preserve families, promote family reunification when possible, and minimize the time children spend in foster care.
- Texas CASA supports funding and policies that provide a child access to safe, stable placements in their community that meet their individual need and support their permanency goals.
- Texas CASA supports funding and policies that further support and encourage placement with relative caregivers.
- Texas CASA supports funding and policies that improve services and supports for older youth in foster care, and older youth exiting foster care.

*Hope needs a helping hand*



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