



Fall Newsletter

Oct. - Nov., 2026 **CASA of Bastrop, Fayette & Lee Counties**



We're so grateful to Neighbors of Bastrop Magazine for featuring a story we submitted about our CASA Program in their September issue!

Sharing the work of our CASA Volunteers and the impact they make for children in foster care is one of the best ways we can help our community understand what it means to be a voice for a child.

Thank you, Neighbors of Bastrop, for helping us share the **CASA of Bastrop, Fayette & Lee Counties** story with even more of our community!

Events for October - November '26

Comfort Que Presents: Music & Meat Festival 2026 benefiting CASA

Bring your lawn chairs and cold drinks and enjoy a day of music! BBQ will be available for purchase. Big Band music, singer-songwriters, blues, and Country will be featured. 231 Sandy Creek RD Dale, TX 78616

Warrenton Wine Walk Presented by Zapp Hall Benefiting CASA of Bastrop, Fayette & Lee Counties

Grab a glass and take a walk through Warrenton for a night of wine, shopping, and giving back! Shoppers can pick up a cup from any Zapp Hall dealer, sip their way through the field, shop after hours, and visit other participating spots throughout Warrenton. October 27 | 5-8 PM Late Night Shopping Entry by donation benefiting CASA of Bastrop, Fayette & Lee Counties

CASA will have a booth at Bastrop's Boo Bash on Halloween 2-6 PM.

CASA Bake Sale at the 20th Annual Heroes & Hot Rods Car Show

Heroes & Hot Rods Veterans Weekend 2026 November 13-14, 2026 Historic Downtown Bastrop, Texas Heroes & Hot Rods is bringing hundreds of incredible rides to Downtown Bastrop for two days of cars, community, food and fun — all while honoring our Veterans and First Responders. **CASA will have a booth with a bake sale near the court house on Saturday, Nov. 14th starting at 9 AM.**

Trot with Tracy's for CASA 5k - family friendly fun run!

We are excited to share that 100% of proceeds received will go directly to our CASA Program.

The Trot with Tracy's 5k will start promptly at 8 AM on Saturday, November 21st and runners will have until 10 AM to complete the 5k route in historic downtown Bastrop. Local food and beverage vendors will set up at Fisherman's Park for an after-party and raffle announcement.

Register - Sponsor - Purchase Raffle Tickets - Donate - all at <https://runsignup.com/Race/TX/Bastrop/TrotWithTracySForCASA>

A New Home for CASA to Serve the Children

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!



CASA of Bastrop, Fayette & Lee Counties
507 Water Street Bastrop, TN 38021



James A. Kunkle, Architect/Builder
7 August 2025

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

BREAKFAST

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



Countdown to a better future
FOR CHILDREN

CASA of Bastrop, Fayette & Lee Counties
casabfl.org

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

Sign up
for our September '26 training session!

becomeacasa.org



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

Taking Volunteers for our January Session

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



CASA of Bastrop, Fayette & Lee Counties Helps Keep Youth in Foster Care Safe

About 1700-2000 children and youth are reported as missing from foster care in any given year according to an annual report from the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS). In many cases, “missing” in reality means that they have run away. Running away from foster care puts youth at risk of many dangers, including abduction, physical harm, exploitation, homelessness, substance use and more.

Some of the reasons youth give most frequently for running away according to DFPS are anger at the foster care system, dissatisfaction with rules of their placement, desire to be on their own and wanting to see their family. They are also more likely to run away from highly restrictive placements, such as residential treatment centers, emergency shelters and therapeutic foster care.

“Kids don’t always fully understand the dangers of running away. They are searching for safety, security and acceptance, and doing what they feel is the only thing in their power to get out of a situation they don’t like,” said Kristi Bauer, executive director of CASA of Bastrop, Fayette & Lee Counties. “Youth in foster care need stability, someone in their corner and someone to listen and understand. They need a CASA volunteer speaking up for them and their best interest.”

CASA volunteers (Court Appointed Special Advocates) are members of the community who are trained and appointed by judges to advocate in court for children in the child welfare system. They get to know the children and everyone involved in their lives, such as their parents, family, foster parents, teachers and therapists, so that they can make informed recommendations to the court in their best interest. They also work to make sure children can safely stay connected to their families and are surrounded by a network of supportive, caring adults.

“No child wants to be in foster care. Too often, they’re placed far away from everyone and everything they know. We want to be there for these children and make sure they are connected to the services and support they need,” said Bauer. “By making sure these children’s voices are heard, our CASA volunteers can build trust with them and help reduce the risk of risky behaviors.”

Children who have a CASA volunteer are more likely to receive more services while they are in the custody of the state, creating a bigger support structure for the child. Teenagers who have a CASA volunteer to support them are less likely to run away while in foster care.

“The caring adult relationship CASA volunteers provide is critical to helping youth in foster care stay safe and avoid homelessness, teen pregnancy, unemployment, substance use and more,” said Bauer. “By advocating for them and making sure they have the resources and support they need, we can help fill the gap that drives these kids to leave in the first place.”

Become a CASA volunteer, help keep a child safe, and give them a better chance at a happy, successful future. For more information, find out about our next training session in January at casabfl.org or www.BecomeACASA.org.