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Nueces County
Commissioners Court
Administration



December 10, 2014

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

FY 13/14
Outside Agency Report
County Judge - \$950

Dear Judge Neal,

✓ 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 \$950 in Outside Agency funds. 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 2014. 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 third 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. These supervisors worked with 137 CASA volunteers. These volunteers worked with and helped 351 children in the tri-county area during 2014—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, 800 children from Nueces County were in substitute care.

For 2015 CASA's goals are:

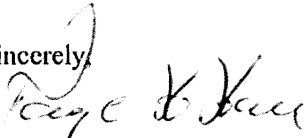
1. To increase the children served by CASA volunteers to 500 by increasing the volunteer team to 190+ using specific recruitment and retention efforts as outlined in our 5 year strategic growth plan.
2. To provide advocacy to those children through volunteers who give quality service, one on one mentoring, 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 continue renovation 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 is partially complete with the building windstorm approved, dried in and framed. 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.. Cost to complete is estimated at \$240,000.

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 2015 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.