

# Monthly Newsletter

June, 2025

**CASA of Bastrop, Fayette & Lee Counties**



This Father's Day, we recognize the unwavering strength and devotion of dads who are working hard to build brighter futures for their children. At CASA of Bastrop, Fayette & Lee Counties, we've seen how a father's love - when supported with the right tools and encouragement - can lead to incredible growth and healing. We also honor the father figures who step in when needed most - whether they're foster dads, adoptive fathers, or caring relatives - proving that being a dad is defined by love, commitment, and presence. Donate to CASA this month in honor of the fathers and father figures in your life and you can give a child the gift of a safe and loving forever home. Last year, 29 of the children whose cases we helped close were reunified with their family of origin, 13 were adopted, and 12 were placed with family under a conservatorship.

## From Sunscreen to Supervision: Summer Essentials for Kids

### Swim Safely:



This summer, if you're headed to the swimming pool, help keep kids safe through constant supervision, teaching kids how to swim, keeping kids away from drains, and learning CPR. Learn more and download children's water safety activity sheets at [poolsafetytoday.org](http://poolsafetytoday.org)

### Sun Safety:



When choosing a sunscreen, make sure it's at least SPF 30 and reapply every two hours or after swimming/sweating. Equip children with hats and sunglasses to protect sensitive skin and eyes. Seek shade during peak sun hours (10AM-4PM) to avoid sunburn and overheating.

### Stay Hydrated:



Encourage kids to drink water regularly, even if they don't feel thirsty. Try to avoid sugary sodas and caffeinated drinks that can cause dehydration. Keep reusable water bottles on hand during outdoor activities where they're easily accessible and refillable.

## Upcoming Events:



### **You're invited to The Great CASA Casino!**

Saturday, July 19th, 2025 | 5:30 – 10:30 PM  
Smithville Recreation Center

Join us for an evening full of fun with the wild-card game, bingo, auction prizes, complimentary drinks, and a grand dinner and dessert buffet – all in support of CASA of Bastrop, Fayette & Lee Counties and The Smithville Area Chamber of Commerce! Eat – Drink – Play – Win, all while giving back to your community!

Sponsorship Opportunities Are Still Available!

### **Let's Make The Great CASA Casino a Full House!**

Tickets are \$85/ person, or save when you buy two for \$150. Tickets can be purchased on our website, from our FB Event, or from this link: [GET TICKETS HERE](#). If you prefer to pay with cash or check, you may drop off payment at either the Smithville Chamber office or our CASA Office and receive a printed ticket. Tickets will be available for purchase at the door for \$65/person starting after 7:00 PM, but will NOT include the dinner.



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## **Next Volunteer Session begins in Sept. '25**

CASA of Bastrop, Fayette & Lee Counties endeavors to provide trained volunteer advocates in all abuse and neglect foster care cases assigned by the courts. CASA Volunteers are screened and highly trained, and then appointed by judges to represent and advocate for a child's best interest in the child protection system. To learn more about becoming a CASA Volunteer, please call 512.409.0771 or visit [becomeacasa.org](https://becomeacasa.org).

You can also contact our recruiter/trainer, Rita Coduto at: [casabfl.org/volunteer/](https://casabfl.org/volunteer/)  
rita.coduto@casabfl.org  
office: (512) 303-2272

## June is National Reunification Month!



**CASA Programs advocate to keep families connected and together when safe and possible.**

**June is National Reunification Month**, a month dedicated to raising awareness of the importance of keeping families involved in the child welfare system together and recognizing how the community can better support these families.

When a family becomes involved with the child welfare system, the first priority of the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) and CASA of Bastrop, Fayette & Lee Counties is to help reunite children with their parents whenever safe and possible – and during this month and beyond, CASA volunteers strive to engage and connect with the families so that they have the support and resources needed to have their children safely come back home.

CASA of Bastrop, Fayette & Lee Counties recruits and trains Court Appointed Special Advocates, or CASA volunteers, to stay by a child's side throughout their time in foster care, advocating first for reunification when safe and possible. These volunteers get to know the children, parents, and family as well as others involved in their lives, including foster parents, therapists, teachers, and attorneys, collaborating with everyone to put family reunification as the first priority whenever it is safe and possible.

"We know that the vast majority of parents love their children and want what's best for them, and the parents of the children we serve are no exception," said Bauer. "We want to support parents during this time so that they have the tools and resources needed so that their children can live with them safely, because going back home is the best possible outcome for these kids." Many times, parents involved with the foster care system struggle to access the resources, support and education they need to be able to complete services ordered by the judge. "Our CASA volunteers can make a monumental difference by helping bridge the access gap and connecting families to services and support," Bauer said.

CASA volunteers also make sure the children and parents they serve have a support system of family and other caring adults who are able to help in whatever ways needed, and stay involved long after CASA and DFPS involvement ends.

"If parents and children have a good support system, it's much more likely that a plan for reunification will be successful and sustainable," Bauer said. "That's what we want for the children we serve – for them to be able to grow up safe, happy and supported, surrounded by people who love them."

By becoming a CASA volunteer, you can help more children and families in your community stay safely and happily connected. Learn more at [BECOMEACASA.ORG](https://BECOMEACASA.ORG) or [CASABFL.ORG](https://CASABFL.ORG). The next volunteer training session will be in September, 2025.