



CASA OF NORTHEAST OKLAHOMA, INC.

658 S. Lynn Riggs Blvd.
Claremore, OK 74017
(918) 923-7276
(918) 923-7232 (facsimile)

103 E. Central Avenue, Suite 500
Miami, OK 74354
(918) 544-6452
www.casaneok.org

JAIME TURNER SELECTED AS CASA VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

CASA of Northeast Oklahoma is pleased to announce Jaime Turner has been selected as CASA Volunteer of the Month for August 2020.

Turner has been a CASA volunteer for 2 years, serving 7 children on 4 cases. Turner says of her work with CASA, “One of my biggest rewards of being a CASA volunteer is seeing the little smiles and open arms when I come to visit the children and knowing that I can be a bright light in their darkness, however, the ultimate reward is when a child is reunited to their home that has rectified the situations that caused the removal.”

Turner has lived in Oologah, OK for 18 years. She has 2 grown sons, ages 20 and 24, who are the center of her world. She is a member of Harbor Church, in Oologah, and manages the church coffee shop, Harbor Coffee. Turner has always had a passion for children and helping children in need as well as giving struggling families the tools to be successful. Turner was a single mother for 12 years and has also been a foster parent; both life experiences give her perspective and understanding of what these families go through, the process, the struggles, and the rewards.

Turner does understand that not all cases resolve in reunification of the children back to their home. She recalls one of her cases involving three children where all efforts were exhausted with no success of progress from the biological parents. All three children were adopted by their foster parents, who provided a safe and loving home to them from the beginning of their time in foster care. This was an easy and welcomed transition for the entire family.

“Being a CASA volunteer is time well spent. Anytime spent investing in the safety and wellbeing of children is priceless and there are so many children out there that need to just be heard and loved. Being a CASA volunteer does not take a lot of time, just a lot of love and a desire to listen to children,” said Turner.

Turner’s Advocate Coordinator, Sandra Rains, said of Turner, “Jaime has been a volunteer in the 12th Judicial District since 2018. She has worked cases that ended up with successful reunification as well as ending up with an adoption. Jaime has such a caring heart and develops a bond with the children she is appointed to as well as being a support person to the families as well. She has grown as a volunteer during her two years in her confidence and skills. I would not hesitate to appoint her to any case regardless of it’s level of difficulty. I am that confident in her capabilities.”

The mission of CASA of Northeast Oklahoma is to speak up for the best interests of abused and neglected children in the courts of northeast Oklahoma. CASA promotes the recruitment and training of quality volunteers who work to Change A Child’s Story for the better.

CASA of Northeast Oklahoma is a regional multi-district court-appointed special advocate program serving abused and neglected children with volunteer advocates in the 11th, 12th, and 13th Judicial Districts. CASA of Northeast Oklahoma serves the district courts in Craig, Delaware, Mayes, Ottawa, Rogers, and Washington counties, as well as the Quapaw Nation Tribal Court.

More CASA volunteers like Turner are needed in northeast Oklahoma. The next training class is scheduled to begin August 1, 2020, at 9:00 AM at the Claremore CASA office, 658 S. Lynn Riggs Blvd in Claremore, OK. It is not too late to attend! Additional courses are planned in various areas of the region in the future. To volunteer, go to www.casaneok.org and click on “Get Involved,” and then “Apply Now.” The application takes 45 minutes to an hour to complete.

For more information about CASA of Northeast Oklahoma, please visit the program’s website or call (918) 923-7276.

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