

Thank You!

To all volunteers, board & staff for another successful year advocating for our children in foster care. Times are changing in child welfare yet one thing remains so true. Our volunteers are on the frontline, supported by staff and backed by the board of directors. We've got an amazing team!



Let's Celebrate!

We completed our annual financial audit with no findings, which is reason to celebrate.

This reflects a mature, well-functioning and controlled environment. Our operation is aligned with our stated mission; financial controls are in place and objectives are being met.

However, we cannot conclude there is not work to be done. Our finances are solid and strong but what about the government shutdown? We still have not heard about our federal VOCA grant but this is not the first time we have lived through this. Rest assured we know our volunteers, staff and board are committed to the children and families we serve.

Our work and advocacy will continue on, unhampered.

Check it out!

We are highlighting our CFE tools! Learn more on our website at <https://bigcountrycasa.org/volunteer/advocate-resources/cfe-tools/> or check out our social media post this month about the Three Houses tool!

October is Substance Abuse Prevention Month

Addiction is treatable but there is no one-size-fits-all approach.

Treatment can enable people to change their behavior and regain control of their lives. Successful treatment requires a personalized approach and can include evidence-based therapies and medications.

Did you know?

- More than 1 in 10 adults in the United States reported having a substance use problem.
- Among adults with a substance use problem, receiving treatment was associated with being in recovery.
- Approximately 75 percent of adults who report having a substance use problem report being in recovery.
- Having a mental health problem was highly prevalent among adults reporting a substance use problem.

The main components of recovery include:

- Treating withdrawal
- Completing treatment
- Preventing relapse

*Sources: National Survey on Drug Use and Health, National Institute on Drug Abuse

ABILENE RECOVERY COUNCIL WILL START OFF THE FY 26 MONTHLY ROSC MEETINGS IN OCTOBER!! THIS MEETING IS HELD THE LAST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH WITH GUEST SPEAKERS AND COMMUNITY RESOURCE INFORMATION! ALL ARE WELCOME!



CASA Swag!

Shop CASA is having a liquidation sale!

Check out the link to see what is available!
<https://www.shopcasa.org/inventory-must-go/>

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



Info Meet Thursdays!

In Person:

October 2nd, 5:15-6:15 @ Mad coffee & More

October 9th, 2-3pm @ Teapioca

October 16th, 9-10am @ Monks

October 23rd, 2-3pm @ Tea2go (N)

October 30th, 9-10 @ Sway



Volunteers are Welcome to

Attend Info Meets and Bring a Friend!

January New Volunteer Training

- Thurs Jan 22nd 6pm – 7:30pm
- Mon Jan 26th 5:45pm – 9:00pm
- Thurs Jan 29th 5:45pm – 9:00pm
- Mon Feb 2nd 5:45pm – 9:00pm
- Thurs Feb 5th 5:45pm – 9:00pm
- Mon Feb 9th 5:45pm – 9:00pm
- Thurs Feb 12th 5:45pm – 9:00pm



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

October CEU Opportunity:

Lunch and Learn - October 22 @12pm - Betty Hardwick: Youth Mental Health Basics
Keep an eye out for other opportunities!

Tour de Abilene Dates:

October 14th, 10-11am: Salvation Army @ 1726 Butternut St, Abilene, TX 79602

Reminder:

You have about 3 months to get your 12 hours of CEUs for the year! Please contact Jen at jenniferlemke@bigcountrycasa.org if you have any questions!

Quote of the month:

"There is nothing impossible to him who will try." - Alexander the Great



CHANGES TO OUR FREE ACU TICKETS THIS YEAR: WE ARE NOT ABLE TO PRINT ALL OF THE TICKETS LIKE WE HAVE IN THE PAST, BUT THERE IS A LINK THAT CAN BE SENT TO ALLOW FOR 4 TICKETS TO THE HOME GAMES. WHEN WE RECEIVE THAT LINK DANA WILL SEND IT OUT TO THE GROUP!

Confidential Companions!

We know that being a CASA volunteer is hard on the heart! Please know that you are more than welcome to have a Confidential Companion if you are interested! Reach out to Jen at jenniferlemke@bigcountrycasa.org for more information!

Hope needs a helping hand



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

Texas CASA on Tour!

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

Big Country CASA will host sessions to be held in 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.



Be on the lookout for a picture of all our new sworn in advocates from this last class in our next Buzz!