



Monthly Newsletter

May, 2025

CASA of Bastrop, Fayette & Lee Counties



This Mother's Day, we honor the incredible strength and resilience of mothers who, with the right support and guidance, choose a new path - for themselves and their children. At CASA of Bastrop, Fayette & Lee Counties, we've seen firsthand how a mother's love, when paired with resources and encouragement, can spark a powerful transformation. Whether it's the parent, a foster, an adoptive mom or family members who step in with that fierce love and commitment, every step forward is a testament to a mother's courage and her unwavering hope for a better future.

Donate to CASA this month in honor of the mothers and mother 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.

Help us spread awareness for Mental Health in May:

"Physical and mental health are linked—meaning when one is in poor condition, often so is the other," said Bauer, executive director of CASA of Bastrop, Fayette & Lee Counties. "In addition to watching out for our physical health, we also need to be doing everything we can to take care of our mental health."

Our CASA Program is a local nonprofit that recruits and trains CASA volunteers, or Court Appointed Special Advocates, to advocate for children and families involved in the foster care system in Bastrop, Fayette & Lee Counties. Sadly, the children and families served by these volunteers are at a high risk for experiencing mental health issues.

"As advocates for those involved in foster care, we see children, parents and families struggling with mental health issues, and helping them access the treatment and services they need is a core part of what we do," Bauer said. Like the kids and families CASA serves, we can all benefit from taking good care of our mental health. This looks different for everyone, Bauer said. For some, it can mean keeping up with regular exercise and a healthy diet. For others, it can mean practicing meditation and mindfulness. For still others, it can mean opening up to someone, whether a friend or a professional. Whatever it means to you, there's no better time than now to make your mental health a priority, she said.

Upcoming Events:



You're invited!

Join us for a Consuela Connects Give Back Party benefiting CASA of Bastrop, Fayette & Lee Counties.
Date: Saturday, May 31st
Time: 11AM-2PM
Location: Consuela - Smithville
110 NW 2nd St.
Smithville, TX 78957
(512) 237-1411

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

Save the Date & Get Your Tickets!

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](#)
Tickets will be available for purchase at the door for \$65/person starting after 7:00 PM, but will NOT include the dinner.

You're invited to The Great CASA Casino!

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



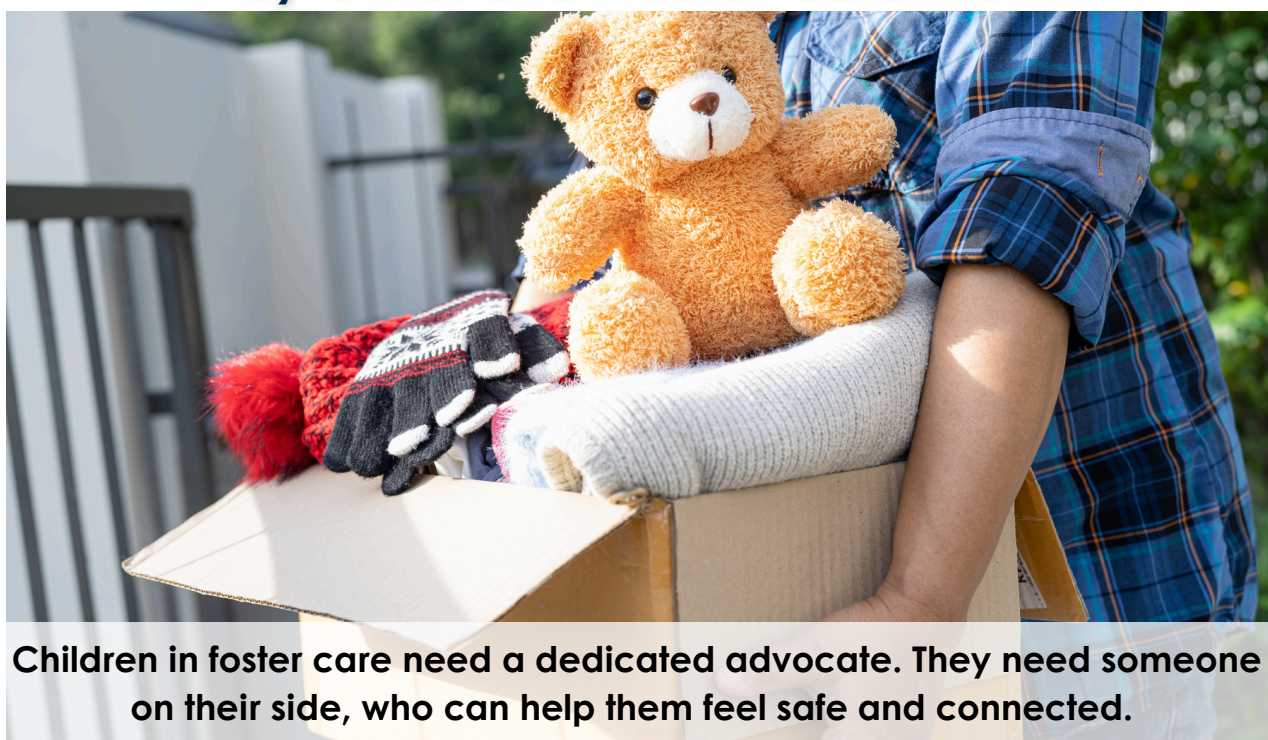


Next Volunteer Session begins in Sept. '25

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.

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

May is National Foster Care Month!



Children in foster care need a dedicated advocate. They need someone on their side, who can help them feel safe and connected.

We hope you'll consider joining the CASA movement.

Each May, **National Foster Care Month**, we take the time to raise awareness of the children and families involved in the foster care system and the need for more people to step up to support them.

"There are 108 children in foster care right here in our communities, in our neighborhoods," said Kristi Bauer, executive director of CASA of Bastrop, Fayette & Lee Counties. "They need support from their community."

Children go into the foster care system when their family is in crisis. There is a common misconception that once these children are in foster care they're safe and no further help for them is needed. This could not be further from the truth, Bauer said. Foster care is important for protecting children temporarily. It is not, however, meant to be a permanent solution.

"We're grateful to the many wonderful foster families who open their homes to children in our community. What some people don't understand, however, is that too often, these children have been taken away from everything and everyone they know," Bauer said. "Research shows that kids do better when they can stay connected with their family and community, and kids in foster care are no exception."

CASA volunteers are specially trained and appointed by judges to advocate for a child or sibling group while they are in the foster care system. They advocate for the child in court, school and other settings; and get to know everyone involved in the child's life, including their parents, foster parents, teachers, doctors, family members and others. CASA volunteers advocate first and foremost for these children to be reunified with their parents whenever safe and possible. In fact, a core part of their role is to help create and strengthen a lifetime network of relatives, family friends and other committed adults who can support the child and their parents during their involvement with foster care and beyond – increasing the likelihood for reunification.

When reunification is not an option, they advocate for the child to live with another relative or family friend. They can also advocate for the child to be placed in a loving adoptive home. In all cases, CASA volunteers are steadfast, consistent presences for the children they serve, making sure they are safe and have the resources and connections they need to grow and thrive.