

Let's CONNECT

NEWSLETTER

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Our Community Rocks!

This summer, CASA Hope for Children was blown away by the generosity of those in our community. Our staff had a blast as our organization was once again a beneficiary of the Parker County Sheriff Posse and Pete Carr Rodeo's charity softball game.

As kids headed back to school, Phoenix Masonic Lodge #275 and Club Pilates came over with donations of school supplies. We were able to provide school supplies to so many children due to these generous donations.

Finally, Major Perk not only serves delicious coffee every day of the week, but they have long been generous supporters of CASA Hope for Children. We ended the summer with another much-appreciated donation from them.

Thank you to everyone who supports our mission – we truly could not do it without our community members who faithfully reach out to children and families who need them.



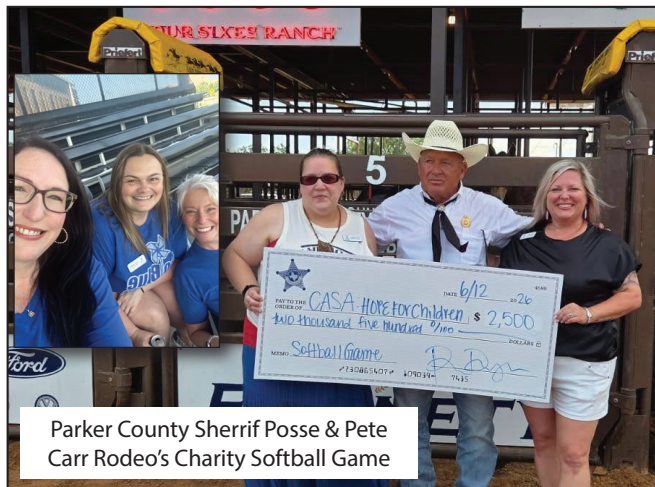
Major Perk



Phoenix Masonic Lodge #275



Club Pilates



Parker County Sheriff Posse & Pete Carr Rodeo's Charity Softball Game

Good Luck Christina, We'll Miss You!

Not goodbye, but thank you and good luck to Christina Robinson, who recently stepped down from our Board of Directors.

To say that Christina has been an incredible asset to CASA Hope for Children would be an understatement. She is a driving force behind our annual Angel Tree Project, helping the children we serve have the special Christmas they deserve. Christina did not serve on the sidelines – the entire first floor of her home each year is overrun with bicycles, toy kitchens, scooters, gaming consoles, and more – all awaiting pickup and delivery by Santa's Elves. In 2025, it took THREE large SUVs multiple trips to pick up all the gifts she'd organized wish lists for and collected. The only things bigger than the Christmas haul in her living room are her warm smile and loving heart.

Christina, we wish you every blessing in your new endeavors, and thank you for your dedication to CASA Hope for Children.



Three New Advocates

Three New Advocates Join CASA Hope for Children

In July, we were privileged to witness Parker County Judge Johnson swear in three new Court Appointed Special Advocates. These incredible ladies saw the need and chose to be part of the solution, and we are so thankful. Amanda, Robyn, and Anndi, thank you for choosing to walk alongside children involved with the child welfare system in Parker and Palo Pinto counties. We know that you will be a powerful voice advocating for their best interest, and that each life you touch will be better for it.



L to R: Training Director Christina Phenix, Anndi Couture, Robyn Gorham, and Amanda Bennett

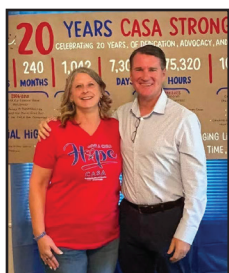
Celebrating 20 Years

Denise Ballinger Celebrates 20 Years with CASA

On July 7th, 2026, we marked a very special anniversary. Our Program Director, Denise Ballinger, celebrated 20 years of service to CASA. Many of our community partners and advocates came to celebrate this incredible milestone with Denise, and our packed office was ample evidence of how much Denise is respected, valued, and loved within this community.

We are very thankful to have had the privilege of working with Denise for 7 of her 20 years, and each of us at CASA Hope for Children would attest to what a privilege it is. Denise doesn't just talk the talk, she walks the walk. She is so passionate about child welfare and carries every case close to her heart. It is not unusual to find Denise praying with tears in her eyes when a child she's working with is struggling, or driving more than three hours to watch a child perform in a school play. Her dedication to the children we serve at CASA carries over to her team as well. Denise is the first to cheer for you when life is good, and the first to sit with you through the hard. Outside of the office, she's an incomparable mother and grandmother and a devoted wife (it would be remiss not to add – this woman can BAKE).

There aren't many women like her, and we are so glad she chooses to spend her gifts here with us.

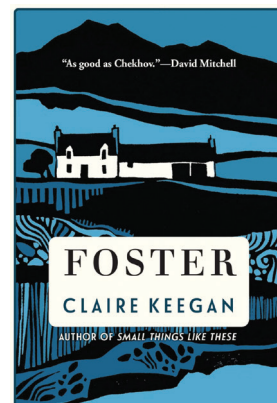


CASA to CASA Book Club



Our CASA to CASA Book Club meets next on Thursday, September 17th, from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Book Club is always such a fun opportunity for us to connect with one another and share a meal and great discussion. Attendees receive 2 hours of (Engagement) training. Tools acting as CA. Please reach out to casahopeforchildren@casahopeforchildren.org this month.



**Sept. 17th
5:30-7:30
in the
evening**

September is National Recovery Month



Addiction is something that touches every Court Appointed Special Advocate very often in this work. We see children harmed, and families ripped apart by it every day.

Addiction is loud. Addiction is hard. Addiction is all around us every day, regardless of our financial or social circumstances.

This past March, I sat next to an empty chair at my daughter's wedding. That chair was meant for her biological Mom, who spent most of her adult life battling drug and alcohol addiction. She ultimately lost her battle just days before the wedding. She wanted to be there, and she loved her

daughter desperately, but addiction is loud.

There are too many empty chairs – but there is also great hope.

Every day, with the support of caseworkers, therapists, and addiction specialists, we see parents healing. We see people choosing their children and fighting with everything they have to get healthy and have their children back with them. There

is nothing so beautiful as seeing a Mama claw her way out of addiction and become the person she was created to be. Hard as diamonds, that Mama has seen the abyss and turned back towards the children who need her. There is HOPE, and that is an integral part of what we do at CASA. We are here to walk alongside parents and their children as they navigate what it looks like to have safe, healthy, and happy families healing together.

Because of every parent who has fought and won, and for every loved one lost, we celebrate National Recovery Month.



TBRI® Moment

Upcoming TBRI Training Dates

If you haven't yet, please join us for our TBRI (Trust Based Relational Intervention) Caregiver Training.

This training is richly full of invaluable information around trauma, and its effect on a child's developing brain.

TBRI Caregiver training delves into how to build healthy connections with children from hard places, but so many attendees find that it correlates to all the relationships in their lives and helps to make them stronger. TBRI Caregiver training is open to and free of charge for our Advocates and community partners, thanks to a generous grant from the Parker County Health Foundation.

This is a 10-hour training – so if you're an Advocate who needs training hours, we'd love to see you there!

Upcoming In Person Training:

September 14th and 15th, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
(Breakfast, lunch, and snacks are served)

Upcoming Virtual Training:

September 21st – 25th, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Please reach out to suzannemccarley@casahopeforchildren.org to register.



Court Ordered Services

Court Ordered Services (COS) and Changes in the Child Welfare System

In September 2021, House Bill 567 was passed, changing the standard for removing children from "substantial risk of physical or mental harm" to "immediate danger".

Since that time, we are seeing an increase in Court Ordered Services cases, where children remain in their own home and parents are court ordered to work whatever services are determined necessary to create a safe and healthy environment for their family.

While the trajectory of a COS case may look different, as a CASA, our mission doesn't change. We advocate for the child's best interest, and we support and encourage the parents and family wherever possible. We visit the child each month, gather information from other professionals involved and the child's school or daycare, and provide a report to the court about the family's progress. Within a COS case, a CASA can create connected relationships with parents that aren't always possible when a child is placed outside their own home. It is always best for children when CASA can cultivate a safe and trusting relationship with parents, and COS cases often provide more opportunities to do that.

As the landscape of the child welfare system continually shifts, it is likely that we will continue to see a significant increase in Court Ordered Services. If you are an Advocate, and interested in taking a COS case or have questions, please reach out to your Volunteer Coordinator.



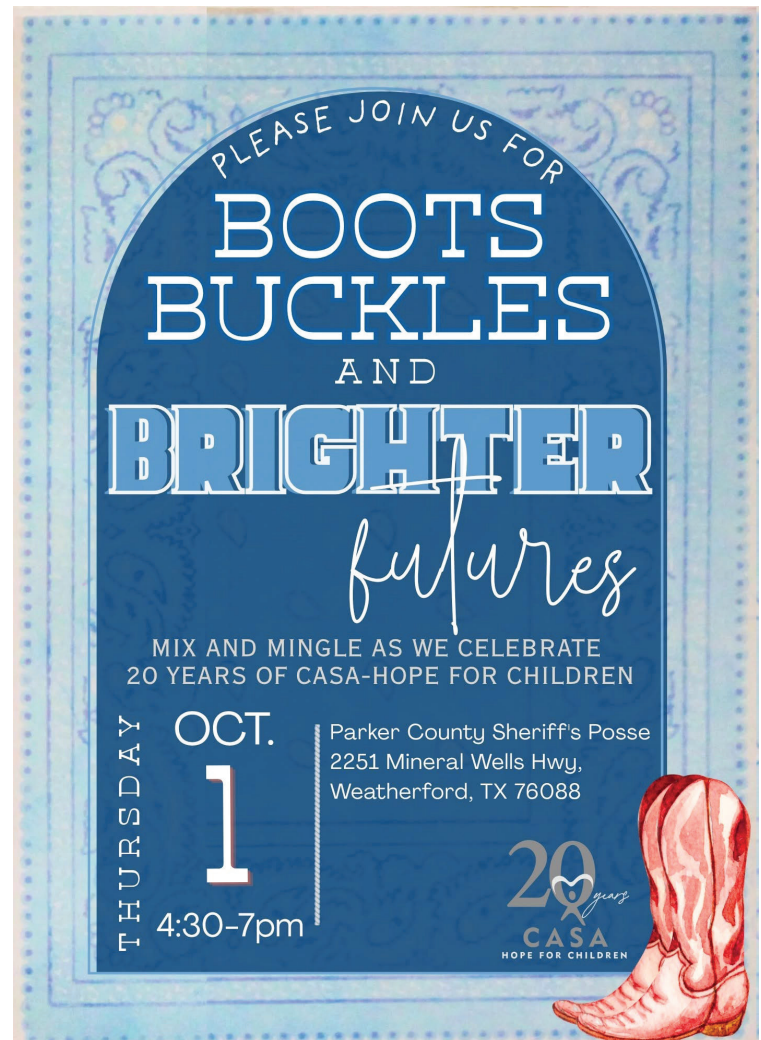
Happy Anniversary!

Happy Anniversary Monica Riedlinger

From Program Director to Executive Director, Monica Riedlinger has had an incredible impact on CASA Hope for Children. In August, she celebrated

14 years with us! Monica is a wealth of knowledge about all things CASA - in fact in her role as Program Director, she could tell you the details of and parties to any case off the top of her head. Since becoming Executive Director in April of 2024, she has exemplified the kind of leader that we can trust, respect and rely on. Monica creates a workspace where we feel seen, appreciated, and celebrated for our individual gifts. She's unfailingly generous and cares deeply about our mission, and we hope that we have at least 14 more years of her leadership and love to look forward to.

When Monica isn't taking care of all of us, she can be found in the middle of some ocean or another on a cruise ship. She is an incredibly devoted mother, wife, and daughter, and a loyal friend.



ADVOCATE SPOTLIGHT

July



Billy Bradford

August



Ana Razo

September



Becky Hadley

Please join us in celebrating this quarter's Advocate Spotlights! These incredible volunteers pour out their time, hearts, and efforts to ensure that every child on their caseload has a constant in their lives advocating for their Education, Health, Safety, and Emotional well-being.

Thank you Billy, Ana and Becky – we are so blessed by you!!

CASA Ambassadors Needed

Did you know that you can play a vital role in the mission of CASA Hope for Children without swearing in as an Advocate?

Our CASA Ambassadors are essential to our program's ability to serve every child involved with the child welfare system in Parker and Palo Pinto counties. Ambassadors spread the word about CASA and what we do, and are proof that many hands make light work at annual events like Breakfast with Santa. Ambassadors help behind the scenes, and aid in our recruitment efforts at local events like National Night Out.

If you have a heart for children from hard places and want to meet some incredible folks who share that calling, please reach out to christinaphenix@casahopeforchildren.org to learn more about becoming a CASA Ambassador.



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

CASA - HOPE FOR CHILDREN

WHERE TO FIND US:

CASA Hope for Children

305 S Rusk Street

Weatherford, TX 76086

www.casahopeforchildren.org

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

CASA Hope for Children recruits, trains, and supports volunteer Court Appointed Special

Advocates (CASA) to advocate for the best interest of children and empower families in the child welfare system.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Becky Hanley, President

Christie James, Vice President

Brian Shelton, Treasurer

Tosha McClune, Secretary

Christy Streun

Judy Jordan Giles

Michael Parker

Tiffany Dromgoole