

OCTOBER 2026

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF FORSYTH COUNTY CASA

THE FORSYTH VOICE



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

FORSYTH COUNTY



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- Bullying Prevention Month
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UPCOMING EVENTS:

NOVEMBER

Thursday November 5th

A Night for our Advocates

Hall & Hound | 5:30pm

Saturday, November 7th

Cornhole for CASA

Hall & Hound | 9am

Monday, November 16th

CASA Book Club

Sliceability | 5pm-7pm

Light of Hope nominations
are open!

CLICK HERE to nominate
someone in the community
who has made a difference
in the lives of children.

**nominations close
November 30th**



315 advocacy hours



24 hearings attended



2,692 miles driven

SEPTEMBER BY THE NUMBERS

September Recap

September was a busy month! 5 children were reunified with their biological families and 2 children achieved permanency through permanent guardianship.



MOST TRAINING LAST QUARTER

*Congrats, Jim Gibbons,
for logging the most
training this past quarter
- 22.95 hours!*

*You've earned yourself a
Starbucks giftcard!*

***CASAs, make sure you
log all of your training
hours in Optima!***



Domestic Violence Awareness Month:

Domestic violence affects more than the individuals directly involved; it can also shape the lives, safety and well-being of children and families. This October, Domestic Violence Awareness Month brings attention to these experiences and the importance of supporting survivors and breaking cycles of violence.

Children who witness or experience domestic violence may struggle with feelings of fear, uncertainty and instability. Even when they are not directly harmed, exposure to violence can affect their emotional well-being, relationships and sense of safety.

According to the CDC, approximately 1 in 4 women and 1 in 10 men have experienced contact sexual violence, physical violence and/or stalking by an intimate partner and reported a related impact during their lifetime. These experiences can affect entire families, including the children in their care.

CASA volunteers play an important role in recognizing the effects of trauma, advocating for safe and stable environments and ensuring children have access to the support they need. While volunteers cannot change a child's past, their consistent presence can help build a safer, more hopeful future.



Bullying Prevention Month:

Bullying can have a lasting impact on a young person's confidence, relationships and sense of belonging. October's National Bullying Prevention Month highlights the importance of creating environments where children feel safe, supported and included.

Children involved in the child welfare system may already face challenges related to trauma, placement changes and feelings of isolation. Experiencing bullying can add to these struggles, affecting their confidence, emotional well-being and ability to succeed in school.

According to the CDC's 2023 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, approximately 19% of high school students reported being bullied on school property during the previous year. Bullying is more than a childhood disagreement—it can have lasting effects on a young person's mental health and sense of belonging.

CASA volunteers can help by checking in on a child's school experiences, recognizing changes in behavior and advocating for a safe, supportive learning environment. Sometimes, knowing that one trusted adult is listening and willing to speak up can make all the difference.



National Youth Justice Action Month:

Young people involved in the juvenile justice system often face challenges that extend far beyond the courtroom. Youth Justice Action Month shines a light on their experiences and the need for support, accountability and opportunities to build a positive future.

Many young people involved in the justice system have experienced trauma, family instability or unmet emotional and behavioral needs. For children who have also experienced foster care, these challenges can be especially complex, highlighting the importance of early intervention and consistent support.

Research has shown that young people involved in the child welfare system are at increased risk of juvenile justice involvement, a connection often referred to as the "crossover youth" population. This overlap reminds us that children need understanding, stability and access to resources rather than being defined by their circumstances.

CASA volunteers can make a meaningful difference by advocating for educational stability, mental-health services and supportive relationships. Every young person deserves to be seen for their potential, not just their past, and to have someone advocating for a brighter future.



Bringing Back “What What Would You Do?”

We're bringing back “What Would You Do?” to The Forsyth Voice! Each month, we'll share a real-world advocacy scenario to help you think through common challenges, consider different perspectives, and strengthen your skills as a CASA volunteer. Read this month's scenario and consider how you would respond!

A 9-year-old child on your case has recently started falling behind in school and frequently visits the school counselor complaining of headaches and stomachaches. The teacher reports that the child has become increasingly withdrawn and rarely participates in class. When spoken to privately, the child shares that they are having trouble sleeping because they worry about their younger sibling, who is placed in a different foster home. The child says they feel like it is their job to make sure their sibling is okay. What would you do?



Check out next month's newsletter to see what the most effective course of action might be!



CASA-versaries!

16

Molly
Hevia

Bridgett
Milam-Crooks

14

12

Kathleen
Gizzi

Sheila
Gunby

Katie
Maegers

3

Christina
Daniels

Jennifer
Giacobbe

Jill
Dell

October Birthdays

October 11th - Emily Stowers

October 15th - Jill Dell

October 15th - Kathleen Gizzi

October 22nd - Melva Payne

October 27th - Joanna Dusseau

October 30th - Natalia Micheloud



Domestic Violence

Rethinking Trauma: What Youth From Domestic Violence Have to Teach Us

- Pre-recorded

TEDx Talks

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS](#)

Supporting Families Affected by Domestic Violence

- Pre-recorded

Zero to Three

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS](#)

Children Caught in Invisible Chains: Coercive Control Domestic Abuse & Children

- Pre-recorded

DomesticShelters.org

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS](#)

Bullying Prevention

Bullying Prevention for Children with Disabilities

- Pre-recorded

National Bullying Prevention Center

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS](#)

Bullying and Other Harmful Situations- What Do I Do to Protect My Child?

- Pre-recorded

UK College of Social Work

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS](#)



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Danny Bennett

VALUZZIA

Keller Williams Community Partners - North Forsyth Rotary Club - Jack & Becky Damico

Susan Kaufman - Steve Kirby - The Ledbetter Family - Alyssa Baskam

Fitzgibbons Family Charitable Foundation - Weaver Capital Management

Deer Creek Shores Presbyterian Church - George Lipsey - Hampton Family Charitable Fund Teleios Ministry -

Richard Warner - Georgia CASA Eggs Up Grill - Horizon Christian Academy Silvia Anderson - LEJ Capital -

Vanguard Management Group - Northpoint Mortgage

Unity Class of First Baptist Church - Bald Ridge Chapel Trustees

CHANGE A CHILD'S
STORY

 **CASA**
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