

CASA CHRONICLE



Discover Free Passes at Your Library

Participating locations include:

- Besh Ba Gowah (Globe)
- AZ Sonora Desert Museum
- Desert Botanical Garden
- Western Spirit Museum
- S'edav Va'aki Museum
- Tucson Museum of Art
- Phoenix Art Museum
- Lowell Observatory
- Heard Museum
- Reid Park Zoo

For more information on Gila County Culture Passes, check out:

[Gila County Library District: Culture Pass Information](#)

CASA VISITS IN SUMMER

Summer visits can be difficult in the Arizona heat! To get some ideas from CASA of Gila County Volunteers see [page 6](#).



Family Reunification Month

CELEBRATING THE WORK

National Family Reunification Month is a special occasion to honor families and communities while highlighting the significance of family reunification for children in foster care.

CASA of Gila County recognizes the hard work and dedication of parents who achieve the goal of reuniting with their children, as well as the committed professionals who provide invaluable support throughout this process.

GILA COUNTY:

From May 2025 to May 2026, Gila County proudly witnessed the successful reunification of 16 children as their dependency cases were closed.

Currently, 7 children remain in an open dependency status but have been reunified with their parents and are awaiting case closure.



Welcome to CASA!!

Join us in welcoming Carrie to the CASA of Gila County Program! Check out more photos from her Oath of Office on [page 4](#).

CASA Darla – Initiative

CASA Darla was informed of a possible educational barrier affecting her CASA child. She promptly reached out to DCS and began advocating for the inclusion of the parents in the decision-making process related to this issue. This proactive support aimed at family reunification embodies a collaborative effort and initiates dialogue to prevent obstacles for the child.

"Every student deserves a champion—an adult who will never give up on them... and insists that they become the best they can possibly be."

-Rita Pierson

CASA Linda – Foundation of Knowledge

CASA Linda has been an advocate in our community for bringing awareness to human trafficking. CASA Linda recently asked the mother of her CASA child if she was comfortable with CASA Linda coming over and talking with the mother and the CASA child about red flags to watch for.

The mother was very appreciative of the offer and support to help keep her child safe.

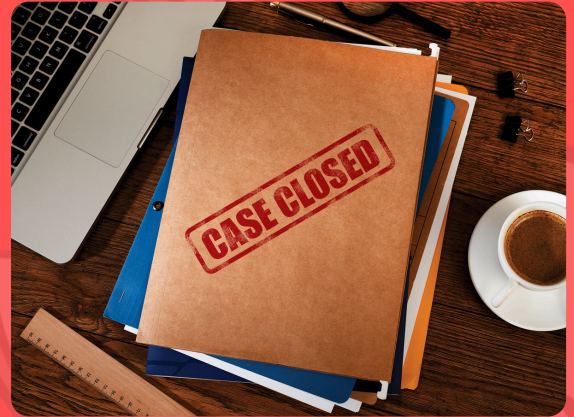
CASA Barbara – Communication

CASA Barbara has been on a case for almost 2 years along with 2 Courtesy CASAs in Pima County. CASA Barbara has continued to advocate for the best interest of the CASA children as their needs have changed.

Recently, the parents of the CASA children needed to complete psychological evaluations, and the psychologist noted how helpful the CASA Court Report was in understanding how this case has affected the CASA children.

"Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much."

-Hellen Keller



CASA Maria– CASA Commitment

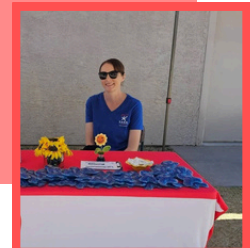
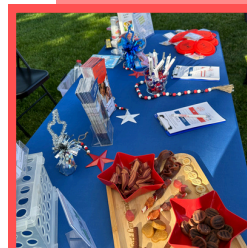
CASA of Gila County celebrates CASA Maria for the closure of her first CASA case assignment. This case had a successful and happy ending with the CASA child reunifying with his mother.

"Thank you to all our CASA volunteers, your dedication and passion for the children in our communities amazes me every day!"

-Coordinator Mariah

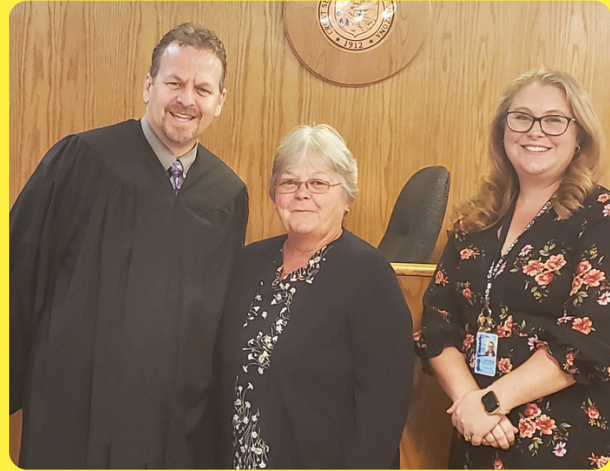
CASA Community Outreach

Thank you to our volunteers who came out to help on Saturday, May 30, 2026, in Payson and Miami!



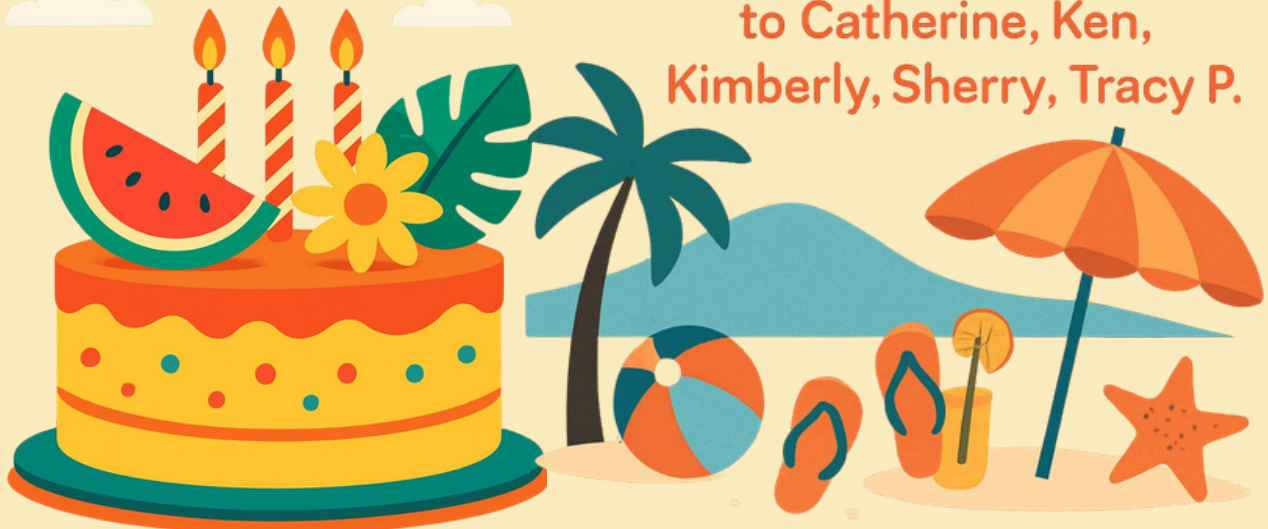
Happy CASA Anniversaries!!

Karrol - 7 Years & Cris - 5 Years



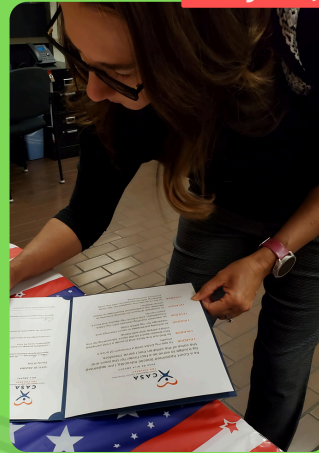
HAPPY BIRTHDAY

to Catherine, Ken,
Kimberly, Sherry, Tracy P.



CASA Oath of Office

May 04, 2026



CASA Payson Appreciation Event

May 11, 2026





LGBTQAI+ Youth Support

The Trevor Project's 2025 U.S. National Survey on the Mental Health of LGBTQ+ Young People amplifies the experiences of more than 16,000 LGBTQ+ young people ages 13 to 24 across the United States.

For the 7th year, the U.S. National Survey found that LGBTQ+ young people are too often placed at higher risk for suicide not because of who they are, but as a result of how they are mistreated and stigmatized.

What do you wish you could say to someone who says that they don't understand what it means to be transgender or nonbinary?



“ I would say it's a matter of acceptance, not understanding. I don't understand physics and its laws but that doesn't mean that physics doesn't exist, or that it exists in a way I want it to. So you may not 'understand' it, but that doesn't mean you can't accept it. ”

(Photo from the Trevor Project page).

- An 18-year-old respondent from Maine

This year, anti-LGBTQ+ victimization, policies, and rhetoric contributed meaningfully to the rates of poor mental health and suicide risk observed among the LGBTQ+ young people who took this survey.

- 1 in 10 LGBTQ+ young people attempted suicide in the past year
- 44% of LGBTQ+ young people who wanted mental health care in the past year were not able to get it.

See the full survey results here: www.thetrevorproject.org/2025Survey

If you or someone you know needs support, help is available:

The Trevor Project

(24/7 crisis support for LGBTQ+ youth)
Call: 866-488-7366 or Text: 678-678

Trans Lifeline

(Peer support from trans volunteers)
Call: 877-565-8860

988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline

(Free and confidential mental health support)
Call or Text: 988



PTSD Awareness

All children and adolescents experience stressful events that can affect them both emotionally and physically. Their reactions to stress are usually brief, and they recover without further problems. A child or adolescent who experiences a catastrophic or life-threatening event, or a series of such events, may develop ongoing difficulties known as posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Following the trauma, children may initially show agitated or confused behavior. They may also show intense fear, helplessness, anger, sadness, horror, or denial. Children who experience repeated trauma may develop a kind of emotional numbing to deaden or block the pain and trauma. This is called dissociation. Children with PTSD avoid situations or places that remind them of the trauma.

A child with PTSD may also re-experience the traumatic event by:

- Having frequent memories of the event, or in young children, play in which some or all of the trauma is repeated over and over
- Having upsetting and frightening dreams
- Acting or feeling like the experience is happening again
- Developing repeated physical or emotional symptoms when the child is reminded of the event

For more information on PTSD in children and adolescents please visit: [American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry](http://AmericanAcademyofChildandAdolescentPsychiatry.org).

How a CASA Can Help

Advocate for the child's need for:

- Appropriate level trauma therapy
- A consistent routine in the home
- Additional screenings to identify supports
- Behavior coaching to support coping skills
- An IEP/504 if the child is struggling to attend school

CASA VISITS IN SUMMER

Ideas from our Gila County CASAs

From CASA Karrol for the Valley Area:

- Check out Bookman’s and Half-Price Books for budget-friendly used children’s books.
- Queen Creek Public Library (also offers free library passes).
- Phoenix Art Museum and Gilbert Historical Museum, both featuring Treasure Hunt challenges for kids: Children receive a list of items to find (e.g., “Locate a picture of a laughing king” or “Spot an old-fashioned fire truck”). Completing the list earns them a small reward. The Art Museum offers a table where kids can try their hand at creating their own artwork.
- Mesa Contemporary Arts Museum, which provides free admission and a Treasure Hunt Challenge list.
- Arizona Museum of Natural History (dinosaurs!) and Arizona Science Center: Both venues offer interactive activities for kids, though admission can be somewhat pricey.



From **CASA Tammie** for Globe/Miami:

- Dairy Queen
- Vida Cafe
- Movies

From **CASA Kimberly**:

- Movies
- Water parks
- Splash pads
- Arcades
- Roller rinks
- Bowling
- Libraries



From **CASA Cris**:

- Create a Charcuterie Board together!

From **CASA Lana**:

- Bowling
- Movies

CASA Support Groups

CASA support groups are held three times a month, and all meetings are open to every Gila County CASA Volunteer. We encourage you to participate in the session that best accommodates your schedule.

06/09- CASA League of Extraordinary Volunteers

2nd Tuesday 12:00PM-2:00PM
 In- Person: Payson CASA Room
 Zoom Link Available- Request from Mariah
 Lead: Mariah mlantz@courts.az.gov

06/19- CASA Empowerment Allies

3rd Friday 12:00PM-1:00PM
 Microsoft Teams Only- Contact Emily for link
 Lead: Emily enader@courts.az.gov

06/24- CASA Difference Makers

4th Wednesday 3:00PM-5:00PM
 In- Person: Payson CASA Office Conference Room
 Lead: Mariah mlantz@courts.az.gov

Please note that this event is exclusively for CASA of Gila County Volunteers

CASA Appreciation Luncheon

Date: Sat. June 13, 2026
 Globe/Miami Area
 RSVP with Emily

CASA IN THE COMMUNITY

Summer Concert Series
 Green Valley Park Payson, AZ
 June 27, 2026
 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Payson CASA Office

Mariah Lantz,
 CASA Coordinator
 928-474-7145
mlantz@courts.az.gov

Globe CASA Office

Emily Nader,
 CASA Coordinator
 928-402-4427
enader@courts.az.gov

