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Dear

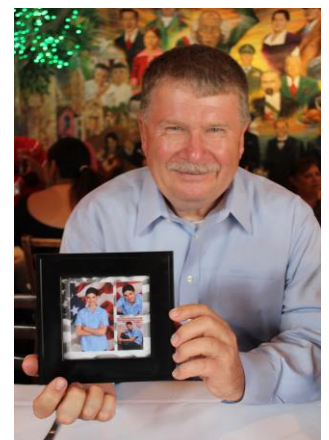
James tested positive for heroin when he was born, resulting in his first removal from his mother by CPS. He was then adopted by his grandparents. By age 10 he was begging for food at local stores. This caught the attention of school faculty leading to his second CPS removal for physical neglect and emotional abuse. He was placed in a Residential Treatment Center (RTC) and diagnosed with ADHD and exhibited violent outbursts. He was on a cocktail of medications and maxed out on dosages.

Ron Pinaire, James' Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA), describes their initial meeting: "I first met James, a short, thin young man and he was having a difficult day. His skin was blotchy from crying and his hair was shooting in every direction." Their visits were often at Dairy Queen where James held the door for others before entering and insisted on cleaning their table before leaving. When James was scheduled to have visitation with his family Ron would always be there – even when James' family was not. As his case remained open, James' parent's right were terminated. Around the same time his grandfather passed away. He seemed to shrug off these occurrences to therapists and staff at the RTC. But with Ron, he wept and spoke openly of his feelings. This is the depth of understanding and care a CASA provides when a child has no one.

Ron found a placement with James' relative where Ron visited twice a week. Concurrently, James' medication was changed causing his muscles to quiver and he was unable to speak except in short sentences. After two weeks James was discharged from the home and placed in another RTC where he thrived. Because James was available for adoption, Ron attended adoption picnics with him. Usually shy and uncomfortable in crowds James spent his time at the picnics helping younger kids. This caught the attention of a couple who were to become his parents. They fostered him for six months before officially adopting him this summer. According to Ron, "James is a good example of how you want these situations to turn out if you have the right resources." James is now off almost all of his medications, attends public school, communicates well, and sings in his church choir. December 2017 will be a year since Ron helped James find his "forever family".

Last year, only 351 of over 1,000 foster children in the Coastal Bend had a CASA. EVERY child in foster care need a CASA to rely on and trust. In order to accomplish this goal, we need to train and retain 200-250 more volunteers at a cost of \$2,300 per volunteer. Please help us achieve this goal by making a donation to our Annual Campaign from November 1 through December 15, 2017. With your help, we can better serve our local foster children and help find them a forever home!

Sincerely,



CASA'S MISSION IS TO SPEAK UP FOR AND FIND PERMANENT HOMES FOR FOSTER CHILDREN IN NUECES, ARANSAS & SAN PATRICIO COUNTIES.

CASA OF THE COASTAL BEND

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(361) 884-2272
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CASA IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION THAT PROVIDES ADVOCACY FOR CHILDREN THROUGH VOLUNTEERS ASSIGNED BY A JUDGE TO BE THEIR VOICE. AFTER SPENDING COUNTLESS HOURS RESEARCHING OPTIONS THAT ARE BEST FOR EACH CHILD, CASAS ARE THERE TO SPEAK UP FOR THE CHILD'S BEST INTERESTS.

Your tax deductible contribution amount to CASA will give...

- **Comfort:** \$25 helps fund a simple visit between a CASA and their foster child
- **Support:** \$50 helps a CASA visit their foster child placed in another town
- **Guidance:** \$100 provides a meal for 20 CASAs attending one Continuing Education training
- **Happiness:** \$250 will supply 10 foster children with a birthday or Christmas gift
- **Support:** \$500 permits CASAs to buy school clothes and school supplies for two foster children for the new school year
- **Enlightenment:** \$1,000 will afford meals and training supplies for new CASAs who will dedicate up to 40 hours of training and background checks in order to provide the best advocacy for their role as a Court Appointed Special Advocate.
- **A Voice:** \$2,300 pays to recruit, train, and retain one CASA for one year who will offer a strong voice and a healing heart to a child in foster care.

CASAs utilize CASA of the Coastal Bend's office as their own and are welcome to come in anytime. They may use our volunteer computer, fax, print, and make phone calls. This can include long distance calls for foster children that are placed out of town.

Last year our CASA volunteers drove over **130,000** miles advocating for their CASA children. At the federal rate of .535 per mile that equals **\$70,000** in donated mileage. Our volunteers also donated **10,750** hours of their time advocating for their CASA children which equaled **\$225,750** at \$21/hr. Unlike all other parties who are involved in the child's life, the CASA does not get paid at all for his/her services.

CASA of the Coastal Bend is part of a national volunteer organization that recognizes the need for the community, not just the government, to step in and put forth serious effort when raising children who have suffered abuse and neglect. **CASA's mission is to speak up for and find permanent homes for foster children in crisis throughout Nueces, San Patricio and Aransas Counties.** Our trained community volunteers gather information and evaluate the needs of the child. These volunteers speak out in court representing the sole interest of the child. CASA of the Coastal Bend's goal is to help place these children in safe, nurturing environments as quickly as possible.