

MARCH 2023

# CASA C RNER



## UPCOMING COURT DATES

### IBERIA PARISH

March 08, 2023

March 22, 2023

### ST. MARTIN PARISH

March 20, 2023

March 31, 2023

### ST. MARY PARISH

March 01, 2023

## The 2023 Annual CASA Gala is...

almost here! Mark your calendars, **March 16, 2023** will consist of a wonderfully fun night of celebration and awareness! We love sharing this night with the public and showing you just how much we are able to achieve with your help. Our Galas are not only to celebrate all things CASA, we want to celebrate **YOU!** Further details to be determined.

## CASA BIRTHDAYS

Amanda Landry - Mar 8

Anita Lantier - Mar 11

Jillian Freia - Mar 14

Sarah Giroir - Mar 14

Halley Romero - Mar 28

## Don't Forget to RSVP

CASAs, don't forget to **RSVP** to our **2023 Annual CASA Gala!** Your RSVP includes a free ticket for you and a discounted ticket for one guest!

NATIONAL SOCIAL WORK MONTH

# BREAK DOWN BARRIERS

Although there are many kinds of social work, members of the profession all share common principles: They are people dedicated to seeking complete equality and social justice for all communities and helping people achieve their own potential. Each day social workers help **break down barriers** that prevent people from living more fulfilling, enriched lives. They work on the individual level, helping people overcome personal crises like food insecurity, lack of affordable housing, or limited access to good health care. They also advocate on a systems level to ensure laws and policies are adopted so everyone can access such services. This year, with the help of national surveys, personal stories, online toolkits, and merch, NASW will spearhead efforts to raise public awareness about how social workers continue to break barriers in all communities, and how the contributions of this essential profession improve our nation.



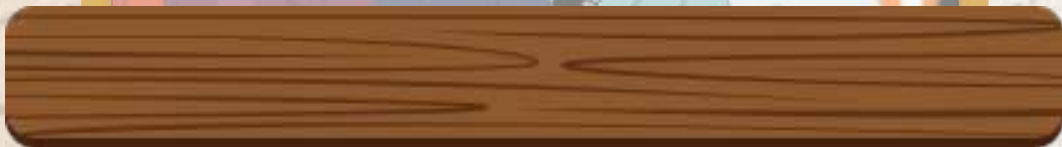
[For More on Social Work Month Click Here](#)





# NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Girl  
power





# Happy CASAVERSARY



MICHAEL  
DAVIS

LISA  
GEORGE



RHONDA  
JAMES

BOBBY  
SMITH



# NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH

Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month is recognized annually in March, through presidential proclamation, as an opportunity to celebrate the inclusion of people with disabilities in civic and social life to create strong and diverse communities. The month also provides the catalyst to raise awareness about the many barriers that people with disabilities still face in achieving both self-determination and full societal inclusion.

The awareness campaign theme for 2023, developed by the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities, is “**BEYOND THE CONVERSATION.**” The theme is intended to spark conversation about next steps, beyond raising awareness, for supporting full inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in society. Easterseals, the national nonprofit leader in empowering people with developmental disabilities to be full and equal participants in society, defines developmental disabilities as **disabilities that occur from birth to the first few years of development, may impact day-to-day functioning, and are typically lifelong diagnoses.** Common developmental disabilities include autism spectrum disorder, cerebral palsy, down syndrome, hearing or vision loss, learning disorders and ADHD.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, **17% of children in the United States between the ages of three and 17 have one or more developmental disabilities or delays** and more than five million Americans reportedly have developmental disabilities. Living with developmental disabilities can create a variety of challenges, such as difficulties with mobility, communication, self-help, independent living and physical and mental health issues. Moreover, people with developmental disabilities are vulnerable to abuse and neglect on many levels, including physical, psychological, legal, and systemic abuse.

Parents and caregivers can use the CDC’s [Learn the Signs, Act Early](#) program to monitor children’s development and know when there might be a concern; the [brief checklist of milestones](#) provides a child development baseline. Consider making a one-time contribution to organizations working to create a better and more inclusive life for people living with a developmental disability.



UW Creating  
Inclusive  
Communities  
Article

# NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH

Did you know children with disabilities are almost **four times more likely to experience violence** than non-disabled children? According to a review commissioned by WHO and currently published in The Lancet, children with disabilities are:

- 3.7 times more likely than non-disabled children to be victims of any sort of violence;
- 3.6 times more likely to be victims of physical violence; and
- 2.9 times more likely to be victims of sexual violence.

Children with disability associated with mental illness or intellectual impairments appear to be among the most vulnerable, with 4.6 times the risk of sexual violence compared with their non-disabled peers.

Factors which place children with disabilities at higher risk of violence include **stigma, discrimination, and ignorance about disability**, as well as a lack of social support for those who care for them. Placement of children with disabilities in institutions also increases their vulnerability to violence. In these settings and elsewhere, children with communication impairments are hampered in their ability to disclose abusive experiences.

Certain nurse home-visiting programs for children at risk of violence and trainings to improve parenting skills have been shown to work to prevent violence against non-disabled children. These and other promising measures outlined in WHO's Preventing child maltreatment and Violence prevention: the evidence should be implemented for children with disabilities, and their effectiveness evaluated as a matter of priority. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities reinforces the need to protect the rights of children with disabilities and ensure their full and equal participation in society. This includes avoiding the adverse experiences resulting from violence in childhood which are known to have a wide range of detrimental consequences for health and well-being later in life. When prevention fails, care and support for children who are victims of violence are vital to their recovery.



PAHO/WHO  
data on Child  
Disability



A dark blue shield-shaped graphic with a gold-colored decorative border. The border features a crown at the top, floral motifs at the bottom corners, and flowing leaf-like patterns on the sides. The text "NATIONAL READING MONTH" is centered within the shield in a gold, serif, all-caps font.

# NATIONAL READING MONTH