

SEPTEMBER 2026

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF FORSYTH COUNTY CASA
THE FORSYTH VOICE



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

FORSYTH COUNTY



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- *National Suicide Prevention Month*
- *National Kinship Care Month*
- *National Recovery Month*

UPCOMING EVENTS:

SEPTEMBER

Monday, September 21st

CASA Book Club

Rosati's Pizza | 5pm-7pm

OCTOBER

Tuesday, October 13th

CASA Corner

CASA Office & Virtually via
Teams | 11:30am-1:30pm

*For those interested, we will
discuss the book for the first
half of the meeting, and then
enjoy socializing afterwards!*

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**

NOVEMBER

Friday, November 6th

Lunch with the Judges

Forsyth Juvenile Court | 12pm

Saturday, November 7th

Cornhole for CASA

Hall & Hound | 9am

Monday, November 16th

CASA Book Club

Sliceability | 5pm-7pm



*381 advocacy
hours*



25 hearings attended



3,044 miles driven

AUGUST BY THE NUMBERS

August Recap

August was a great month! 2 children were reunified with their biological families, 3 children were adopted, and 2 children achieved permanency through permanent guardianship.



COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT:

***Meet Emily McAfee,
Our New
Community
Advocacy Specialist!***



We're excited to welcome Emily McAfee to the CASA of Forsyth County team as our new Community Advocacy Specialist! Emily brings a passion for community engagement, nonprofit outreach, and creating meaningful connections that strengthen the organizations and causes she serves.

In her new role, Emily will focus on increasing awareness of CASA's mission, strengthening relationships throughout our community, and connecting more people with opportunities to support and advocate for children in foster care.

She is excited to bring her creativity, passion for serving others, and love for community involvement to CASA while helping amplify the incredible work of our volunteers and the difference they make in the lives of children every day.

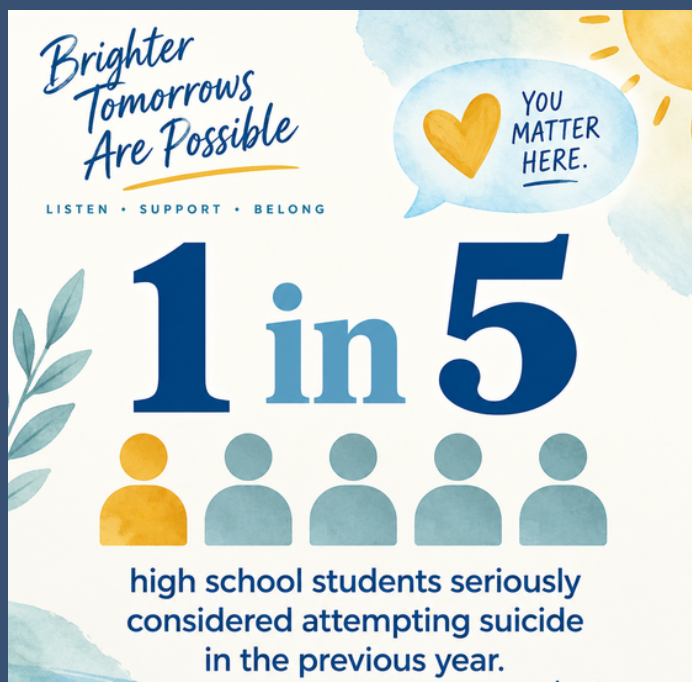
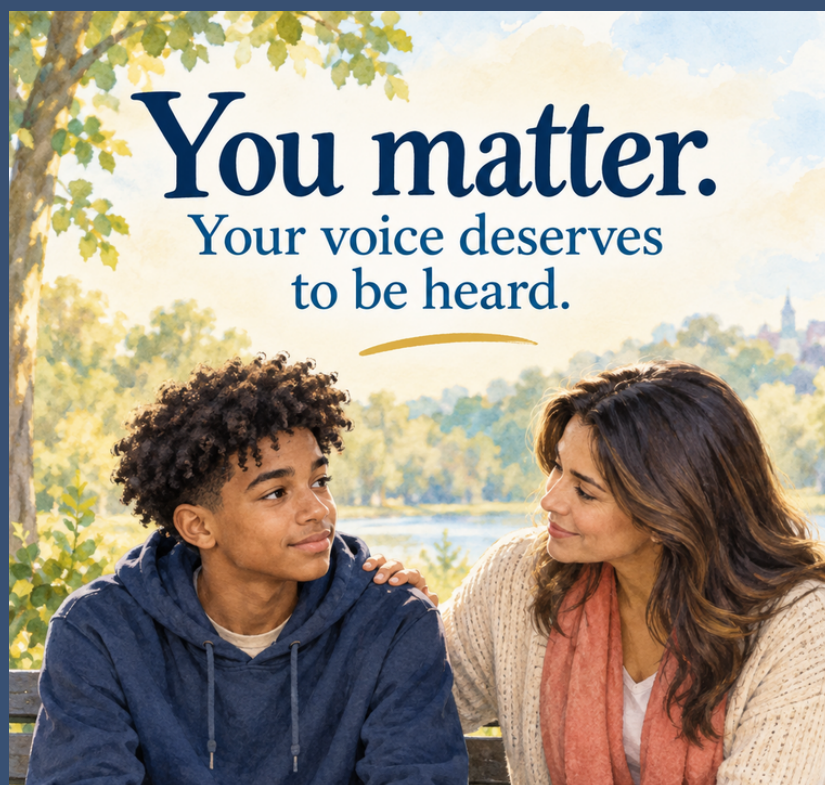
National Suicide Prevention Month: Every Child Deserves to Feel Heard

September is National Suicide Prevention Month—a time to raise awareness, encourage honest conversations and remind young people that help is always available.

Children involved in the child welfare system may carry experiences of trauma, loss and uncertainty that can deeply affect their emotional well-being. A CASA volunteer provides something especially valuable during these difficult moments: a consistent adult who listens, notices changes and advocates for the services and support a child needs.

According to the CDC's 2023 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 20% of high school students seriously considered attempting suicide during the previous year, and 9% reported making an attempt. These numbers remind us that listening, connection and early support matter.

CASA volunteers are not counselors, but they can help ensure a child's concerns are heard and that their mental-health needs do not go unnoticed.



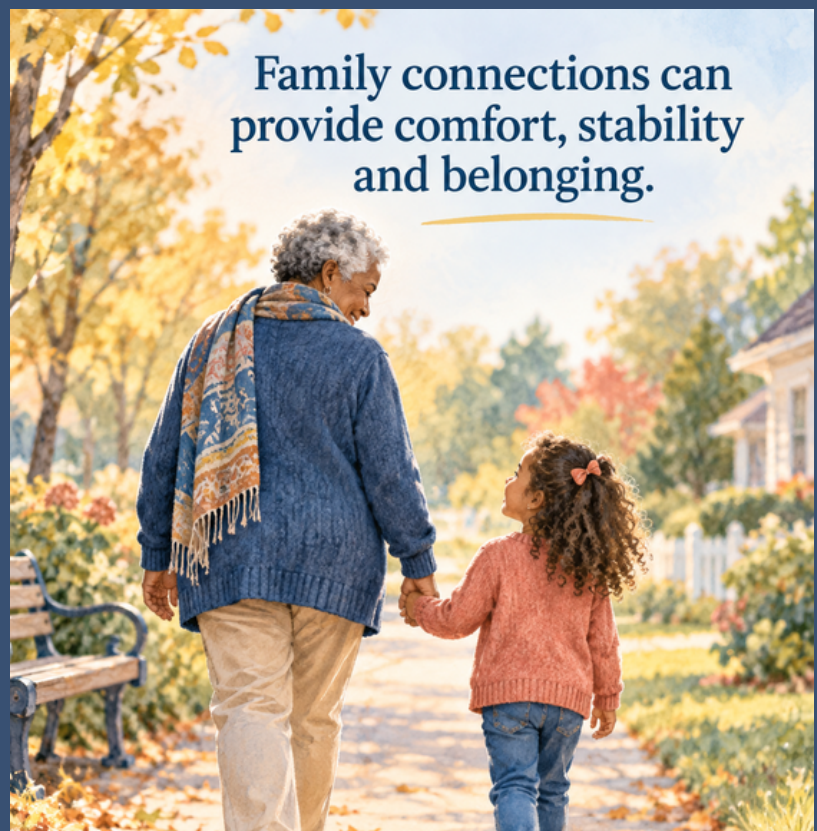
National Kinship Care Month: Keeping Children Connected to Family

September is also National Kinship Care Month, honoring the grandparents, aunts, uncles, siblings and other relatives who step forward to care for children when their parents cannot safely do so.

For children entering foster care, placement with relatives or trusted family connections can provide familiarity during an otherwise uncertain time. Kinship care can help children remain connected to their families, cultures, schools and communities while offering the safety and stability they need.

Approximately one-third of children in foster care are placed with relatives. CASA volunteers help courts understand a child's important family relationships, advocate for safe and appropriate connections, and make sure kinship caregivers' needs and perspectives are considered.

This month, we recognize the families who open their homes and hearts to provide children with comfort, connection and a sense of belonging.



National Recovery Month: Recovery Strengthens Families

National Recovery Month celebrates the progress of people in recovery from mental-health and substance-use conditions while recognizing the families and professionals who support them.

Substance use can affect every member of a family, including children who may experience instability, separation or involvement with the child welfare system. Recovery can create opportunities for healing, safer relationships and, when appropriate, family reunification.

In 2024, only about **1 in 5 people who needed substance-use treatment received it**. Access to effective treatment and continued support can make a life-changing difference for parents, children and entire families.

CASA volunteers remain focused on the child throughout this process. They advocate for the child's safety and well-being, monitor whether needed services are being provided, and help ensure the court has a complete picture when making decisions about the child's future.

Recovery is possible and when individuals receive the support they need, families and communities can grow stronger.



CASA-versaries!



September Birthdays

September 4th - Jim Gibbons

September 8th - Carolyn Reed

September 12th - Shirlin Hsu

September 13th - Lori Gillman

September 20th - Kristine Evjen

Learning & Growth *In-Person, Virtual, & Self-Guided Training Opportunities*



Kinship Care

Generations United Presents: Advocacy 101 - Kinship Caregiver Webinar

- Live via Teams - Thursday, September 24th
at 6pm

Georgia DFCS

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS](#)

Aging Matters: Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

- Mini Documentary

PBS

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS](#)

Understanding and Supporting Kinship Caregivers

- Recorded TED Talk

TEDx Talks

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS](#)

The Value of Kinship: Supporting New Roles as a Caregiver

- Pre-recorded

Illinois CASA

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS](#)



Substance Use & Recovery

The Family Recovery Journey: Recognizing the Grief Process

- Pre-recorded

Illinois CASA

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS](#)

Hand in Hand: Supporting Children and Families Impacted by Parental Addiction

- Interactive Course

Sesame Workshop

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS](#)

Crisis of Substance

- Documentary

PBS

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS](#)

Multiple Pathways of Recovery: Recovery Happens in Many Ways

- Live via Teams - Tuesday, September
22nd at 1pm

SAMHSA

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS](#)

NATIONAL RECOVERY MONTH

YOU ARE NOT ALONE.
recovery happens together.

988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline
Call or Text 988
Chat 988Lifeline.org

Veterans Crisis Line
Dial 988 (Press 1) Text 838255

Disaster Distress Helpline
1-800-985-5990

SAMHSA's National Helpline
1-800-662-HELP (4357)

FindTreatment.gov
FindSupport.gov

SAMHSA

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Rotary
Club of Lanier-Forsyth



Billy Howell



North Georgia
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Hardie-Hughes
Foundation

 **BAGWELL**
INSURANCE GROUP
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Paula Gault

Marybeth Leamer

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BROWNS
BRIDGE
CHURCH



United
Way
United Way of
Forsyth County

BENJAMIN F. BRADY
Charitable Foundation



The Walker Group

 **morningstar**
STORAGE

 **CITIZENS**
BANK
OF GEORGIA



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**
Court Appointed Special Advocates
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FORSYTH COUNTY