

CASA CHRONICLE

| March 2026



Dear CASAs,

Thanks to each and every one of you, in 2025 we achieved:

- 4** New CASA Volunteers
- 16** New CASA Cases
- 503** Total Training Hours
- 1,850** Total Hours Dedicated
- 102** Combined Years of CASA Experience serving our kids in Gila County!



We feel **LUCKY** to have you on our team! Each CASA in Gila County makes a significant impact in our community. By dedicating your time and effort, you ensure that our most vulnerable members are heard, seen, and protected!

Thank You

March is National Social Worker's Month.

CASA of Gila County would like to extend our gratitude to the Social Workers who make a difference in our community, including but not limited to those who also serve the children and families we support.

- Department of Child Safety Team
- School Social Workers
- Hospital Social Workers
- Mental Health Professionals
- Child/Family Advocates
- Veteran's Care
- Adoption and Foster Agencies
- LGBTQ+ Support

And so many others who make a difference by serving those in need and providing our families with the resources needed to succeed.



The National Association of Social Workers (NASW) theme is "Social Workers: Uplift. Defend. Transform Learn More: [NASW](https://www.nasw.org)



Our CASA Team in Action!

CASA Advocacy Competency:

Communication, Cultural Awareness & Diversity

CASA Laura excelled during her first hearing. She honored the child's identity and unique needs, communicating clearly and with confidence while voicing the child's needs. Additionally, she advocated for the child's right to be heard!

CASA Advocacy Competency:

Foundations of Knowledge

CASA Cris expanded her knowledge of the education system while researching information to help ensure effective advocacy for her appointed child. Cris is able to use this information in the Child Family Team Meeting to help advocate for the needed level of behavioral health services.



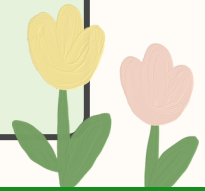
CASA Advocacy Competency

Sound Judgement

CASA Monika demonstrated her sound judgment while preparing her court report. Despite differing opinions within the children's team, she effectively used the information she collected to present objective case recommendations based on all of the information she had gathered.



A heartfelt THANK YOU to our volunteers who took part in our Fall in Love with CASA social media event for February. Our community responds best when a local volunteer is featured in the articles and advertisements we share. We appreciate your support!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



LAURA &

KARROL



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Kimberly, Tracy, Ken, & Duren



MARCH

AWARENESS

National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

How does a CASA advocate for a child with Developmental Disabilities?

Placement Stability: Advocating for the needs of the placements in order to provide a stable home for the child. Helping to ensure the caregivers are prepared to address the developmental and behavioral needs of children with disabilities.

Behavioral Health and Medical Needs: Advocating to address barriers to care and ensure that children have access to the appropriate and necessary services. Ask to review the Rapid Response that is required to be completed within 72 hours of a child entering into foster care.

Education Advocacy: Ensuring that children in foster care receive suitable, specialized education and services, often aided by dedicated education advocates. The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) contains key provisions to promote educational stability and success for students in foster care. You can learn more here:
<https://www.azed.gov/fostercare>



Arizona Department of Economic Security: Division of Developmental Disabilities

DDD provides support to eligible individuals diagnosed with any of the following developmental disabilities: Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Epilepsy, Cognitive / Intellectual Disability, Down Syndrome, Individuals under the age of six who are at risk of developing a developmental disability.

The Arizona DES-DDD website offers a valuable resource page filled with essential information for children, caregivers, and community members supporting loved ones with developmental disabilities. This comprehensive resource covers a wide array of topics, including DDD eligibility, the application process, DDD Employment Services, housing information, therapy options, and guidance on how to apply for a Valley Metro Bus Pass.

Discover more today!
[Member and Family Resources]
Arizona Department of Economic Security

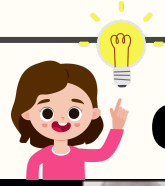
Self-Harm Awareness Month

There is no one single factor that causes someone to self-harm. Generally speaking, it may result from Poor coping skills and/or Difficulty managing emotions.

Through self-harm, a person may be trying to: Manage or reduce severe distress; Provide a distraction from painful emotions through physical pain; Feel a sense of control over his/her body, feelings, or life situations; Feel something, anything, even if it's physical pain; Express internal feelings in an external way; Communication depression; Be punished for perceived faults.

Prevention: There is no way to prevent someone from self-harming. But reducing the risk of self-injury includes strategies that involve parents, family members, teachers, school nurses, coaches, and friends. Offer help to someone at risk/teach healthy coping skills that can be used during periods of distress. Encourage social connection. Learn about the warning signs of self-injury and what to do when you suspect it. Reach out for help. Talk about media influence.

Learn More: https://www.pennfoundation.org/march-is-self-harm-awareness-month/#why_



CASA Visit Idea

CASA SUPPORT GROUPS

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

2nd Tuesday 12:00PM-2:00PM

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

CASA Empowerment Allies

3rd Friday 12:00PM-1:00PM

Microsoft Teams Only- Contact Emily for link
Lead: Emily enader@courts.az.gov

CASA Difference Makers

4th Wednesday 3:00PM-5:00PM

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



Southwestern National Monuments

The Early Years

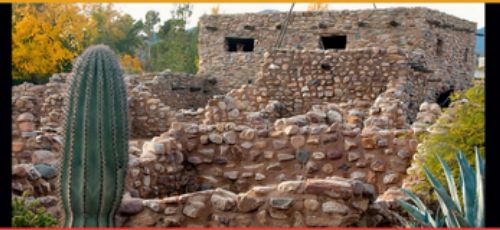
Presentation with Author Will Moore

2:00-3:00pm

Free Admission Friday March 6th, 2026



BESH BA GOWAH
Archaeological Park & Museum



Giveaways
(while supplies last)

1324 S. Jesse Hayes Rd.
Globe, AZ 85501
928-425-0320
globeaz.gov/page/besh-ba-gowah-museum



CONTACT US

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CASA Volunteer Reminder

March marks the end of our first quarter in 2026! As a reminder, volunteers will be receiving a letter from your Coordinator. These letters will provide a summary of your CASA compliance so far this year. We will include CASAaz Entries, Training hours, and other important reminders related to the CASA Volunteer program requirements. These letters are intended as support and guidance, please contact your coordinator if you have any questions.

