

3RD QUARTER

FOSTER BY FAITH

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR BOSSIER KIDS

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BOSSIER KIDS NEWS

All of the kids said they had a great summer and surprisingly, all the school aged kids are saying they are excited about school starting!

One of our boys has been so excited to start Kindergarten this year! He could not wait to get to school to start making friends and learning new things.

We have a child that just started a new day care program. He said he has already made lots of new friends, but said his foster brother was his best friend.

Three of our children got to have a camping trip this summer at Cypress Lake with the family. All reported they had a wonderful time.

One of our kids is starting a new running group at school. He also had a big birthday in August. He said that his birthday celebration was great!

Another one of the girls also had a birthday party in August and had lots of fun playing in the water.

Thank you for supporting and loving these sweet children!

ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

DONATIONS

Along with monetary donations, there are a variety of other ways you can donate to Bossier KIDS and local foster families. If you have gently used children's toys, gear, clothing items, or bedroom furniture, consider donating them for use in foster homes. In addition, you can also greatly bless a foster family by deciding to purchase these items for their children.

FOSTER CARE TRAINING

If you have considered becoming a foster parent, don't wait any longer! We need you. Consider visiting the website for the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services (www.dcfslouisiana.gov). The DCFS website contains important information about the steps to becoming a foster parent, as well as answers any questions you may have before pursuing certification.

PREPARING FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON

Each holiday season, we try to help bring joy to children in care. The holidays are especially challenging to children in the foster care system, but you can make a positive impact by choosing to sponsor a foster family this Christmas season, purchase gifts for a foster child by participating in our annual Angel Tree, or donate winter gear such as coats, hats, socks, and gloves to a foster family in need.

FOSTER CARE TERM SPOTLIGHT: COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE (CASA)

What is a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)?

A Court Appointed Special Advocate or CASA volunteer is an individual who advocates on behalf of a foster child. Each CASA volunteer is assigned to a child in care to ensure the child's needs are being met, as well as to provide 1-on-1 support.

Who can be a CASA?

CASA volunteers must be over the age of 21 and willing to commit several hours of time each month for at least one year. Other requirements include effective written and oral communication, participation in an in-depth training program and in-service training, and passing DCFS and criminal history background checks.

What are the responsibilities of a CASA volunteer?

CASA volunteers need to be able to spend significant time with the children they are assigned to in order to build a relationship. This also involves taking time to gather information from teachers, peers, family members, physicians, and any other individuals the children are close to. Volunteers work to ensure children have access to resources and help they need, and they accompany children to court to advocate on their behalf and provide important background information to judges. Volunteers work closely with the children they are assigned until the child exits foster care to a safe, permanent home.

FOSTER CARE TERM SPOTLIGHT: COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE (CASA)

Why does CASA matter?

According to the Louisiana CASA website, children who are assigned a CASA volunteer are more likely to:

- Find a safe, permanent home
- Spend less time in foster care
- Have fewer moves between placements
- Do better in school
- Receive the services they need
- Avoid re-entry into foster care

www.louisianacasa.org

What steps do I need to take to become a CASA?

In order to become a CASA volunteer, visit louisianacasa.org/volunteer and fill out the request form. Upon submitting the request form, you will hear back from Louisiana CASA on further steps to take.

We ask you would prayerfully consider becoming a CASA volunteer and help advocate on behalf of so many children in our state who have been placed in situations largely out of their control. Help make a difference to children in need.

SUPPORT FOSTER FAMILIES THIS FALL & WINTER

1. Purchase or Donate Jackets and Cold Weather Gear

Offer to purchase outerwear, hats, gloves, and other cold weather gear for a foster family.



2. Support Extracurricular Activities

If you know a foster child who is involved in extracurricular activities, consider attending to show your support.

3. Sponsor a Family for Christmas

Think about purchasing Christmas gifts for a local foster family this year. Need help finding one? We can help! Give us a call or send us a message.



SIX BACK TO SCHOOL TIPS FOR FOSTER PARENTS

1 Develop a bedtime and sleep routine.

2 Encourage healthy, balanced eating habits.

3 Enforce boundaries with screens & electronic devices.

4 Implement organizational systems.

5 Keep lines of communication open.

6 Get connected with teachers.

FOSTER FAMILY RESOURCES

Bossier KIDS Certification: If you are interested in fostering for Bossier KIDS, we have the ability to certify you to foster in one of our three Bossier KIDS homes or grant you certification to foster in your own home. Connect with us through social media or our website to learn more.

www.bossierkidsinc.org

Adopt US Kids: Adopt US Kids is a national organization whose goal is to provide a family to every child and teen in the U.S. foster care system. They provide information for prospective foster and adoptive parents, aid in the adoption process, and connect families through their social platforms.

www.adoptuskids.org

CASA Louisiana: CASA stands for "Court Appointed Special Advocate." CASA Louisiana's website provides information for individuals who are interested in volunteering in this capacity on behalf of a foster child.

www.louisianacasa.org

Louisiana Foster Care Support Organization: The Louisiana Foster Care Support Organization connects Louisiana foster families to support groups, trainings, parents' night out opportunities, clothing/supplies, and opportunities for their foster children, as well as includes resources for children aging out of the care system.

www.louisianafostercare.com

Fostering Families Today: Fostering Families Today is a national foster care magazine with resources, advice, and helpful information on aiding foster children. Their website also features access to free webinars, their newsletter, article archives, and Facebook discussion groups.

www.fosteringfamielistoday.com

Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services: Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) is a governmental organization that advocates for the safety of children, helps families and individuals at risk, and provides refuge in the event of a natural disaster. Their website also outlines steps to becoming a foster parent.

www.dcfslouisiana.gov

SEASONAL CRAFT

Q-TIP AUTUMN TREE



SUPPLIES:

- Canvas or Watercolor Paper
- Acrylic Paint
- Q-Tips
- Rubber Band
- Paint Brush
- Paper Plate

DIRECTIONS:

1. Start by painting a simple, bare tree with branches on either a blank canvas or watercolor paper.
2. Grab a handful of Q-Tips and wrap the rubber band around them, creating a bundle of Q-Tips.
3. Squeeze small amounts of red, orange, and yellow acrylic paint onto a paper plate.
4. Dip the bundle of Q-Tips in the acrylic paint and press the bundle onto the canvas/watercolor paper, covering the tree's branches to make a beautiful autumn tree.

Source: The Pinterested Parent



SEASONAL TREAT

PUMPKIN PATCH DIRT CUPS

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 Box Instant Chocolate Pudding
- 3 Cups Milk
- 2 Packages Oreos
- 1 Package Green Sour Straws Candy
- 1 Package Pumpkin Candies
- Clear Plastic Cups



DIRECTIONS:

1. Make the pudding mix by whisking the mix with 3 cups cold milk.
2. Crush the Oreos (by hand or using a food processor) until smooth.
3. Layer the Oreos and chocolate pudding in a clear cup and top with more Oreos.
4. Top with half a Green Sour Straw Candy (the pumpkin vine) and three candy pumpkins.
5. Serve with a spoon!

Source: I Can Teach My Child

DONOR APPRECIATION

***2023 3rd Quarter Donations Given in
Memory Of***

In Memory of Mary Beth Touchstone

from Gerald and Linda Burrow

In Memory of Buddy Christ

from Joey and Janet Brown

***If you would like to give a donation in memory of a
loved one, please email us at
bossierkids@gmail.com***

BOARD APPRECIATION

Our 2023 Volunteer Board of Directors

Paul Cressend

Penny Burks

Gregg Vaughan

Charles Gregg

Chance Nerren