CASA
Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN
FORSYTH COUNTY

NOVEMBER 2026

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF FORSYTH COUNTY CASA

THE FORSYTH VOICE





INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- *National Adoption Month*
- *National Runaway Prevention Month*
- *National Family Caregivers Month*

UPCOMING EVENTS:

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

Sunday. November 30th
Nominations for Light of Hope Due!

DECEMBER

Saturday, December 5th
Rudolph Run Through
Cumming First UMC

JANUARY

Monday, January 11th
CASA Book Club
Rosati's Pizza & Sports Pub

OCTOBER
BY THE NUMBERS

259 advocacy hours

34 hearings attended

2,759 miles driven

October Recap

October brought a special celebration for our CASA family as Rebekah tied the knot! We are so excited for her as she begins this beautiful new chapter. Please join us in congratulating Rebekah and wishing the happy couple a lifetime of love, laughter, and happiness!



Volunteer Spotlight: Celebrating 7 Years of Dedication! 🌟

Join us in celebrating an extraordinary milestone for advocate team Kim & Bert Boudet!

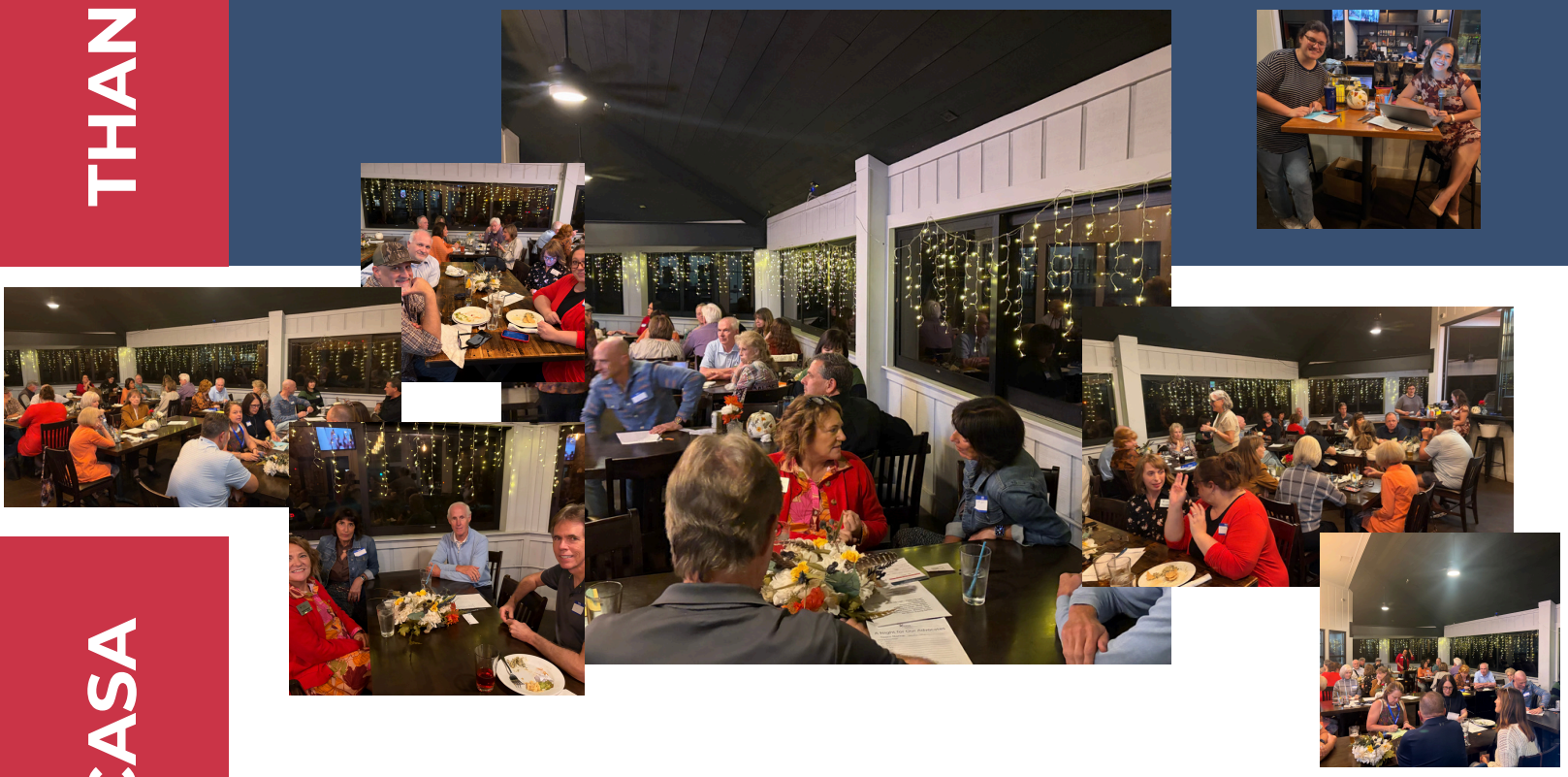
For seven continuous years, they served as Court Appointed Special Advocates for the very same youth, offering steady, unwavering guidance from his early teens all the way through his 21st birthday, when he officially aged out of Extended Youth care into independent adulthood.

As they officially retire from active CASA service to spend well-deserved time with their family and grandchildren, we want to express our deepest gratitude for their incredible advocacy and lasting impact.

Thank you, Kim & Bert, for modeling the true heart of CASA. While you will be deeply missed, our door is always open should you ever decide to return!

THANKFUL GIVING

What a wonderful evening celebrating our incredible CASA volunteers! Our Volunteer Appreciation Night was filled with laughter, great food, fun trivia, and meaningful moments as we recognized the dedication and compassion of those who make our mission possible. We are so grateful for each of our volunteers and the difference they make in the lives of children in foster care. Thank you to everyone who joined us for such a special night! We missed those who couldn't make it and look forward to celebrating together again!



CORNHOLE FOR CASA

What a fantastic day at Cornhole for CASA! We had 19 teams come out for a fun-filled day of friendly competition, laughter, and community support! We are so grateful to everyone who participated, cheered on the teams, and helped make this event a success. Thank you for coming together to support CASA of Forsyth County and our mission of advocating for children in foster care. We can't wait to do it again next year!



National Adoption Month

November is National Adoption Month, offering an opportunity to recognize the families built through adoption and bring attention to the thousands of children in foster care still waiting for a safe, loving and permanent home. Every child deserves stability, a sense of belonging and the opportunity to grow up in a supportive environment.

For children in foster care, the journey toward permanency can be filled with uncertainty. Many experience multiple placements, separation from siblings and changes in schools or communities. Whether through reunification, guardianship or adoption, finding a safe and permanent home is essential to a child's well-being and future.

According to federal data, approximately 329,000 children were in foster care nationwide in 2024, with more than 70,000 children having adoption as their permanency goal. While nearly 47,000 children were adopted from foster care that year, thousands more continued waiting for permanency.

CASA volunteers play an important role in helping children navigate this journey by advocating for their best interests, ensuring their voices are heard and supporting efforts toward safe, permanent homes. In 2025, CASA of Forsyth County served 149 children, providing consistent advocacy during some of the most uncertain times in their lives. While every child's path looks different, our volunteers remain committed to helping each child find the stability, security and sense of belonging they deserve.





National Runaway Prevention Month

For young people who run away or experience homelessness, the circumstances leading them there are often more complicated than they may appear. National Runaway Prevention Month shines a light on these challenges and raises awareness of the experiences that can lead youth to leave home, including abuse, neglect, family conflict or a lack of stability and support.

Youth who run away often face increased risks of exploitation, trafficking, violence and unmet basic needs. Children involved in the foster care system may be especially vulnerable due to placement disruptions, past trauma and feelings of isolation. Without a safe environment or trusted adult to turn to, these challenges can have lasting effects on their well-being and future.

CASA volunteers play an important role in helping vulnerable children feel seen, heard and supported. By building trusting relationships, advocating for stable placements and identifying unmet needs, volunteers help ensure children have access to the resources and support they deserve.

This National Runaway Prevention Month, we recognize the importance of early intervention, meaningful connections and safe, supportive environments. While CASA volunteers cannot eliminate every challenge a child faces, their consistent presence can provide reassurance, stability and hope during times of uncertainty.





National Family Caregivers Month

Behind many families are individuals who quietly dedicate their time, energy and love to caring for the people who depend on them. National Family Caregivers Month recognizes these often-overlooked contributions, from parents and grandparents to relatives and other loved ones who provide essential support, stability and compassion while balancing their own personal and professional responsibilities.

For children who have experienced abuse, neglect or family separation, having a trusted caregiver can make a lasting difference. Kinship caregivers, including grandparents, aunts, uncles and other relatives, often step in during difficult circumstances to provide a safe and familiar environment. These relationships can help children maintain important family connections, cultural traditions and a sense of belonging.

Caregiving comes with unique challenges, including emotional, financial and physical demands. Many caregivers make significant sacrifices to ensure the children and loved ones in their care have the resources, stability and support they need to thrive.

CASA volunteers play an important role in supporting children and the families caring for them. By advocating for each child's best interests, identifying unmet needs and helping connect families with available resources, volunteers work to ensure children have the support they need. This National Family Caregivers Month, we recognize the dedication of caregivers in our community and the meaningful difference they make in the lives of children and families every day.





"What What Would You Do?"
Real-Life Advocacy Scenarios

Last month, we asked how you would respond to the following situation:

A 13-year-old child on your case has become increasingly frustrated with their foster placement. During a visit, they share that they feel no one listens to their opinions or includes them in decisions about their life. They are a lso worried about an upcoming school change and losing contact with friends. What would you do?



Here's how we recommend responding:

- **Validate the child's feelings and concerns.** Listen without judgment and acknowledge their frustration. Reassure them that their opinions, preferences, and experiences matter.
- Empower the child to participate in decisions. Encourage age-appropriate involvement in conversations about their placement, education, and future. Help them identify what matters most to them.
- **Advocate for educational stability.** Explore whether the child can remain at their current school and maintain important friendships. Collaborate with the caseworker and school to understand available options.
- **Facilitate open communication.** Work with the foster parent and caseworker to ensure the child feels heard and included in discussions affecting their daily life.
- **Promote healthy connections and support.** Encourage continued contact with friends, trusted adults, and supportive individuals who provide a sense of belonging and stability.

Sample court report recommendation:
"CASA recommends that the child's preferences and concerns be actively considered in decisions regarding their placement and education. CASA further recommends exploring options to maintain educational stability and preserve meaningful peer relationships whenever possible. Continued collaboration among the child, foster parent, caseworker, and school is encouraged to ensure the child feels supported, heard, and **included in decisions affecting their well-being."**

Next month's scenario:

A 10-year-old child on your case has recently begun refusing visits with their biological parent, despite previously looking forward to them. The foster parent shares that the child often becomes anxious and withdrawn before scheduled visits. When speaking privately with you, the child explains that they love their parent but feel confused about their future and worry that expressing their feelings might hurt someone's feelings. They ask you not to tell anyone what they've shared.

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

CASA-versaries!

Celebrating another year of making a difference!



November Birthdays

November 6th - Christina Catchpole
November 8th - Laurie Ferry
November 11th - Heather Sjogren
November 16th - Sheila Gunby
November 19th - Andy Brown
November 28th - Ashley Shead

Learning & Growth

In-Person, Virtual, & Self-Guided Training Opportunities

Adoption

Helping Kids Transition From Foster Care to Adoption

- Webinar

Creating a Family

CLICK HERE TO ACCESS

The Joy of Brown Eyes

- Ted Talk

TEDx Talks

CLICK HERE TO ACCESS

Runaway Youth

CPS System, Foster Care & Runaway Rights Explained by Former CPS Worker

- Podcast

National Youth Rights Association

CLICK HERE TO ACCESS

ADVANCING ADVOCACY SERIES

Lunch & Learn Schedule

July 1, 2026	Trauma Informed Care with Molly Abrokwah & Patrick Aaron-Brown, watch the recording here.
August 26, 2026	Juvenile Court 101 with Jerry Bruce, Office of the Child Advocate, watch the recording here.
September 10, 2026	Language as a Missing Link Toolkit with Arianne Weldon & Dr. Garry McGiboney, watch the recording here.
October 15, 2026	Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) with the Hon. Joshua Earwood, Bartow County Juvenile Court. Register here.
November 20, 2026	The New Quick Reference Guides (QRGs), with Angela Tyner, Georgia CASA. Register here.
December 10, 2026	Autism with Dr. Nathan Call, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Register here.
January 2027	TBD

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January 2027	TBD
February 2027	TBD
March 2027	TBD
April 2027	TBD
May 2027	TBD

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CHANGE A CHILD'S STORY

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