

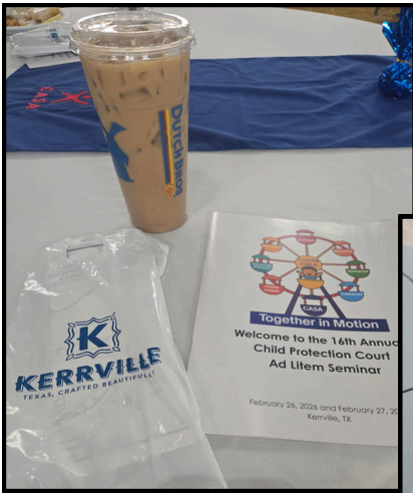


Monthly Newsletter

March, 2026

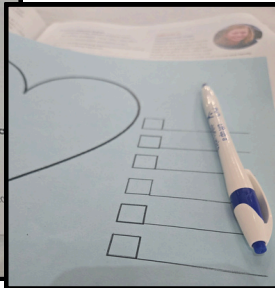
CASA of Bastrop, Fayette & Lee Counties

Thank You to the Hill Country CASA Program for Hosting the 16th Annual Child Protection Court Ad Litem Seminar in Kerrville!



Our CASA Staff had the opportunity to travel to Kerrville and stay at the YO Ranch Hotel February 26th and 27th to attend this important seminar. We joined lawyers, judges, CASA Programs and other DFPS Professionals to discuss and train on issues pertaining to child protection in the courts.

The Hill Country CASA program was so welcoming! Their team did a wonderful job planning for the conference and bringing together some excellent speakers! They even had several cute giveaways from local Kerrville businesses and vendors for the attendees.



Thanks to our Board of Directors and our Executive Director, Kristi Bauer, for ensuring we were able to attend. We look forward to more impactful conversations and information over how our CASA Program can provide the best advocacy to the children our CASA Volunteers serve.



Upcoming Events for March '26



Coffee with CASA

A new initiative from our CASA Program to raise awareness and build community. We will be at a different coffee shop once a month on Mondays from 8-10AM. Come get a drink and sit and chat with us! There will be a mix of a few people from our staff, volunteers, or board at each Coffee With CASA, ready to wish you a good morning and talk about our mission, or whatever is on your mind. **Our next session will be on Monday, March 16th at Tracy's Drive-In Grocery.**



SHOP - SIP - STROLL Warrenton Wine Walk

Stroll the fields of Uptown Warrenton for a great cause! Start at Vintage At Heart to get your glass, then shop your way through participating venues. Entry is by donation only in support of our CASA Program. **Tuesday, March 24th 5-8PM.**



Camino Real - Community Connects

CASA will join a variety of other local organizations at the first CRE Community Connects event! Food & prizes will be provided! **Thursday, March 5th 4:30-6:30pm**

Welcome Our Newest CASA Volunteers!



CASA of Bastrop, Fayette & Lee Counties is pleased to **announce** the recent appointment of three new volunteers as Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)! Judge Benton Eskew completed the swearing-in on Tuesday, February 24th, 2026. From left to right, we have Kirstin Barnhart (Round Top), Christi Wagner (Smithville), and Sarah oviedo (LaGrange) to congratulate and show our gratitude for their commitment to the CASA cause. 🌞💙



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**

A New Home for CASA - and for the Children We Serve.

CASA of Bastrop, Fayette & Lee Counties is getting a new building at 507 Water St.



FROM THIS
TO THIS!

FOLLOW ALONG WITH THE
PROGRESS AND HEAR
ABOUT HOW OUR CAPITAL
CAMPAIGN IS GOING ON
OUR WEBSITE AND SOCIAL
MEDIA PAGES IN 2026!



For years, CASA of Bastrop, Fayette & Lee Counties has stood beside children who have experienced abuse or neglect -providing advocacy, stability, and a consistent voice when they need it most. Thanks to your support, that mission has grown stronger each year.

Now, we are taking an important next step.

We are proud to announce the launch of our **Capital Campaign to finance a new CASA office building**, a space designed to support the growing needs of the children, families, and volunteers we serve across all three counties.

Our current facility has served us well, but it is an old home beyond repair and no longer meets the demands of our expanding program. The new building will provide:

- Professional, functional office space for staff and volunteers.
- A larger, dedicated training room to prepare more CASA Volunteers.
- Improved accessibility and a true parking area.
- A welcoming environment that reflects the dignity and care every child deserves.

Demolition of the existing building is now complete, making way for a future built on hope, stability, and advocacy. As one of our valued supporters, we invite you to be a part of this transformational effort. Your investment in this capital campaign is an investment in safer futures and brighter outcomes for children in foster care. More details on how to support and spread awareness for the campaign will be shared soon. In the meantime, thank you for believing in CASA - and for helping us build a foundation that will serve children for generations to come.

PARTNER WITH CASA OF BASTROP, FAYETTE & LEE COUNTIES TO BE A MONTHLY DONOR



Be a Bridge of HOPE

Established 2025

HELP US PLAN AHEAD!

SIGN UP AS A STRATEGIC DONOR
VISIT THE QR CODE ON THIS CARD TO BECOME A CASA BRIDGE BUILDER

casabfl.org

BECOME A CASA BRIDGE BUILDER



SPONSOR LEVELS


- GOLD SPONSOR- DONOR'S CHOICE
- SILVER SPONSOR- \$250 MONTHLY
- BRONZE SPONSOR- \$100 MONTHLY
- COPPER SPONSOR- \$25 MONTHLY




THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMITMENT TO BRINGING HOPE TO THE CHILDREN OF BASTROP, FAYETTE & LEE COUNTIES WHO ARE FACING A CHALLENGING TIME IN THEIR FAMILIES LIVES. TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A BIG IMPACT

Look for these **Be a Bridge of Hope** rack cards at businesses in your area to sign up as a **CASA Bridge Builder Monthly Donor** for our program.

Visit the Monthly Donor Tab at casabfl.org to see how becoming a Bridge Builder helps our CASA Program provide the best advocacy possible for children and youth who have been removed from their homes for allegations of neglect and abuse in Bastrop, Fayette & Lee Counties.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



CASA volunteers advocate for the best interest of the children they serve.

becomeacasa.org

Next Volunteer Session begins in April '26

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



March is for celebrating Social Workers!

As part of March's National Social Work Month celebration, CASA of Bastrop, Fayette & Lee Counties recognizes and appreciates the social workers, advocates and others who devote their careers to bettering the lives of others. Social workers strive to build a stronger community for all people, and CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates®) is a proud partner in the effort to create a brighter future for all children and families involved in the child welfare system.

"Social workers are the lifeblood of the child welfare system, from caseworkers, to therapists, to child placing agency staff," said Kristi Bauer, executive director of CASA of Bastrop, Fayette & Lee Counties. "Collaboration and partnership are key values in the social work field, and we share those values here at CASA." CASA volunteers with CASA of Bastrop, Fayette & Lee Counties are community members who are trained to advocate for children in foster care. They work with the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) and other key child welfare advocates and professionals to ensure that the children they serve are safe and well. They get to know the child and speak with everyone involved in the child's life, including their parents, family, caseworker, foster parents, therapists, and others, so that they can make informed recommendations to the court about the child's best interest.

One specific way CASA volunteers and caseworkers in Texas are working together to improve the lives of children and their families is through Collaborative Family Engagement (CFE), a statewide Family Finding partnership with DFPS that creates and strengthens supportive lifetime networks around children and their families. Studies have found that one of the strongest indicators of child well-being is the number of present, caring and reliable adults in the child's life. With CFE, CASA volunteers, DFPS and others work together to build an adult support system for these children and their parents – consisting of family members, family friends, teachers, mentors, neighbors, coaches and others – that will last even after the case is closed.

As CFE is rolling out across Texas, the child welfare system is also undergoing major statewide reform – reform that will require more communication and collaboration between CASA, DFPS and other groups than ever before. In 2017, the state began transitioning to Community-Based Care, a sweeping system transformation that is shifting foster care and case management services from the state to private, nonprofit contractors.

"As Community-Based Care rolls out across the state and more and more agencies get involved, we see a lot of opportunity – both to forge new relationships and strengthen current ones," said Bauer. "In the spirit of National Social Work Month, CASA of Bastrop, Fayette & Lee Counties and our dedicated volunteers will continue to focus on the strengths of those we serve – in every conversation, every new partnership we forge, every action and every case."

You don't need to be a social worker to be a CASA volunteer. You just need to have the desire to make a difference – just like our colleagues in the social work field. For more information about CASA and what CASA volunteers do, visit www.BecomeACASA.org or casabfl.org. The next training session will be in April, 2026.