

# THE CASA ADVOCATE

Court Appointed Special Advocates, A Division of Family and Youth

January– March 2022 Edition

The new year brought with it new CASA volunteers and coordinators. The ladies pictured were sworn in this quarter by Judge Bradberry and have already begun their advocacy work with children and families within our community.

Left to right: Susan Boyd, CASA Volunteer; Delia Sanders, CASA Volunteer; Shauna Bowers, CASA Coordinator; Crystar Collins-Molitor, CASA Coordinator; Janae Freeman, CASA Volunteer.



*"I've learned that you shouldn't go through life with a catcher's mitt on both hands. You need to be able to throw something back."*

- Maya Angelou

## Chronic Child Neglect

by : Children's Bureau

How is this article relevant to CASA?

Chronic child neglect occurs when a caregiver repeatedly fails to meet a child's basic physical, developmental, and/or emotional needs over time. Children who have experienced chronic neglect may suffer serious cognitive and social deficits because of the potential lack of responsive parent-to-child development. Understanding the long-term impacts of chronic neglect can assist the volunteer in determining effective recommendations.

*\*Volunteers if you would like to receive in-service credit for this article, please turn in a paragraph review after reading the article.*

Link: [https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/chronic\\_neglect.pdf](https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/chronic_neglect.pdf)



Link: [https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/best\\_interest.pdf](https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/best_interest.pdf)

## Determining the Best Interests of the Child

by : Children's Bureau

How is this article relevant to CASA?

"Best interests" determinations are generally made by considering a number of factors related to the child's circumstance and the parent or caregiver's circumstances and capacity to parent, with the child's ultimate safety and well-being as the paramount concern. As CASA volunteers, the ultimate goal is to serve in the best interest of the foster care youth to which you are assigned. This article outlines the ways in which one can determine a child's best interest for permanency and their future.

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## CASA DIVISION UPDATE:

Our program is currently serving 176 children across 106 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 [crystar@fyca.org](mailto:crystar@fyca.org) or call 337-436-9533 for more information.

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

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

contact [crystar@fyca.org](mailto:crystar@fyca.org) or call 337-436-9533



CASA  
Court Appointed Special Advocates  
FOR CHILDREN

## In Remembrance



Ms. Terri Terrell served as a CASA volunteer for almost 5 years and has advocated for a sibling group of 5 children throughout the entirety of her CASA service. Ms. Terri was passionate about the children that she advocated for and built a strong, loving relationship with them all. Ms. Terri had a generous spirit and volunteered her time to many organizations in our community. The CASA children that she served will be forever impacted by the amount of heart Ms. Terri put into her advocacy work.

"Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier."

-Mother Theresa