

### 89th Regular Legislative Session Bills Passed

SB 2165, so courts can no longer dismiss a child's case just because they've gone missing or ran away.

SB 1398, which strengthens oversight of Community-Based Care and gives communities a formal voice in the process.

HB 4655, which expands the Preparation for Adult Living (PAL) curriculum and adds real-life financial tools like credit score education, budgeting guidance and fraud prevention — something our young adults have needed for a long time.

HB 694 speeds up notifications to parents, CASA and other legal parties on CPS cases.

HB 1211 gives youth who have aged out of care more time — until age 27 — to lock in their tuition waiver.

HB 908 ensures law enforcement acts fast when a child goes missing.

### CFE Tools in Action!

"About a year ago, a CASA volunteer completed the Circles of Trust activity with two children first entering foster care, and at that time, they did not have many caring, supportive people in their circles.

However, the CASA volunteer recently completed the same activity with the children again, and when comparing it with the original Circles of Trust, the children were amazed! In just one year, many more people had been added! The children were so proud of how many connections they had developed over the past year."

If you are interested in utilizing the Circle of Trust tool or any other CFE tools, please reach out to Courtney Muñoz at [courtneymunoz@bigcountrycasa.org](mailto:courtneymunoz@bigcountrycasa.org)!

### New Employee!

Meet Allison Walker, our new Grants & Events Manager here at Big Country CASA.



"I am married to my high school sweetheart, and we were both born and raised in Abilene. We have two young children who keep us on our toes, along with our energetic chocolate lab. Outside of work, I enjoy reading, running, and spending time with our close-knit families.

One of my favorite inspirations comes from Isaiah 40:8, which reminds me that while many things in life fade or change, enduring truth and purpose remain constant.

### New Volunteer!

Congratulations to Alexandra Roman on sticking out our summer day classes and becoming our newest volunteer advocate!

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



### Tell your families!

Check out these back-to-school resources!

- [Back-To-School Community Event](#)
- [Backpack Give-A-Way](#)
- [Back-To-School Bash!](#)



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



## Info Meet Thursdays!

### In Person:

July 3rd, 9-10am @ Summer Moon  
July 10th, 10-11am @ Tea2Go (South)  
July 17th, 2-3pm @ Majestic  
July 24th, 5:15-6:15 @ Mezamiz  
July 31st, 10-11 @ Sway

**Volunteers are Welcome to  
Attend Info Meets and Bring a Friend!**

## July New Volunteer Training

- Thurs July 17 @ 6pm – 7:30pm
- Mon July 21st @ 5:45pm – 9:00pm
- Thurs July 24th @ 5:45pm – 9:00pm
- Mon July 28th @ 5:45pm – 9:00pm
- Thurs July 31st @ 5:45pm – 9:00pm
- Mon Aug 4th @ 5:45pm – 9:00pm
- Thurs Aug 7th @ 5:45pm – 9:00pm

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

### Reminder:

You have 5 months to get your 12 hours of CEUs for the year! Please contact Jen at [jenniferlemke@bigcountrycasa.org](mailto:jenniferlemke@bigcountrycasa.org) if you have any questions!

### July CEU Opportunity:

July 29th, 7-8:30pm, Book Club: Braving the Dark @ 56 Pebble Beach, Abilene TX 79606  
Keep an eye out for opportunities sent through email from Jennifer Lemke!

### Tour de Abilene Dates:

July 8th, 9-10am: Steps Abilene @ 300 N Judge Ely Blvd, Abilene, TX 79601

## Quote of the month:

*"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."  
- Winston Churchill*

## Check it out!

Frontier Texas is providing an opportunity for CASA volunteer advocates to take their CASA kiddos to their museum free of charge with a paying adult.



If you are interested in this opportunity, please reach out to Dana and she can get you the coupon! (You must have the coupon and your CASA badge to receive this benefit.)

## Get Involved!

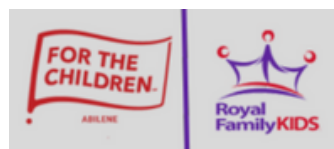
Would you be interested in coming to an Info Meet or helping with an information table at a resource fair? Please reach out to Dana at [danaward@bigcountrycasa.com](mailto:danaward@bigcountrycasa.com) if you are!

She would love to have advocates in attendance at these events to help give prospective volunteers a chance to talk with an active volunteer advocate.

## Royal Family KIDS Camp

Royal Family KIDS Camp is a one-week, overnight summer camp, designed for children (ages 7-11) who are considered at risk and/or who are experiencing foster care. Camp will be held July 28th-August 1st.

If you believe your CASA kiddos might benefit from this kind of activity or if you would like more information, please email [royalfamilykids@ftcabilene.org](mailto:royalfamilykids@ftcabilene.org)



*Hope needs a helping hand*



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