

Tulsa CASA, Inc. Newsletter

700 S. Boston Ave, Suite 230, Tulsa OK 74119 www.tulsacasa.org



January 2025

Celebrate 40 Years of Advocacy at “The Golden Age of Film”



Join us as we celebrate 40 years of unwavering commitment to the children of Tulsa at our annual CASA Casino fundraising gala, “The Golden Age of Film.”

This extraordinary event will take place at the stunning River Spirit Casino Resort on February 15, 2025. Immerse yourself in an elegant evening that pays homage to Hollywood's Golden Age while supporting a cause that changes lives. Enjoy delicious food, partake in a thrilling live auction, and take a heartfelt journey through the remarkable success stories of CASA volunteers who have dedicated themselves to advocating for the most vulnerable among us.

Over the past four decades, CASA has transformed the lives of countless children who have faced abuse or neglect, ensuring they have a voice in the court system and the support they desperately need. Your presence and support at this gala are crucial in continuing this vital mission. Together, we can create a brighter future for every child in need. Secure your tickets today at www.tulsacasa.org and join us in making a lasting impact in our community. We look forward to celebrating this milestone with you and honoring the spirit of advocacy that lies at the heart of Tulsa CASA.

Get Your Tickets Today!

CASA CASINO

RIVER SPIRIT
CASINO
RESORT



SA TURDAY
2.15.2025
6PM

“The Golden Age of Film”

High Roller Sponsor-\$15,000

Provides advocacy for 25 abused and neglected children

16 tickets (2 tables of 8) with premier seating, a private server, complimentary champagne and VIP cocktails

Pre- and post-event publicity, logo on event signage, website, social media, and program
Recognition and introduction at event
40th Anniversary commemorative gift

Jackpot Sponsor-\$10,000

Provides training for 40 volunteers to become advocates on behalf of abused and neglected children

16 tickets (2 tables of 8) with preferred seating, complimentary champagne and VIP cocktails

Pre- and post-event publicity, logo on event signage, website, social media and program
Recognition at event
Party favors

Royal Flush Sponsor-\$5,000

Provides 50 hours of best interest advocacy for children in the foster care system

8 tickets (1 table of 8) and VIP cocktails

Pre- and post-event publicity, logo on event signage, website, social media and program
Party Favors

Full House Sponsor-\$2,500

Provides 1 year of continuing education for CASA volunteers to help them navigate child welfare cases

4 tickets and VIP cocktails

Pre- and post-event publicity, listing on event signage, website, social media and program
Party favors

Pair o' Dice Sponsor-\$1,500

Covers the cost of CASA volunteers traveling to visit 18 children in foster care placements

2 tickets

Pre- and post-event publicity, listing on event signage, website, social media and program
Party favors

Individual tickets: \$300

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT COMFORT KEIDEL, DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS MANAGER
918.584.2272 COMFORT.KEIDEL@TULSACASA.ORG

Volunteer Spotlight: Cindy Marshall

This month's volunteer spotlight features Cindy Marshall! Cindy was sworn in as a CASA volunteer in September 2020. In that time, she has served on 3 cases, advocating for 10 children total.

When asked why she is a CASA, Cindy says: "I had first been introduced to CASA through my daughters. They are both in the Kappa Alpha Theta sorority, and CASA is their national philanthropy. I had tried to find time to go through the training, but finally found time when they went virtual during the pandemic."

Cindy has lived in Tulsa since 6th grade and attended college at SMU. She and her husband have been married for 35 years. She has a daughter living in New York City, a daughter in Denver and a son who lives in Boston. Her family also includes 2 "senior" dogs and 3 grand cats. She is a consultant in information technology audit and assurance services.

Cindy says what she enjoys most about being a CASA is "visiting my kids and meeting other CASAs and parties of the cases. In my case with 8 children, I was assigned with another CASA because of the number of kids and locations, and we have become good friends! I also love being invited to school plays, rodeos, basketball games, etc. With grown children, it gives me the opportunity to be part of someone's childhood again. I have seen many remote parts of the state that I would never have traveled to make my visits - I didn't think this would be part of the job! Also, in most of my cases, I have enjoyed seeing the kids reach permanency."

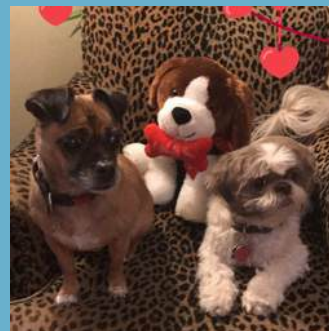
When asked, "What is the best advice you can give to someone looking to volunteer in their community?" Cindy says, "This is by far the most selfless volunteer organization I have been involved in. It is a great way to really dig into the community need and help the most vulnerable babies and kids. CASAs are treated as equal professionals to the attorneys and child welfare staff in the courtroom – possibly given more credence because we are volunteers. However, it is really difficult to go into such sad circumstances and often heartbreaking when the reality of permanency is not ideal. You have to be brave!"



"Cindy is a dedicated volunteer. She has been faithful in a marathon of a case, and her voice is heard by the Court in the best interest of the children on her cases.

She is a team player and spent a couple of years working the current case with another Advocate to adequately represent the multiple children on the case. She has pushed through frustration, standing up when no one else would, and false allegations from others on the case. Cindy is a strong, kind, and fearless advocate. As her Advocate Supervisor, I am thankful and honored to work with her and look forward to catching up with her each month as she pursues permanency for the one child remaining on the case."

- Cheryl Wright, Lead Advocate Supervisor



One little known fact about Cindy: she was the drum major for the All-State marching band in high school.

"I also received a scholarship to play in the SMU marching band in college – solidifying my status as a band nerd!"

The Art of CASA



We are still accepting kid-produced artwork to auction off at CASA Casino 2025 on February 15, 2025.

Pieces will need to be submitted by 2/1/2025. Canvas and supplies are provided and can be picked up in Comfort's office.

We also are always looking for donations for the live and silent auctions, as well. These include artwork, jewelry, gift certificates, or anything of value that might garner a donation. Thank you!

Healthy Futures for Oklahoma CASA children

In 2025, CASA programs in Oklahoma are teaming up with other states on an exciting new project called Healthy Futures! This initiative will tackle the important task of measuring CASA's impact on child wellbeing. We will begin this exciting effort by collecting data in Optima related to child wellbeing. The Healthy Futures Project focuses on assessing five essential areas of a child's wellbeing: physical, oral and dental, developmental, mental, and behavioral health. Ultimately, the aim is improved advocacy and better outcomes for the children to whom you are assigned.

How will this work? Through information you provide in your regular, monthly supervisions, CASA staff will document the following items in Optima:

1. Wellbeing assessments: Each child will be assessed quarterly in the "wellbeing assessment" section in Optima. The assessment process will identify the number of health needs a child has. As has always been the case, some needs can be addressed outside of court and others through court report recommendations.
2. To Do Tasks: After needs have been identified and an action needs to take place, the "to dos" section in Optima may be utilized.
3. Court Hearing Outcomes: If a health related recommendation is made during a court hearing, the outcomes of these recommendations will be documented.

What can you expect as a volunteer?

- During regular monthly case supervisions, you and your supervisor will discuss the child's health related needs.
- CASA staff will provide resources to help you organize the health information you collect for your CASA kids.
- Look for an email this month from your Advocate Supervisor with more information on this data collection project.

Understanding the Oklahoma Statutes Title 10A, Children and Juvenile Code In-Service Training, February 13, 2025 5:00-8:30 pm @ Tulsa CASA

We are excited to announce we are partnering with the Oklahoma Office of Family Representation to provide an in-depth training opportunity on Thursday, February 13th from 5:00pm-8:30pm at the Tulsa CASA office. Dinner will be provided.

This training is an opportunity to gain an in-depth understanding of the laws that govern child welfare in Oklahoma. We are especially excited our trainer will be Kim Rebsamen. If you have ever had the opportunity to attend her trainings, you know why! She is energetic, entertaining and incredibly knowledgeable about the law and CASA's role in child advocacy.

Kim has served previously as the Tulsa County PARB Coordinator and as a Court Case Manager for Judge Kevin Gray and for Judge Rodney Sparkman.



Kim Rebsamen
Region 5 Managing Attorney - Parent
Representation
Oklahoma Office of Family Representation

In the Oklahoma statutes, "Title 10A" refers to the "Children and Juvenile Code," which encompasses the state's legal framework for addressing child welfare issues, including child abuse, neglect, and delinquency cases.

This training will help you understand:

- **How Individualized Service Plans are created and can be modified over the life of the case;**
- **CASA's role and responsibilities according to the law; and**
- **Parents and children's rights in Oklahoma.**
- **...and so much more!**

This is a training you will not want to miss! Please RSVP to your Advocate Supervisor if you are planning to attend.

Board Member Focus:

Q&A with Jason Tackett



We are excited to welcome Jason Tackett as the 2025 President of the Board of Directors for Tulsa CASA, Inc.

Jason was born in Tulsa and has lived in the metro area for 40 years with the exception of a few years he made Stillwater and California his home. He resides here with his wife Amanda, son Ryder and dog Ellie. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with his wife and son, kayaking, fishing rivers and reading. He has built a successful career in the oil and gas business in Environmental, Health and Safety (EHS) and general management.

Jason brings an invaluable perspective as a board member, as he actually started out as a CASA volunteer! He has also served as a volunteer with Habitat for Humanity, City Lights and The Salvation Army.



Q: What do you enjoy most about serving on the TCASA Board?

A: Meeting with the staff in the strategic planning meetings.

Q: What is your vision for TCASA in the coming year?

A: Helping more kids in the short term and building the foundation for future expansion.

“Jason Tackett first came to Tulsa CASA as a volunteer in 2016. During his time as an advocate, he served on two cases and provided best interest advocacy for five children. Once his last CASA child gained permanency, Jason directed his passion for our mission to the Board of Directors, stepping into this new role in January of 2020. Since joining the board, Jason has led the initiative in creating two strategic plans which has guided the agency since 2022 and will continue to steer our efforts until 2027. His love for the mission, his roles during his tenure at CASA and his focus on sustaining the growth and stellar advocacy of the organization makes him a wonderful choice as Board President for the 40th anniversary of Tulsa CASA. I am so excited to work with him this year!”

Liz Fisher, Executive Director