

# CASA CHRONICLE

February 2026

## CASA Quarterly Letters

As a CASA Volunteer, we understand that your schedules can be hectic. Some months seem to pass in the blink of an eye, making it easy to overlook certain tasks. To assist you, CASA of Gila County will be sending out quarterly letters to each volunteer. These letters will provide a summary of your CASA compliance, including CASAaz Entries, training hours, and other important reminders related to the CASA Volunteer program requirements.



## CASA Support Group Updates

CASA Support Groups are available monthly for CASA volunteers across the county. With three meetings each month, two convenient county locations, and virtual options, volunteers can select a meeting schedule that suits their needs. These support groups serve a valuable resource for self-care, CASA training, and program assistance. [For further details, see page 3.](#)



## Orange for Teen Dating Violence Awareness

Each February, young people nationwide raise awareness about teen dating violence through Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month (TDVAM). This annual month-long push focuses on advocacy and education to stop dating abuse before it starts.

[www.loveisrespect.org](http://www.loveisrespect.org)

See More on TDVAM on [page 4](#)



# Our CASA Team in Action!

## CASA Advocacy Competency: Foundations of Knowledge

During a courtroom hearing, CASA Linda effectively advocated for the best interests of her assigned child, even while facing direct questioning from the Judge without any preparation. Linda expressed her concerns clearly and also articulated the reasons behind her support for the question from the Judge.

## CASA Advocacy Competency: Communication

CASA Darla utilized her ability to communicate confidently and professionally as she advocated for the child's needs in the CASA Court Report and her oral update to the court. When stating her concern during the hearing, she provided clear, objective examples of why she had the concern.

## CASA Advocacy Competency: Initiative

When the child's therapeutic needs came into question, CASA Karrol used her initiative to speak to other's involved, such as the interviewing the psychologist to find out more information on what the child needed and what would best support his individual healing.



Happy Birthday  
Gail, Lana, Bonita & Pollyanna!



### CASA Support Groups

We are pleased to announce that CASA support groups are now 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.

➤ **CASA League of Extraordinary Volunteers**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday 12:00PM-2:00PM

In- Person: Payson CASA Office Conference Room  
Zoom Link Available- Request from Mariah  
Lead: Mariah [mlantz@courts.az.gov](mailto:mlantz@courts.az.gov)

➤ **CASA Empowerment Allies**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Friday 12:00PM-1:00PM

Microsoft Teams Only- Contact Emily for link  
Lead: Emily [enader@courts.az.gov](mailto:enader@courts.az.gov)

➤ **CASA Difference Makers**  
4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday 3:00PM-5:00PM

In- Person: Payson CASA Office Conference Room  
Zoom Link Available- Request from Mariah  
Lead: Mariah [mlantz@courts.az.gov](mailto:mlantz@courts.az.gov)

## Teen Dating Violence

impacts millions in the U.S.

1 in 3 U.S. teens will experience physical, sexual, or emotional abuse from someone they're in a relationship with before becoming adults.

Recognizing the warning signs of abusive and controlling behaviors is important. Love is respect can help.

- Call **1.866.331.9474**
- Text **"LOVEIS"** to **22522**
- Chat **loveisrespect.org**

## 2026 TDVAM Action Guide

Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

20  
26

real love  
respects

love is  
respect

[26-TDVAM-Action-Guide-v11.pdf](#)

Observed each February, Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month is a vital initiative designed to educate and empower young individuals regarding the significant issue of dating violence. This month-long campaign emphasizes the importance of promoting healthy relationship dynamics among teenagers and offers resources to help them identify and respond to signs of abuse.

For our CASA teens, the risk of entering unhealthy relationships may increase due to a strong desire for connection and love. By cultivating an environment of awareness and support, we can strive to break the cycle of violence and ensure that young people are able to establish safe and respectful relationships.



## National Children's Dental Health Month

“Attitudes and habits established at an early age are critical in maintaining good oral health throughout life. By participating in the annual celebration of National Children’s Dental Health Month, members of the dental team, parents, teachers and others can help keep children’s smiles beautiful now and for years to come.” (ADA, 2026)

Did you know that you can download a FREE Brushing calendar, coloring sheets, and flyers in English and Spanish created by the American Dental Association?

<https://www.ada.org/resources/community-initiatives/national-childrens-dental-health-month>



# SAVE THE DATE

## RESPECT WEEK

MON  
FEB  
09

### REAL LOVE RESPECTS (YOUR BOUNDARIES)

Boundaries don't push love away, they help it grow. What's a boundary that makes you feel respected?

TUES  
FEB  
10

### WEAR ORANGE DAY

Join us by raising awareness for TDVAM by sharing a photo of you wearing orange.

WED  
FEB  
11

### REAL LOVE RESPECTS (YOUR PERSPECTIVE)

Pop culture can shape how we see love, but we get to define what healthy love really is.

THURS  
FEB  
12

### REAL LOVE RESPECTS (YOUR VIBE)

Celebrate with a song that instantly lifts your vibe! Whether it reminds you of healthy relationships, or the power of being respected in love, share your go-to track.

FRI  
FEB  
13

### REAL LOVE RESPECTS

Real love isn't perfect. It feels safe, never forced, and always rooted in respect. Drop what real love looks like to you

#RealLoveRespects #TDVAM2026

Wear  
Orange Day!!



Every TDVAM, we wear orange to raise awareness about dating violence. Share your selfie in orange with us today using #RealLoveRespects

loveisrespect.org

#tdvam2026

**OFFICE  
CLOSED  
DAY**

Monday February 16, 2026

## CASA of Gila County Trainings

### Court Report Writing Lab 2026

Payson In-Person Training Event

February 04, 2026

3:00PM

Contact Mariah for more information

### 7-OH and Kratom

### Presented by AZYP

Virtual Training

Friday February 13, 2026

12:00PM

Contact Emily for more information

## CONTACT US

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