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Nueces County
Commissioners Court
Administration



December 3, 2013

County Judge Loyd Neal
901 Leopard Street, Precinct 1, Rm. 303
Corpus Christi, Texas 78401-3602

FY 12/13
Family Protection
Fee Report

Dear Judge Neal,

JCM ✓
On behalf of CASA of the Coastal Bend, I would like to sincerely thank you and the Commissioners Court for the very charitable contributions of \$750 in Outside Agency funds and \$8,229 in Family Protection Fee monies. These funds were spent for operational support specifically for salaries and direct operating expenses.

CASA of the Coastal Bend enjoyed a very busy year in 2013. We continued to expand our services to the areas of San Patricio and Aransas Counties serving children in our tri-county area. We completed the second year of a strategic growth plan with a focus on volunteer recruitment and retention as well as diversity of potential volunteers through speaking engagements and other opportunities to promote the CASA program.

As CASA recruits and trains more volunteers, staff will be hired to meet the National CASA recommended ratio of 30 volunteers to each Casework Supervisor. Last year, CASA of the Coastal Bend had four full time supervisors and one part time supervisor. These supervisors worked with 147 CASA volunteers. These volunteers worked with and helped 378 children in the tri-county area during 2013—more than 300 of these children were from Nueces County. This year, we expect to serve 500 children with the help of 190 volunteers. Nueces County's numbers of children in foster care continue to remain very high. Last year, 700 children from Nueces County were in substitute care.

For 2013-14 CASA's goals are:

1. To increase the children served by CASA volunteers to 500 by increasing the volunteer team to 190+ using specific recruitment and retention efforts as outlined in our 5 year strategic growth plan.
2. To provide advocacy to those children through volunteers who give quality service, one on one mentoring, advocacy in court, school and in the medical arena as well as focusing on significantly shortening the time the children remain in the foster care system and helping to achieve permanency for them.

3. To effectively screen potential volunteers and to continue to provide quality training to new volunteer recruits and to tenured volunteers ensuring a quality dedicated volunteer team.
4. To begin renovation (spring/summer 2013) and interior demolition of our second building located on the property as we continue to grow our volunteers and staff. At present time each office and every bit of space in our main building is being utilized. The renovations will be complete by winter 2013/14 in order to accommodate new hires and give existing staff office space. Presently our Development Director is sharing the training room as we have no office space for him and our Recruitment Director is sharing the hallway for her office area. The Volunteer supervisor to be hired will need to office share with another supervisor until renovations are complete, and the AA hired in July 2012 is currently sharing office space with our trainer. Renovation cost estimated at \$292,000 and includes partial demolition, buildout and furniture and equipment.

The CASA's role is to ensure the child's immediate physical, medical, emotional and educational needs are met, to help find the child a safe, permanent home and to shorten the time the child remains in the system. The CASA volunteer visits with the child, makes an assessment based on the child's immediate needs and safety, and remains on the case providing this personal advocacy and making sound fact-based recommendations on the child's behalf until the child is out of the system and in a forever home.

In 2014 CASA will hold 10 training classes and train 100 new volunteers. CASA of the Coastal Bend sincerely appreciates all that that you have done for the children of this community. Without your help, CASA would not be able to increase its volunteer team and thus increase the number of children served. CASA's long term goal is to provide advocates for each and every foster child in the counties we serve. CASA would like to work again with you to help these children. If you have any questions or require any additional information or reporting, please feel free to contact me at 884-2272.

Sincerely,



Page H. Hall
Executive Director
Enclosure

CASA's mission is to speak up for and find permanent homes for foster children in crisis throughout Nueces, San Patricio and Aransas Counties. Our trained community volunteers gather information and evaluate the needs of the child. These volunteers speak out in court representing the sole interest of the child. CASA of the Coastal Bend's goal is to help place these children in safe, nurturing environments as quickly as possible.