

CASA CORNER

CASA of the Southern Tier's Quarterly Newsletter



Reunification Month

June: A Month for Reunification

June is celebrated as Reunification Month, a time dedicated to emphasizing the importance and benefits of reunifying families within the child welfare system. This month serves as a reminder of the critical role that family plays in a child's life and highlights the tireless efforts of social workers, foster parents, and advocates who work toward this goal. Reunification is often considered the most desirable option for achieving permanency, as it allows children to return to a stable and nurturing home environment with their biological families. This process involves not only the child's return but also the provision of support services to parents, ensuring they have the necessary resources and skills to create a safe and loving environment. Communities and organizations across the country take this time to share success stories, promote awareness, and encourage collaborative efforts to make reunification a reality for more families.

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LGBTQ+ Resources

During Pride Month, it's crucial to recognize and uplift LGBTQ+ individuals and families in our communities. We can foster this support by promoting inclusivity and respect while providing essential resources tailored to their specific needs. The influence of families and communities plays a significant role in shaping an individual's acceptance and emotional health. When LGBTQ+ individuals have supportive adults and are surrounded by caring environments, it often leads to improved mental health and the development of resilience. Access to mental health resources specifically designed for LGBTQ+ individuals can create a meaningful impact. This includes offering counseling services and support groups where individuals can share their experiences and gain insights from professionals who are attuned to their unique challenges. Resources for individuals and families are below.

<https://www.thetrevorproject.org/resources/>

<https://pflag.org/>

<https://www.lgbtqcenters.org/>

<https://988lifeline.org/>

Volunteer Recognition

We recently celebrated our amazing and dedicated advocates. These exceptional people embody the very essence of volunteering, dedicating their time and energy selflessly. Their efforts clearly reflect this unwavering commitment. Through their actions, they demonstrate how one person can make a significant difference, showcasing the power of community and the importance of giving back. Their dedication serves as a shining example of what it means to be a true advocate, making a lasting impact on the lives of others and the world around them.

- Advocate of the Year - Abby Fluman
- Awareness Mission Crusader - Bruce Sharpe
- Rising Advcoate of the Year - Sarah Kinney
- Rising Advocate of the Year - Chase Malone
- Volunteer of the Year - Debbra Bond



Save The Date

INFO SESSIONS:
JUNE 10TH (PM)
JULY 8TH (AM)
AUGUST 12TH (PM)

CLASS START DATES:
OCTOBER 6TH (PM)
OCTOBER 8TH (AM)

UPCOMING EVENTS:
LITTLE ELF SHOP -
DECEMBER 5TH

NEXT NEWSLETTER:
FALL 2026



Stay In Touch With Us

CASA Board of Directors

Kristen Henderson

Chukwudi Okoro

Bruce Sharpe

Amanda Stork

Jonathan Smith

Heidi Wahl

Feel free to follow us on social media!

<https://www.facebook.com/casaoftthesoutherntier>



<https://www.instagram.com/casasoutherntier/>

For your convenience, the QR code below is to our donation page.



<https://app.donorsnap.com/dsDB.aspx>

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

IN HONOR OF REUNIFICATION MONTH, LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT THE REUNIFICATION NUMBERS ASSOCIATED WITH CASA OF THE SOUTHERN TIER'S WORK. IN 2025, CASA HAD 20 CHILDREN FIND PERMANENCY AFTER BEING UNDER THE COURT AND DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES AUSPICES. PLUS, MANY OTHER CHILDREN IN THE MIDDLE OF THEIR JOURNEY TO REUNIFICATION. OF THOSE 20, TWELVE CHILDREN WERE SUCCESSFULLY REUNITED WITH THEIR BIOLOGICAL PARENT(S) WITHIN OUR SERVICE AREA OF CHEMUNG, SCHUYLER, STEUBEN, AND YATES COUNTIES.

THE HOUSEHOLDS THAT SUCCESSFULLY REUNITED DEFINATELY HAD WRAP AROUND SUPPORT, CASA JUST BEING ONE SERVICE IN THAT BIG PICTURE. CASA PROMOTES THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CHILDREN IN THOSE HOUSEHOLDS AND TO MAKE SURE THEY HAVE THE SERVICES AND SUPPORTS TO BE RESILIENT AND FLOURISH. SERVICES THAT YOU MAY FIND ASSISTING FAMILIES IN OUR AREA INCLUDE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES, COOPERATIVE EXTENTION, FAMILY RESOURCE CENTERS, RESPITE PROVIDERS, FOOD PANTRIES, PARENTING EDUCATION PROGRAMS, COUNSELING SERVICES, SCHOOLS, AND THE LIST GOES ON. EACH FAMILY IS UNIQUE IN THE SPECIFIC SUPPORTS AND SERVICES THAT WILL ULTIMATELY HELP ACHIEVE A STABLE HOME ENVIRONMENT.



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