

HELLO
February
2025

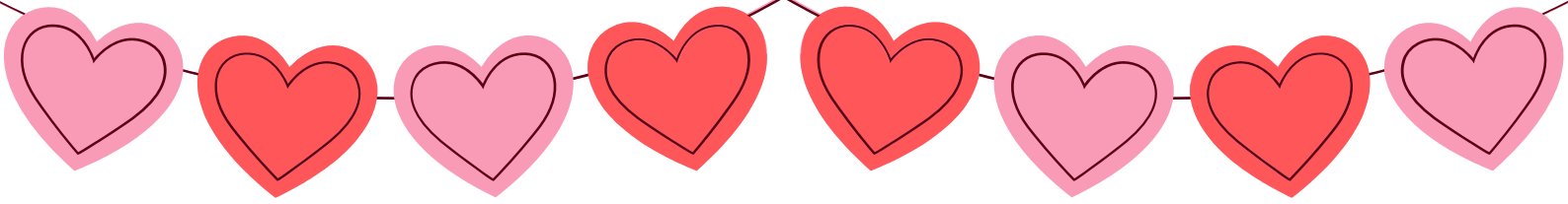
May it bring happiness, new
achievements and beautiful
moments in life

casawestcenla.org





- Words from the Director
- Supervisor Tips
- What's Coming up for CASA of West CenLA
- What's Happening in Our Communities
- Training
- Fun - Fun!
- Advocate Spotlight
- Board Member Highlight



WORDS FROM THE DIRECTOR

As we step into this season of reflection and care, I am reminded of the core values that make our *CASA* Program so special: love, compassion, and unwavering community support. Every day, our volunteers and staff work tirelessly to provide a voice for children in need, to offer a safe and supportive space, and to remind these children that they are not alone.

Love isn't just a feeling; it's a force for change. It's shown in the small acts of kindness, the long hours spent advocating, and the powerful moments when a child realizes they are worthy of hope and a better future. Community is what fuels us—together, we create the network of support that empowers every child in the *CASA* Program.

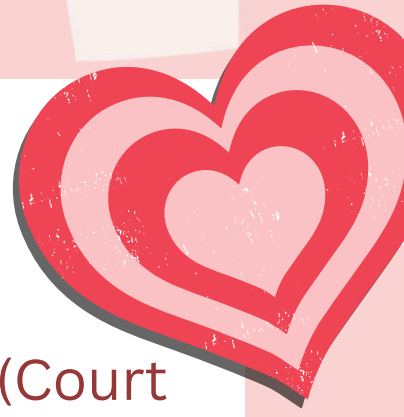
As we move forward, let us continue to nurture these values and deepen our commitment to the children and families we serve. The love and support we offer today will have a lasting impact tomorrow. Thank you for being a part of this incredible journey with us.

Tommy





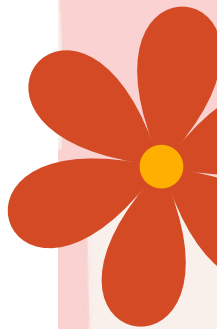
SUPERVISOR TIPS





When making child visits as a CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate), the primary focus is to build rapport with the child, gather information about their well-being, needs, and perspectives in their current placement, and observe their interactions with others by scheduling regular visits, engaging in age-appropriate activities, and documenting observations to ultimately advocate for the child's best interests in court.



It is important to have multiple visitations with children monthly, to include phone calls or video chat as well as in person.





SUPERVISOR TIPS

Key points to remember when making child visits as a CASA:

Initial Contact:

- Introduce yourself clearly as a CASA, explaining your role as an advocate for the child and that you are there to listen to their concerns.

Building Trust:

- Take things slowly, allowing the child to feel comfortable with you, and be patient with their responses.

Open-ended Questions:

- Ask open-ended questions to encourage the child to share their thoughts and feelings about their current situation, school, family, and foster home.

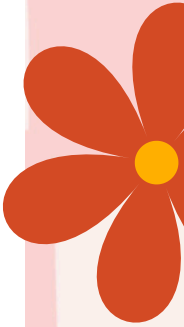

Observation Skills:


- Pay close attention to the child's body language, mood, and interactions with others during visits.

Activities:

- Choose age-appropriate activities to facilitate conversation and help the child feel at ease.

Privacy:

- Ensure the child has some private time to share any concerns they might not feel comfortable sharing in front of others.
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SUPERVISOR TIPS

Documentation:

- Thoroughly document all of your observations, conversations, and concerns in your contact logs to present a comprehensive picture to the court.

What to discuss during a child visit:

School:

- How is school going? Are they making friends? Any challenges with academics or behavior?

Foster Home:

- How are they adjusting to their foster family? Do they feel safe and supported?

Family Visits:

- How do they feel about visits with their biological parents?

Emotional Well-being:

- Are they experiencing any stress or anxiety?

Goals and Wishes:

- What are their hopes for the future?
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SUPERVISOR TIPS



Important considerations:

Child's Age:

- Adjust your communication style and activities based on the child's age and developmental level.

Cultural Sensitivity:

- Be mindful of the child's cultural background and practices.

Confidentiality:

- Maintain confidentiality regarding information shared by the child or anyone else in the case.

Following these guidelines will help you build rapport and trust with the child. It will allow you to gather the crucial and pertinent information that will help you build your court report for the judge.

Without visiting with all parties associated with the case you will miss important and pertinent pieces of information that will assist the judge in making their decisions.

Without multiple visits with the child it will take longer to build that rapport and trust with the child, restricting your court report recommendations.



MARCH

2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
25	26	2	26	27	28	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5

5K Color Run
DeRidder, LA

APRIL

2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	1	2	3

Child Abuse Prevention Month

Volunteer Appreciation Week

FEBRUARY '25

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						01
02 Painting Gypsy Treasures Leesville 1pm-4pm	03	04 New Volunteer Training Session 2	05	06	07 MyPlate Charcuterie DeRidder Library 3pm	08 Cinema Saturday DeRidder Library 10:30am & 12:30pm
09	10	11 New Volunteer Training Session 3	12	13	14	15
16 DeRidder Mardi Gras Pageant 2pm-6pm	17	18 New Volunteer Training Session 4	19	20	21 Current Volunteer Training Cultural Competency 5:30pm-6:30pm	22
23 Mardi Gras Paint Party Revolution Ink Leesville 12pm-4pm	24	25 New Volunteer Training Session 5	26	27	28 Vintage Market Days All Day DeRidder	

UPCOMING

- March 1 - Mardi Gras Parade - Leesville
- March 1 - Mardi Gras Events - DeRidder - 9am
- March 15 - Edible Plant Workshop - Allen Acres - Pitkin

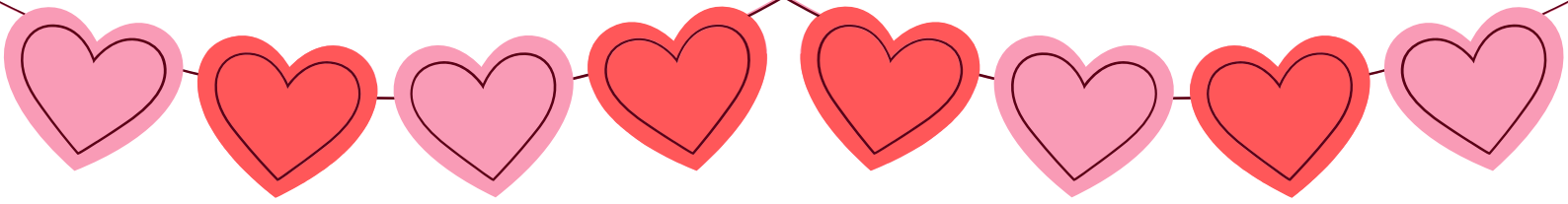
TO DO LIST

Season Opening

Impromptu Players

DeRidder

2/21/2025



TRAINING

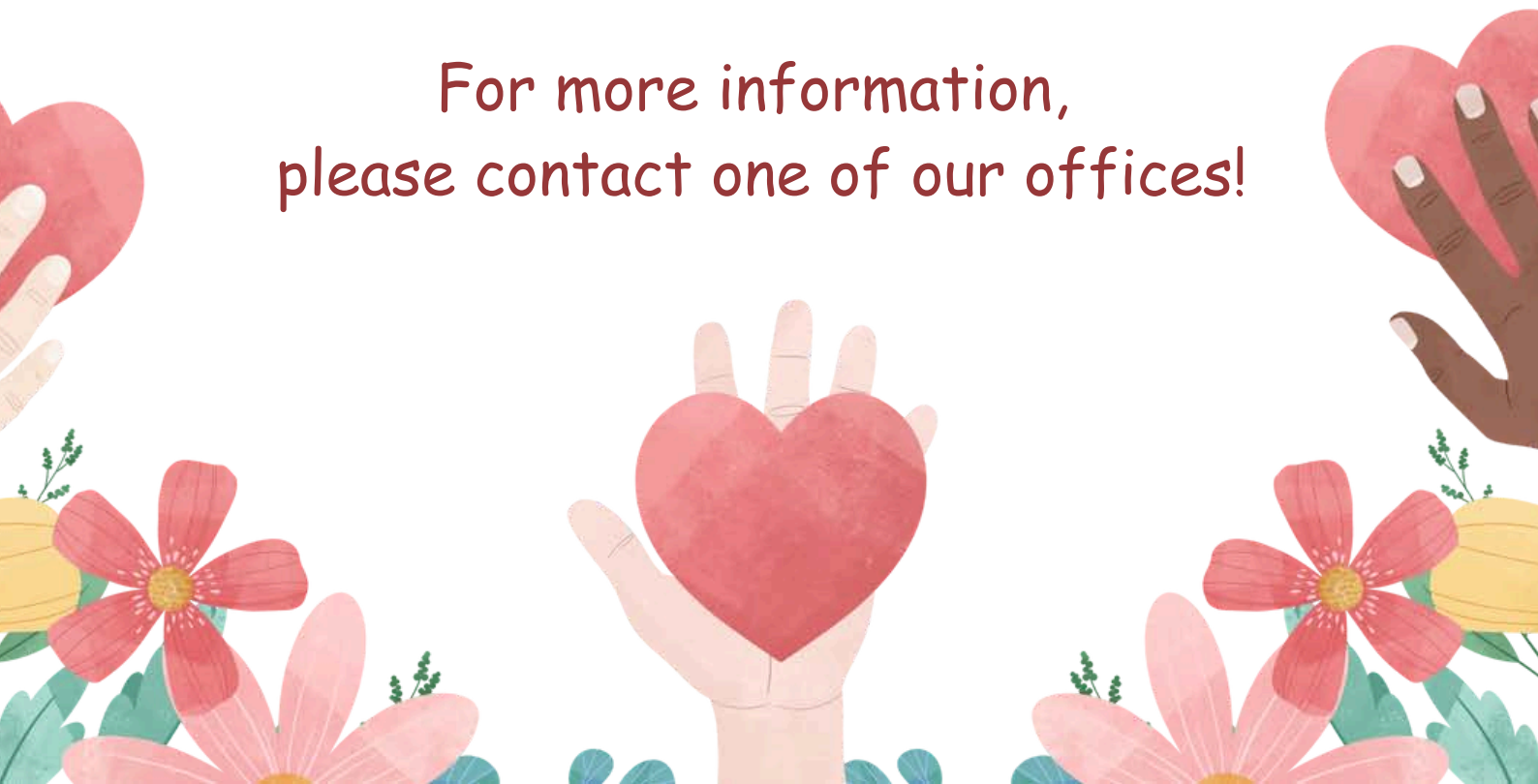
We continue to train our new advocates.
Training should be completed on
2/25/2025!

Our next new volunteer training session
will begin on 3/11/2025.

DeRidder
420 McMahon Street
DeRidder, LA
337.462.4667

Leesville
113 S. 3rd Street
Leesville, LA
337.239.1970

For more information,
please contact one of our offices!





FUN - FUN!

Family Activities:

1. Arts and Crafts




Why not spend some time doing arts and crafts? Whether it's making homemade cards, paper crafts, or painting a masterpiece, it's a great way to express your creativity and have fun! Plus, you can put your creations up all around the house to remind you of the good times.

2. Board Games

Board games are an oldie but a goodie. Pull out your favorites like Scrabble, Monopoly, Risk, or Uno and get ready for some friendly competition! It's also a great way to bond with the family and teach some valuable lessons about strategy and problem-solving.

3. Movie Night

Movie night is always a hit with the family! Pop some popcorn, pick out your favorite movie, snuggle up on the couch, and enjoy some quality time together. You can even make it into an event with themed snacks or decorations.



FUN - FUN!



**BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH**



**Groundhog
Day**
2/2/2025



**World Read
Aloud Day**
2/5/2025



**Superbowl
Sunday**
2/9/2025



**Lincoln's
Birthday**
2/12/2025



**World
Radio Day**
2/13/2025



**HAPPY
Valentine's
Day**

**Valentine's
Day**
2/14/2025



**President's
Day**
2/17/2025



**International Mother
Language Day**
2/21/2025

ADVOCATE SPOTLIGHT



DONNA



ADRIANNA

BOARD MEMBER HIGHLIGHT



M.K. Dokwal
Board
President