

THE CASA ADVOCATE

Court Appointed Special Advocates, A Division of Family and Youth

Summer 2021 Edition



Advocate Spotlight



Ms. Patsy Richard has been a CASA volunteer for almost 1.5 years and has advocated on behalf of seven children on a total of two cases. Ms. Patsy has helped two of these children achieve permanency through adoption and continues to diligently work towards permanency for the remaining five children. Ms. Patsy goes above and beyond for her CASA children and shines brightly in everything she does. Thank you Ms. Patsy for your dedicated service to the children of our community!

"We are an extra set of eyes and ears for the Judge with always the thought of what is the best interest for these children. I take this oath very seriously. I may not always make the right observations but I keep asking myself, Is this the best for these children?"

-Patsy Richard

Welcome to our CASA Team!

In April, Ms. Jessica Garcia was sworn in as a CASA volunteer and Ms. Laken Baccigalopi joined us as a CASA supervisor. We would like to thank Judge Cynthia Guillory for taking the time to swear in the two newest members of our CASA team. Good luck to you both, and thank you, Ms. Jessica, for committing your time to advocate for the children in our community!

Pictured left to right: Laken Baccigalopi, Judge Cynthia Guillory, and Jessica Garcia



What is Child Abuse and Neglect? Recognizing the Signs and Symptoms

by : Children's Bureau

[Link: https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/whatiscan.pdf](https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/whatiscan.pdf)

How is this article relevant to CASA?

As CASA volunteers, understanding what abuse and neglect means and how to recognize signs and symptoms is highly important. CASA volunteers are mandated reporter, meaning reporting suspected abuse and neglect is required by law. In addition, CASA volunteers are paired with children already in the foster care system who may have experienced abuse and/or neglect. Being able to understand and recognize these signs of abuse is a necessary component of our advocacy.



A Parent's Road to Recovery

by : Rosita Pagan

[Link: https://www.ycteenmag.org/issues/FCYU139/A_Parent%E2%80%99s_Road_to_Recovery.html?story_id=FCYU-2020-01-20](https://www.ycteenmag.org/issues/FCYU139/A_Parent%E2%80%99s_Road_to_Recovery.html?story_id=FCYU-2020-01-20)

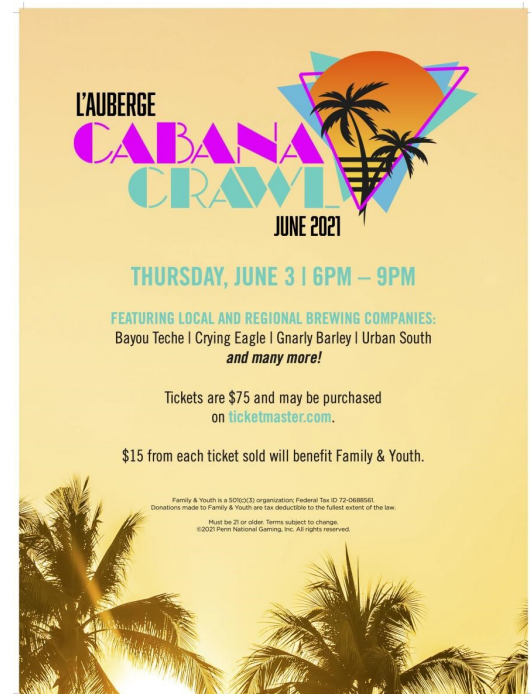
How is this article relevant to CASA?

When working with children in foster care, you will also be working with biological parents, some of which may be on a long road of recovery. As CASA volunteer advocates it is important that we use empathy skills when gathering information for our case. This article provides some helpful perspective on recovery for this particular parent. Everyone's road to recovery is different, but empathizing with others will help you in your advocacy for the children you serve.

**Volunteers if you would like to receive in-service credit for these articles, please turn in a paragraph review after reading each article.*

UPCOMING FUNDRAISER:

Family & Youth is teaming up with L'Auberge to host a Cabana Crawl. Regional craft beer and local food truck treats will be served from cabanas. Guest will also enjoy local entertainment and an awesome swag bag. Most importantly, \$15 from each ticket will be donated to Family & Youth to benefit the CASA division.



CASA DIVISION UPDATE:

Our program is currently serving 84 children across 43 cases in our community!

We are now actively seeking new CASA Volunteer Advocates! If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a voice for a child in foster care, please contact laken@fyca.org or call 337-436-9533 for more information.

CASA Volunteer Advocate Virtual Trainings are offered monthly! For more information contact Laken.

For more information about CASA, A Division of Family & Youth

contact laken@fyca.org or call 337-436-9533