



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

CASA OF OKLAHOMA COUNTY, INC.

5905 N Classen Ct #302
Oklahoma City, OK 73118

(405) 713-6456

www.okcountycasa.org

United Way
Partner Agency



Partner Agency Code 7051



EMBRACING EVENTS

Two community intensive events marked a year of heightened awareness for us. Our inaugural Playhouse Parade and the 29th Annual Redbud Classic marked a coming out party of unmatched proportions for a single year. 373 volunteers from our county provided the staffing for 18 days of showcasing CASA of Oklahoma County.

Adopting Playhouse Parade as a signature tax-free weekend event provided the stimulus for a fast paced year of involvement. A steering committee of board members, including Friends of CASA Council, were the foundation for Playhouse Parade. Five families had their raffle ticket drawn from among 1000s to win a playhouse and have it delivered to their home the week of August 8. One home was donated to Pepper's Ranch, a ranch for foster families in northern Oklahoma County. Amp Control of Piedmont contributed an electric car which was won by a family in Moore.

Success of this event is measured in multiple ways: 132 volunteers, television ads, mall traffic numbering no less than 30,000 people, 4000+ raffle contributions, newspaper and magazine

awareness and our contributors and sponsors.

As benefactor of the 29th Redbud Classic we enlisted the support of 241 volunteers for eleven events the weekend of April 9 & 10. Supporting our efforts, UCO's Big Event kicked off our Redbud participation at our Swag Stuffing Extravaganza. 50 students assisted with preparing the registration bags for the Redbud on a bright Saturday morning in March. The Sante Fe Saints basketball team, Thetas from OU and many others kept the runners in the proper positions at the start line. Morgan Stanley employees assured cyclists' safety as course marshals along the route, Chesapeake Energy employees, Judge Alcorn and his wife Melissa on intersection control, countless CASA, Melinda Wall and her 5:30 a.m. team and so many more. Once again, board member participation was a key to the success of this event.

Unveiled at the Redbud Classic was the CASA baseball jersey, underwritten by local merchant. All our Redbud Volunteers received a shirt in recognition of their commitment of time and talent.

WEBOLOGY 101

May marked the launch of our poignant, efficient web site. Following weeks of research, interviews and fact finding questions, Level9 Design was hired to tell our story in their creatively minimalist manner. Well known throughout the region, and creator of the Classen Curve website, Level9 Design used interviews with multiple staff members, review of our literature and their love of their children to create a look that both moves one emotionally and allows volunteer participation or contribution with ease. Ever a work in progress, we are striving to keep the blogs, stories, calendars and events up to date and easily accessible.

Cold contact with us for volunteerism has increased significantly for both CASA recruitment

and for recruitment for our 2nd Playhouse Parade. Our objective is tell the story of the work of our CASAs, the needs of the abused and neglected children of our county and the multiple means of assisting us with arresting the cycle of abuse and finding a permanent, safe home for the children we serve.

Facebook and Twitter were also added as vehicles for telling the story and inviting volunteerism. Pictures on Facebook celebrated volunteerism during the Redbud and provided a means of previewing current and upcoming events. www.okcountycasa.org

Facebook page:

CASA of Oklahoma County or CASAofOKCo

Twitter:

@CASAofOKCo

MISSION, SERVICE and VALUE of IMPACT

CASA of Oklahoma County's mission is 'to provide trained court appointed volunteers who advocate for the best interests of abused or neglected children in the juvenile court system.' That is our mission; but to a child, the true meaning is that we give children a caring adult and a voice during very scary times in their lives. That is what 235 trained advocate volunteers did for 762 scared children last year. With 2/3rds of our volunteers reporting, some 15,000 hours were given and over 144,000 miles were traveled in efforts to provide best interest advocacy to children we serve.*

We have all read the headlines this past year. Most of us are asking ourselves, what can we do, how do we make the system and outcomes better for children? We may not have all the answers but we do know that it starts with the tools for a relationship, which is where a CASA volunteer

enters. Then it is followed by trust, and, finally, there is hope. A CASA's efforts are so much more than a mission could ever convey. The boot camp of all volunteer opportunities and a challenge like none other, the CASA volunteer is oftentimes the continuity and historic link in a child's life. And, despite our service to an average of 800 children the last three years, this is only an estimated 30% of the children in care in Oklahoma County, and an even lesser percentage of the deprived cases facing our courts.

Finally, CASA of Oklahoma County is required to screen and train our advocates, and for every 30 volunteers our program appoints, we must have one supervising Case Manager to oversee and assist them. Our goals: CASA representation of 100% of Oklahoma County's abused and neglected children, and the day we no longer need to expand services.

762 children served – cost per child \$997.00

235 advocates – cost per advocate \$3,231

**With approximately 63% of our advocates reporting – Advocate Volunteers gave 15,337 hours valued at \$327,598; and, traveled over 144,800 miles giving a child a voice and a caring adult during a very scary time in his or her life. Yet the \$ value will never reflect the true value to the individual child.*

14% of our advocates have been with CASA one year or less; 44% 2 to three years; 42% have over 3 years of service to CASA of Oklahoma County.

TRAINING- IMPACT AND CHANGES

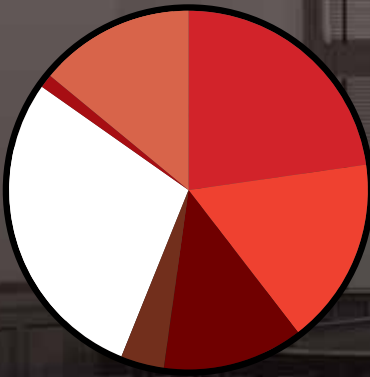
CASA of Oklahoma County, Inc. is committed to excellence in service, education of the abuse and neglect issues plaguing our community and providing volunteers the necessary tools to advocate. To that end, this year several basic training sessions were approved for continuing education credits providing both CLE's and CEU's for participating professionals, 10 in-service sessions or 20 continuing education hours were made available to trained volunteers and agency partners and beginning 2011, we solicited the help, expertise and volunteerism of friend of CASA and Training Consultant, Ron Sharton, to complete an assessment and update of all basic training presentations. Since then, this certified and professional trainer has given his time and expertise an average 20 hours per week. The goal has been to eliminate any training deficiencies for volunteers that could impact desired performance or knowledge and ensure advocate volunteers have the necessary tools to advocate best interest.

While training has always been based on National CASA's training curriculum, this training assessment will help ensure all elements of the curriculum, standards and Oklahoma law are effectively presented. Although generally standardized, the critical eye of a professional trainer has implemented standardization that prepares the student to anticipate, learn and retain better information through increased interactive training. Training will continue to be conducted in cycles but the required hours for Basic Training will increase from 38 to 40. Following the fall 'train the trainer' sessions for CASA staff, the new version of training will be presented to volunteers starting January 2012.

Clotiel Howard, Training Coordinator

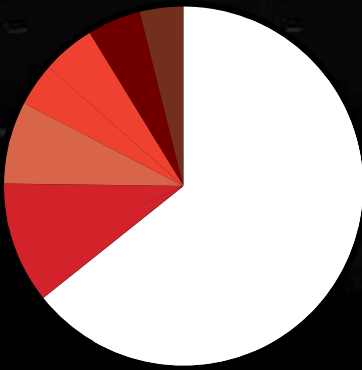
CASA of Oklahoma County would like to recognize and thank the number of expert voices that shared their time and knowledge during FY 2010-2011 to ensure our volunteers have a well rounded view of the system and the tools necessary to advocate best interest for our children.

SOURCES OF REVENUES - FISCAL YEAR 2011



- Government Grants – \$296,050
- Corporate Donations – \$234,649
- Foundation Support – \$173,738
- Special Events – \$144,645
- Individual Donations – \$130,522
- In-kind Donations – \$40,262
- Investments & Misc. – \$12,600

EXPENSES - FISCAL YEAR 2011



- Salaries* – \$488,167
- Payroll Taxes, Benefits & Training – \$82,885
- Special Events – \$65,103
- Occupancy, Equip., Insurance – \$56,304
- Professional Fees – \$40,922
- Supplies & Postage – \$25,964

**National CASA Standards recommend one supervisor for every 30 CASA volunteers. CASAofOKCo only means of serving children is through the appointment of an advocate volunteer.*

PROGRAM EXPENSES - FISCAL YEAR 2011

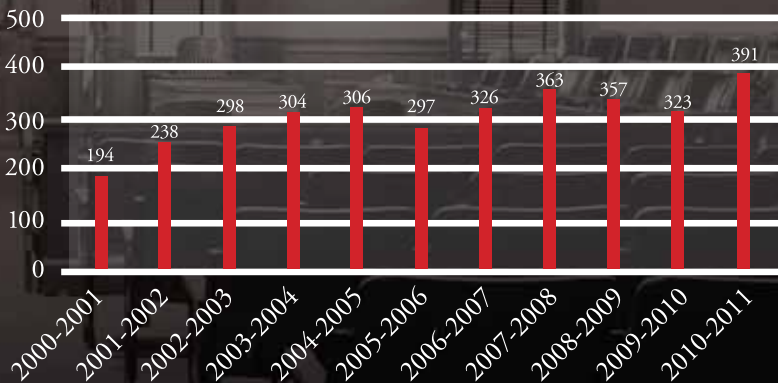


- Programs & Services – \$431,704
- Payroll Taxes, Benefits & Training – \$94,455
- Occupancy Equip. & Insurance – \$52,099

RECRUITMENT- EFFORTS TO OUTCOMES

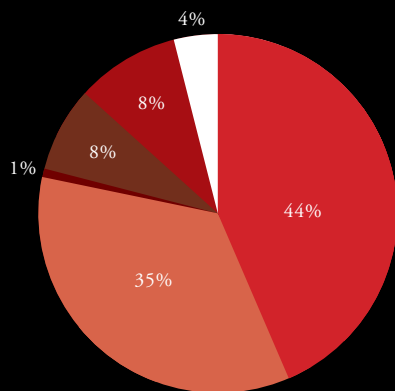
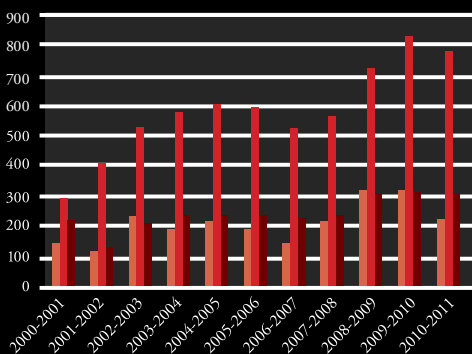
Press Releases Submitted: 40
Press Releases Published: 35 (est.)
Volunteer Fairs Attended: 16
Speaking Engagements: 18
Prospective Volunteers Contacted: 391
The Results: 86 Applications Submitted, 69 New Court Appointed Special Advocates Volunteers completed training during FY 2010-2011

On average the last 11 years, 20% of those prospective volunteers requesting information made the commitment to meet the CASA challenge. With continuity of representation so critical to best interest advocacy for the children we serve, we must reach many to find the few who can commit to the time and service required to be sworn in as Officers of the Court.



CASA OF OKLAHOMA COUNTY OVER A DECADE OF SERVICE

DEMOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN CHILDREN SERVED 2010-11



■ # New Children Appointed and Advocate
■ Total # Children Served by an Advocate
■ Total # Abuse & Neglect Cases Served

■ Caucasian
■ African American
■ Asian
■ Hispanic
■ Native American
■ Other

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Dear Friends,

Triumph and recognition are adjectives which describe this exciting year for CASA of Oklahoma County, Inc. All efforts were embodied in our commitment to better the lives of the children we serve and our belief that we can combat abuse and neglect in our community one child at time. One of the most difficult things for any of us to have to reconcile is the fact we have to exist due to the elective abuse or neglect of children. Whether we are volunteers, staff, foster parents or Child Welfare employees, the simple fact is we know abuse and neglect of children is not some automatic consequence of poverty but a result of poor choices of parents. Whether it is byproduct of substance abuse, mental health issues, domestic violence, generational or the like, we know it is preventable. However, the FACTs none of us can lose sight of are that the children had NO CHOICE in their situation, abuse and neglect knows NO boundaries, children ARE one of our most vulnerable populations and they ARE our future. So, CASA volunteers do what parents can't or won't, focus on their very narrow mandate of representing the best interest of the abused and neglected children in Oklahoma County, in hope of finding a safe, permanent home. A home, in which the environment, supports the child's development into a productive, contributing member of society and our community.

To do this, success takes on many forms for a CASA program and this year was no exception. Branding, new web design, Signature Events, community awareness, new outcome measures and complete evaluation and overhaul of our basic CASA training were all sideline activities to our main responsibility of service to children. Recruiting, screening, training and appointing

Advocate volunteers to children in need remains paramount to all other activities. Although positively positioned, we must continue to identify predictable funding sources for program sustainability, while seeking opportunities for expansion. These are efforts that are necessary to providing stable services to children and are critical to good outcomes for children. With the continued support from the community, board, a host of skilled volunteers and staff, CASA of Oklahoma County successfully coordinated activities necessary to this end while keeping the goal of quality service to children at the core of every effort.

Our inaugural Playhouse Parade summer fund raiser, our 11th annual Light of Hope campaign and Halliburton's 9th Energy for Children were great successes. The combined accomplishment of these efforts brought in generous community support from foundations, corporations and individuals. Selection by the Redbud Classic committee as beneficiary of the 29th Annual Redbud Classic Run and recognition of CASA of Oklahoma County by Texas based Arrow Foundation with their Ambassador of Purpose Awards alongside community leader and philanthropist Tom Ward launched CASA of Oklahoma into the community eye. The welcome news of our acceptance as a new Partner Agency with United Way of Central Oklahoma was the perfect close to the year's efforts.

Sincerely,



Lee Ann Limber

Executive Director

"EACH CASA, EACH PERSON WHO CONTRIBUTES TO THE WELL BEING OF A CHILD, THE BEST INTEREST OF THIS CHILD, MAKES A CONTRIBUTION, MAKES THE STITCHES THAT PUT TOGETHER THESE FRAGMENTS INTO SOMETHING THAT CAN BE BEAUTIFUL FOR ALL OF US AND FOR THEM — THINGS THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE."

— KATHY MCCARTY

REACHING OUT

Oklahoma City's corporate community is among the most generous of any city in these United States.

Developing partnerships and telling the CASAofOKCo story is a focused effort. Fruitful results included renewed contributions from Halliburton's Energy for Children, Chesapeake Energy and SandRidge Energy, new relationships, including contributions, with OG&E Energy Corp. and American Fidelity Assurance. Sponsorship expansion for events continues through Playhouse Parade and new events planned for 2012.

Non-profit experts contend that 95% of fundraising dollars come from individuals.

Reaching out to our community occurs in many forms: three letter campaigns including a late summer, our Light of Hope and a letter to Oklahoma County physicians. Board member personal contact continues, this year with the twist of requesting contributions to us in lieu of Big Number birthday gifts.

Light of Hope added an Ambassador Couple. Shannon and John "Chip" Fudge, assisted us with reaching out to their friends and peers, providing both in-kind contributions and generous dollar amounts. Marnie and Clayton Taylor hosted a Light of Hope event in their home in November that was a "friend raiser" that became a fund raiser.

REACHING OUT

Q. If not for you, what do you think would have happened to the child(ren) in your case(s)?

"Honestly, I feel that the Children would have returned home after the parent(s) performed minimal services and the cycle of abuse would only continue. No one would have walked away wiser and one more child would feel anger towards the system meant to protect them." 12.15.10

"They (the children) would not have had regular visits with their bio mom." 12.16.10

(The children would have been) lost in the shuffle. (They had) been in the system over 10 years, with lots of placements and workers. I have been able to provide continuity." 12.16.10

"No one would even know where all these siblings are." 12.16.10

"The children would have lacked the continuity that my presence has provided. Since the beginning of the case seven years ago, there have been six DHS workers." 12.26.10

"The two siblings would have ended up in separate adoptive homes instead of together in their present adoptive home." 12.27.10

Q. Please tell us a story or give an example about the impact you made on the children in your case .

"One example is a current child expressed that her CASA is only person who has stayed in her life. I've been 'working' her case for two years now." 12.16.10

One of my CASA kids was in a foster home that was depressing, emotionally abusive, and not in any way helping the child. I was able to listen to him about where he wanted and needed to be living, and I was able to find a kinship placement for him in his own school district. He is now academically on track to graduate next year, he is a successful athlete at his school with the potential for scholarships. He is happy and hopeful about his future." 1.9.11

"We are looking at adoption by a foster mom who has been the primary caregiver for my 3-year-old child since she was 6 months old and is the only family the child has known. Along with excellent work by the ADA, CASA was able to move the case to relinquishment by both parents. Mom has 3 other children – one in the custody of an ex-husband and two with her mother. Dad is a convicted rapist who served time for attempting to strangle mom. They both appeared determined to maintain their relationship. (Although they verbally insisted differently) their actions and inconsistency in follow-through visits and phone calls, their child takes a major backseat in their lives. It is wonderful to have reason to believe that this child will have a chance to grow in a healthy home, protected from violence and emotional abuse." 12.11.11



WHAT BEING A CASA MEANS TO ME

I became a CASA volunteer in October 2010 and was appointed to my first case on November 15th, 2010. At first I thought the case I was given might not require as much work as some of the others. The case involves a male child that the parental rights had already been terminated. The DHS reports represented that the family who had adopted his older brother was waiting to adopt him. This is when I first realized that a CASA volunteer's work did not end after the court decided parental rights but only after the child is placed in a safe and permanent home. I decided that I would meet the child, drive to the nearby small town, and visit with the adoptive mother and just check things out.

I met with the child and immediately thought what a wonderful gift he would be to any family. Why had he been in DHS custody for 63 months? Well this is just too easy but I wanted to meet the therapist and the adoptive mother and check things out for myself even though the Department was convinced this was a slam dunk.

The therapist helped me understand what this child has been through and the effects it had on him. Although he was seven years old, he is physically two or more years smaller and has an IQ of around 70. Since I had read the case file I made the comment to the therapist "Well his IQ is certainly because of the alcohol and drug abuse from his mother". The therapist informed me that could be in part of the reason but a lot was caused by the fact that when his brain was still developing, he and his siblings would go a week at a time eating only what they could get from neighbors. They would only ask every couple of days as to not raise suspicion. Most of this child's stunted growth and IQ were because of malnutrition.

I began to understand that maybe this case was not quite as easy as I thought. It is a good thing there is a wonderful family for him and I will visit them next. I call the mother of the family and asked if I could come and see her.

The woman and her husband who adopted my child's brother are of simple means. They live in a

1,400 square foot home and have a very well used van. At the time they had five children in their home. Three adopted and two therapeutic foster children. She showed me pictures of many of her children. When you added the foster children, adopted children and their natural children it came to over 200 in all. I had never met anyone so giving and caring and it made my life seem almost meaningless. My head could not quite grasp the heart this family has.

She explained how any sibling of a child in their home was always welcome and they would take them on family trips and have them stay over on weekends and holidays to be with their brothers and sisters. I had been told my CASA child had spent many holidays at this home. He lives in a group home and has for over a year at the time of this meeting. So I asked when she would be adopting my CASA child.

She politely told me they had never intended to adopt him and had made that clear. They love him and he is always welcome in their home but they are at a point in their life with age and health issues where their focus is on finishing raising the children they currently have.

On my way back home I realized two things. First, I had met the most amazing person in my life and second, I had a purpose. I needed to advocate for a safe and permanent family for the child I was given. He had been left with no chance of finding a home. No one was looking, no one was doing anything except 'banking' on this wonderful woman to change her mind.

In court I have pushed for DHS to do more and not leave this child in a group home. Over the last year we have been to two adoption parties and have been close with two different families. In both cases they did not work out because of a problem the therapist told us to avoid. I will make sure no matter how great the family is we follow the therapist's advice. We will find this wonderful, deserving, and loving child the right home. That is what CASAs do.

Mark L.

CELEBRATING VOLUNTEERS

The March 2011 Awards Ceremony, held annually at the Governor's Blue Room, was a heartfelt celebration of our 2010 Volunteer Awards beginning with Keynote Speaker, Public Defender Bob Ravitz offering words of gratitude and encouragement to our CASA Volunteers.

CASA VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARDS ARE DIVIDED INTO TWO CATEGORIES

Rookie of the Year

Kim Crain

Casa Volunteer of the Year

Cheryl Jann and the 20th recipient of the award



Sharyn Frith with Director Lee Ann Limber, accepting her Lifetime Achievement Award

CASA OF OKLAHOMA COUNTY'S SPECIAL AWARDS

Nance Diamond Award

Laura McKenzie

Buddy Faye Foster Courtroom Excellence Award

The Honorable Judge Roger Stuart

Vina Showers Compassionate Heart Award

Phyllis (Phyl) Howard

The Rena Ellis CASA Lifetime Achievement Award

Sharyn Frith

FRIENDS OF CASA AWARDS:

Friend of CASA—Grass Roots—Casa Facelift 2010

Chesapeake Energy Corporation's Operation Blue Volunteers

Commercial Carpet Contractors, Inc. & The Mohawk Group

Friend of CASA – **Doug Hatch**

Friend of CASA – **William Ryan Hauser, Public Defender**

Friend of CASA – **Grass Roots Shannon Longstreet**

CASA BOARD MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Lori Blumenthal

2010-2011 CASA OF OKLAHOMA COUNTY, INC. BOARD MEMBERS

Adelaide Liedtke, **President**

Connie Weber, **President-Elect**

Lori Blumenthal, **Treasurer**

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Nanette Haag

Mary Jones

Dr. Julie Krodel

Mark Livingston

Laura Mitchell

Lewis Mitchell

Lewis Pontikos

Leslie Rainbolt-Forbes

Joni Stewart

Scott Witt

Tsinena Bruno Thompson

Dr. George Young

FY 2010-2011 CASA OF OKLAHOMA COUNTY, INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Leslie Rainbolt-Forbes

Joni Stewart

Tsinena Thompson

Scott Witt

Dr. George Young

DONORS DURING FY 2010-2011

CASA OF OKLAHOMA COUNTY, INC. 2010-2011 DONOR RECOGNITION DONORS WHOSE SUPPORT GAVE 762 ABUSED AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN A VOICE AND PERSONAL ADVOCATE

Wyatt Abbott	James & Denise Brinkworth	Devon Energy Corporation*	Ronald &	Gayle Jones
Craig & Nanette Abraham	Bronco Oilfield Services*	Jeff & Nance Diamond	Adrienne Greenberg	Lee Jones
<i>In Honor of Lee Ann Limber</i>	John & Jan Brown	Michael Dillard	Joel Grillot	Mary Jones
James Allbee	<i>In Honor of Bruce</i>	Toby Dixon	Randell Guilbeau	Roy & Alane Jordan
Burrell Allen	& Andrea Bragouist	Justin Dodd	Bill & Mary	William Joro
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Foundation	Charles & Barbara Burton	Dougherty III	Devon Hahn	Alumnae Chapter
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Anchor Drilling	Randy & Connie Calvert	Brandon T. Drake*	Timothy Haley	Brad & Susie Kemp
Fluids USA, Inc.*	<i>In Honor of Laura Mitchell</i>	J.M. Drennen	Kirk & Julie Hall	Kenai Mid-Continent, Inc.
Anchor Premier	Canyon Oilfield	Greg Drwenski	Margaret Anne Hall	Melissa M Kenney
Downhole Tools, LLC*	Services LLC*	Jerry & Mary Durbin	Halliburton Co -	Elizabeth & Scott Kettler
Robert E. &	Ginny Carl	<i>In Honor of Laura Mitchell</i>	Global Impact	Key Energy Services Inc.
Elizabeth Anderson	Mr. & Mrs. Joel Carson	Jim Easter	Halliburton Giving Choices	Ed & Gay Kirby
Wayne & Sidney Anderson	Don & Roberta Carter	Edmond Women's Club	Jake Hammond	<i>In Memory of Don</i>
<i>In Honor of The</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Keith Carter	Terry Edwards*	Mike & Debby Hampton	& Libby Elder
<i>Birthday Group</i>	Chris Castillo	Elizabeth Eickman	Karen Hanstein	Melissa Kizer
Anonymous	Fred Chandler	Eric & Sandi Eissenstat	Melanie Harding	Michael Kline
Nancy Anthony	Chaparral Energy LLC*	Melissa Carol Elam*	<i>In Memory of Tracy</i>	Rene & Ryan Knapp
Rita Aragon	David Cherry	Rena Ellis	<i>Darlene Martin</i>	C. M. Knepper
<i>In Memory of Greg Aragon</i>	John & Amanda Cherry	Dr. & Mrs. Tim Love	Joe R Harper	Mike J. Knitting
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Baker Hughes Inc.*	<i>In Honor of</i>	Lisa Farhood	Colleen Hatfield	Karleen Krywucki
Better Days Foundation	<i>Adelaide Liedtke</i>	Don & Gloria Felts	Kim & Suzette Hatfield	Michael & Edith Laird
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Mark & Tammy Beard	Service, LLC*	Jim & Otie Fried	Jimmie & Amy Hobbs	Rod Limke
<i>In Honor of Jeanne</i>	Alex & Donna Corbitt	Mark & Skye Fried	Dan & Sarah Hogan	Fred & Judy Lindsay
<i>Carson & In Memory</i>	Sonja & Larry Cornelius	<i>In Honor of Miranda Taylor</i>	Robert Hogan	Joe Lindsey
<i>of Jim Carson</i>	Cotton Energy*	Richard Proscio*	Jim & JoAnn Holden	Linn Operating, Inc.*
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William and Sherry Beasley	Anonymous	David & Mindy Fuzzell	Scott &	Mark & Heather Livingston
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Ike & Sherry Bennett	Alice Dahlgren	Sherrain Geurin	Phyllis Howard	Macy's
Joanna Bernard	<i>In Honor of Laura Mitchell</i>	Katherine Cooper &	David & Lezlie Hudiburg	Magnablend Inc.
Howard Berry Jr.	David & Odilla Dank	Justin Gibbons	Robert & Mary Hudson	Fran Manning
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Michael & Cindy Biddinger	Mr. & Mrs. J. Robertt Dark	Hugh & Martha Gilliland	InAsMuch Foundation	Rick Martin
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Jeffrey Black	Elaine Davis	Lynn Glasson	Anthony Jackson	Patrick & Sue McCollom
<i>In Honor of Laura Mitchell</i>	George & Celine Davis	Richard Gonzales*	Jewish Federation Of	Jeff & Diana McCown
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Jeff & Lori Blumenthal	<i>Brown Mark D Butler</i>	GoodSearch	Joe Brown Company	Ricky Carl McCurdy
Morris & Linda Blumenthal	Nancy Dawson	Edward Gothard*	Bill J. Johnson	Mike McFadden
Boots & Coats Service*	Daybreak Community	Paul B. Graham	Larry & Nancy Johnson	Larry McFarland
Diane Booze	Church Inc.	Samuel Graham	Mark & Penny Johnson	McGee Foundation
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