

Local News!

Abilene man sentenced to 195 years for trafficking and assaulting 15-year-old runaway.

<https://ktxs.com/news/local/abilene-man-sentenced-to-195-years-in-prison>

Keep an eye out for Human Trafficking trainings coming your way!

Trafficking happens to so many in our communities, but foster children are at higher risk. Pay attention to your CASA kiddos and make sure you are communicating with them about their environmental safety.

QA in September!

Our audit is happening this September! Make sure you are getting your contacts and notes entered into Optima.

If you need help with anything, feel free to reach out to your supervisor!

Practice What You Preach!

Our staff had the opportunity this month to serve our community by assisting with the Summer Lunch Program by Abilene Hunger Coalition.

Volunteers are critical in the work we do. Simply put, we cannot complete our mission without you! We found joy and pride in helping the children of our community get their basic needs met; just like we hope you all feel in the work you do every day for your CASA kiddos!

Every child has a chance-it's you!



Take Note!

Big Country CASA is partnering with Baylor University and New Horizons to bring training about autism to Abilene for CASA and area foster parents. The event will be Saturday, September 20th, 1pm-4pm at New Horizons located at 147 Sayles Blvd.

<https://bearlab.soe.baylor.edu/event/2025/1542506>

Rees-Jones Foster Care Center of Excellence has developed a website for advocates to search for information to aid in advocating for children in the foster care system. You will have to accept the cookies to proceed to searching for the articles and videos. The site has a wealth of information and can be counted toward your annual 12 hours of ongoing training.

<https://scholarlycollection.childrens.com/rjfcce/>



Texas CASA on Tour!

Texas CASA will be touring the state and stopping in Abilene on Friday, October 24th from 9:30-3:30.

Big Country CASA will host sessions to be held at the Legacy Room at Frontier Texas. Seating will be limited as we are hosting the entire West Texas region. The morning session will be for volunteers, staff and board members. Lunch will be provided, and the afternoon is geared toward EDs and Board chairs.

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



Info Meet Thursdays!

In Person:

August 7th, 9-10am @ Monks

August 14th, 10-11am @ Tea2Go (North)

August 21st, 2-3pm @ Teapioca

August 28th, 5:15-6:15 @ Mad Coffee & More

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

September New Volunteer Training

- Thurs Sept 11th @ 6pm – 7:30pm
- Mon Sept 15th @ 5:45pm – 9:00pm
- Thurs Sept 18th @ 5:45pm – 9:00pm
- Mon Sept 22nd @ 5:45pm – 9:00pm
- Thurs Sept 25th @ 5:45pm – 9:00pm
- Mon Sept 29th @ 5:45pm – 9:00pm
- Thurs Oct 2nd @ 5:45pm – 9:00pm

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

Reminder:

You have about 4 months to get your 12 hours of CEUs for the year! Please contact Jen at jenniferlemke@bigcountrycasa.org if you have any questions!

August CEU Opportunity:

APD Talks - Drugs and Gangs - August 14
5:30-7:30pm. RSVP to Jennifer.
Keep an eye out for other opportunities!

Tour de Abilene Dates:

August 12th, 9-10am: Alliance for Women & Children @ 1350 N 10th St, Abilene, TX 79601

Quote of the month:

"Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile."
-Albert Einstein

Tell your families!

Check out these back-to-school resources!

- [Back-To-School Community Event](#)
- [Back to School Resource Fair & Family Fun Day](#)



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 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.

Hope needs a helping hand



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