

## Parade of Playhouses: CASA Fundraising Event

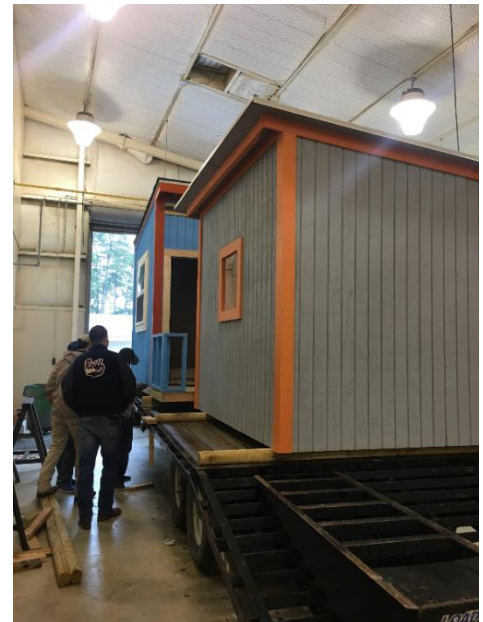
Sam Houston State University's Construction Management students built two playhouses for CASA's Parade of Playhouses under the supervision of Dr. Mahdi Safa and Project Manager Lily England. Ray Busby acted as Transportation Manager for this project.

CASA is a national volunteer movement to act as a "voice in court" for abused and neglected children. These Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) provide information to the court that is needed to safe-guard a child's best interests. Their ultimate goal is to help children in unsafe situations find safe & permanent homes. Each year, CASA does a Parade of Playhouses in which different corporations, organizations, and groups design, build, and donate playhouses to be raffled off. The funds raised are used to provide more advocates for children in need and help the abused children find a good home.



Students in Dr. Safa's class were tasked with this service project for CASA during the Fall 2019 semester. Not only are playhouses a great project for college students majoring in Construction Management, but students are also rewarded by knowing that they are helping out children in need. The students got real world experience in drawing development, cost and supply estimation, and home construction from this project. The hands-on experience not only helps them apply what they have learned in class, but also builds their resumes.

The class was separated into two designated teams (one for each playhouse), and they put a substantial amount of time and energy into creating the perfect playhouses. The first group built the "Bearkat Bungalow" and the second built the "Katz Kottage". Both teams started off by developing an overall idea of what they would like to accomplish and determining the special touches they would like to incorporate to make their playhouses unique. Then, they developed the drawings for their structures and decided on the materials they would like to use for the project. After that point, students submitted the Bills of Material to Ms. Lily England, who modified the lists to meet the budget and maximize efficiency. Once the material was received, students had two full days to complete the builds and get the playhouses transported. With the guidance and supervision of Dr. Mahdi Safa and Ms. Lily England, students successfully completed the builds and the playhouses were transferred into CASA's hands.



The playhouses were on display until December 11, 2019 and featured in the Annual Huntsville Christmas Parade on December 7, 2019. Bearkat Bungalow and Katz Kottage have promoted awareness of the commitment our students, staff, and faculty promote awareness of to serving the community while learning at the same time. Ultimately, the students gained a lot of knowledge and experience from this opportunity. They enjoyed every part of the project and look forward to more hands-on learning and completing more service projects.