

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Dutchess County Court Appointed Special Advocates



CASA's Green Thumb

In recent months, CASA was very fortunate to have been chosen to have a garden plot located at Pershing Park right here in Poughkeepsie! Our program was one of three that represents Mental Health America at the park alongside Vets2Vets and our Respite Program.

Our plot is marked off with a sign and is open to the public between dawn and dusk. Desiree King has been busy getting the plot started by planting a variety of vegetables including zucchini, tomatoes, peppers, and potatoes. The plot needs constant maintenance so we are looking for volunteers who would like to participate in the continued development of the garden. You can arrange to have a visit at the garden with those you serve (be mindful as you are not permitted to drive any children) or you can go over just to clear your mind any time you'd like!

If you are interested in getting involved with the garden or would like more information about it please contact Desiree King via email at dking@mhadutchess.org or by phone at (845)473-2500 x 1323.



REMEMBER...

AVAILABLE TRAINING DATES [HERE!](#)

DOCUMENT YOUR TRAINING HOURS [HERE!](#)

**VOLUNTEER MONTHLY MEETING:
JUNE 8TH AT 6:30 PM**

**INTERESTING ARTICLES...
[FOSTER CARE WAS ALWAYS TOUGH.](#)
[COVID-19 MADE IT TOUGHER.](#)**

[JOBS FOR HOMELESS LGBTQ YOUTH](#)

THIS MONTHS PODCAST!

FOSTER STRONG: [CLICK HERE!](#)

A PODCAST BROUGHT TO YOU BY ALUMNI OF FOSTER CARE. LISTEN IN AS WE SHOW YOU WHAT IT MEANS TO EMBRACE RESILIENCE AS AN IDENTITY.

PLEASE DON'T FORGET THAT IF YOU COMPLETE A TRAINING TO FILL OUT THE FORM ABOVE TO RECEIVE CREDIT TOWARDS YOUR NEEDED HOURS!

Focusing on our Youth During Pride

Nationwide there is roughly 440,000 youth in foster care and recent studies show that members of the LGBTQIA+ community represent 31% of them. These studies show that these youth are more likely to experience discrimination, abuse, neglect, and risk of harm than their cisgender peers. Right now there are only 13 states and the District of Columbia that have laws or policies in place to protect foster youth from acts of discrimination based on both sexual orientation and gender identity. 7 additional states have laws or policies protecting our youth in foster homes solely on the basis of sexual orientation.

To find out more about how you can support LGBTQIA+ youth please [CLICK HERE](#) to be brought to the article "5 Things You Can Do A Today to Support LGBTQ Youth".

The Importance of Juneteenth

Juneteenth is a commemorative holiday to celebrate June 19th, 1865, when the Union soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas, and announced the war had ended and all who were enslaved were free. Recently the day has been used to celebrate the advances and offers encouragement to continue to advocate and fight for equality for our communities and our families. According to a NASPA article "black children are disproportionately overrepresented in child welfare and are 2.5 times more likely to be placed in foster care", and once they are placed they can expect to remain there longer than their peers.

To continue learning about how to better advocate for those we serve, and for your community, please continue to check the Training Calendar viewable [HERE](#) or check out the booklist regarding equality provided by Good Reads which is viewable [HERE!](#)

Housekeeping

To our newly sworn-in advocates:

Please make sure you have set up your @mhadutchess.org email as this is where all future communication will take place. This is an important step as you will not be able to be assigned cases until this is complete. Once completed please also set up your Google account as this is how you will be documenting case notes. If you need any help please contact Courtney Fallon at the information provided below.

To our long-serving advocates:

Please make sure you are continuing with your training hours and documenting them. To remain an advocate you must complete 12 hours of training a year and as we approach the halfway mark of the year we will be reaching out to everyone to check in about your current hours and ensure that if you would like to remain in good standing you have a plan to do so! If you have any questions please feel free to contact Courtney Fallon at the information provided below.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Veronica Williams

June 28th



THANK YOU!

If you have any comments, questions, or concerns please feel free to reach out to Courtney Fallon via phone (413)537-1925 or email at cfallon@mhadutchess.org.