

Garza wins CASA Impact Award

By Amy Trees
Special to the Reporter

“A great volunteer is hard to find, difficult to part with and impossible to forget,” posts the Court Appointed Special Advocates on their Facebook page. Twila Garza of Edgerton is one of four winners of the 2021 CASA Impact Award. CASA of Rock County is a nonprofit organization founded in 2005 that trains volunteers to advocate for abused children in custody of the child welfare system—a system that their website describes as being overwhelmed and under-resourced.

Garza was sworn in as a CASA advocate in the fall of 2019 by the Honorable Judge Michael Haakenson. Only a few months after being assigned to her first case, she was selected as Volunteer of the Month for December. “It didn’t take long before staff realized how truly blessed we were to have an advocate like Twila,” says Nicole Engleson, MSW, a child advocacy supervisor at CASA.

Engleson explains that the award is presented to volunteers who go above and beyond to advocate for the needs of the children and families they are assigned to. “Throughout the last 18 months, Twila has dedicated over 400 volunteer hours to the families she served and has assisted the CASA program in raising awareness of our program throughout the community and with key stakeholders,” says Engleson. She adds that Garza cultivated strong bonds with the entire family unit and assisted with the successful reunification of children to their families. In addition, her 31 years of experience as a teacher and principal made her a strong advocate for children’s education.

Other 2021 Impact Award winners include Haleigh Thomas, CPS initial assessment worker; Lori Stottler, CASA board president; and their business award goes to the United Way of the Blackhawk Region. “All winners are being recognized for their contribution to breaking the cycle of child abuse and neglect in Rock County,” says Engleson.

As a result of restrictions in place because of the Covid-19 pandemic, this year’s winners will be recognized at a private luncheon at The Looking Glass in downtown Janesville on April 30, at 11:30 a.m., rather than the usual public ceremony.

On April 21, CASA announced on their Facebook page that Cowley’s Piggly Wiggly stores in Edgerton and Milton donated a total of \$4,387.19 to their organization, thanks to the stores’ generous customers for Rounding Up for CASA. CASA has served 117 chil-

dren in 2021 and currently has over 80 children on their waitlist. The next pre-service advocate training begins in June.

For more information about making a donation or becoming a volunteer, visit their website at www.casarockcounty.org.



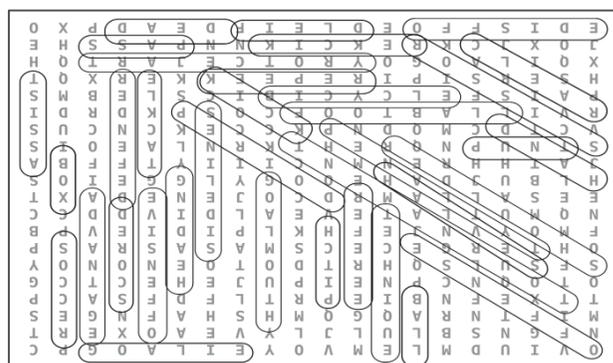
Twila Garza (center) receives a gift and invitation from Nicole Engleson, child advocacy supervisor (left) and Sandy Johnson, program director (right) after winning the 2021 CASA Impact Award.

Submitted photo



Twila Garza (second from left) is sworn in, fall, 2019, by the Honorable Judge Michael Haakenson as a CASA advocate.

Submitted photo



Sing for the morning: A male robin and a male red-winged blackbird sing lustily in the Town of Albion on Thursday morning, April 22. Male birds do most of the singing; they’re usually singing to either attract a mate or mark out territory.

Photo by Jeff Brown

Vaccine myths persist, even as millions have been vaccinated against COVID-19

Submitted by UW-Madison School of Medicine & Public Health

Recently, everyone 16 years of age and older in Wisconsin became eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine. This is good news. The bad news is that they are being bombarded by misinformation on the vaccines.

Detecting erroneous information (myths) regarding these vaccines can be a challenge, but there are ways to detect it, according to Ajay Sethi, popu-

lation health sciences and faculty director, Master of Public Health Program, who focuses his educational mission on addressing public health misinformation and has been tracking vaccine myths.

“Sometimes misinformation sounds like well-intentioned advice,” Sethi said. “Always question the source of information you receive about vaccines; did it originate from a scientific or medical authority?”

Common myths include:

- I had COVID-19, so I

don’t need the vaccine

- I don’t need the second dose because I either got COVID-19 after my first dose or because I heard one shot is good enough

- You only need a vaccine if you live in cities or work in crowded areas

- The vaccines were rushed to approval and are not safe as a result

These are just a few of the recent trending myths on social media, and there are many more.

SOCCER STAR WORD SEARCH

O V I U D M L E M V O Y E I L A O G P C
 N F G N S B L U L J L Y V E A O X E R T
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 T I X E F N B I E P R T L F D F N A C E P
 O T O Q N C P N E I P U J E H E C T C G
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- HAND
- HEADING
- KEEPER
- KICK
- KICKER
- OFFENSIVE
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Trivia ANSWERS

1. Babe Ruth
2. Crossword Puzzle
3. Moving at the speed of sound
4. Canada
5. Los Angeles
6. Tremendous, Horrendous, Stupendous, Hazardous ... others?
7. Here are some:
San Francisco 49ers /
New England Patriots /
Minnesota Vikings /
Tampa Bay Buccaneers /
Pittsburgh Steelers /
Washington Redskins
8. A. Ecstatic B. Cinematic
C. Erratic
9. Refuse to serve at a bar or restaurant / throw out, eject, discard
10. Hockey
11. A Ton
12. Dollar
13. Print their paper money in color.