



GEORGIA COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES, INC.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: Lori Derhammer, Georgia CASA
lderhammer@gacasa.org
404-874-2888

Deidre Hollands, CASA for Children
deidre@casacherokee.org
770-345-3274

CASA for Children Receives *Established Program Award of Excellence* from Georgia CASA

Atlanta, Apr. 6, 2009 – CASA for Children (Court Appointed Special Advocates), serving Cherokee County, has received a 2009 *Established Program Award of Excellence* from Georgia CASA. Deidre Hollands, Executive Director of Carroll County CASA, accepted the award on behalf of the program at the Georgia CASA State Conference on Sat., Mar. 28 in Atlanta.

CASA for Children was chosen as one of two winners of the *Established Program Award of Excellence* by a selection committee of the Georgia CASA Board of Directors. The program was begun in 1993, and since its inception, over 1,300 children have been served by over 400 CASA volunteers. CASA for Children has cultivated and maintained the financial support that allows for the stability of the program and the employment of accomplished staff.

The staff's commitment to ensuring volunteers are enabled to do their jobs and find purpose and fulfillment in their roles has resulted in a 76% retention rate of the program's volunteers. Judge Tony Baker states that the "judges in Cherokee County appreciate the hard work and dedication of Deidre, her staff and the CASA volunteers. The CASA volunteers have always been there for the children and [the program] is very deserving of this honor."

CASA for Children is very involved in its community through hosting events, awareness education, partnering with other child organizations and participating on committees that strengthen the community's response to victims of abuse.

All of these attributes and more made CASA for Children very deserving of a 2009 *Established Program Award of Excellence* from Georgia CASA.

CASA for Children, Inc., is a member of the National CASA Association and an affiliate of Georgia CASA, Inc., which develops and supports CASA programs throughout Georgia. Through individualized attention, CASA volunteers advocate for the best interests of abused, neglected and abandoned children. Bringing urgency to a child's needs, both in and out of a courtroom, CASA volunteers promote safety, permanency and well-being through independent recommendations. Last year, over 1,870 CASA volunteers served over 8,760 children in Georgia. Currently, 48 CASA programs are located across Georgia, serving 126 counties. For more information about CASA for Children, email info@casacherokee.org or call 770-345-3274. For more information about other CASA programs in the state, visit www.gacasa.org or call 404-874-2888 / 800-251-4012.

###

1776 PEACHTREE ROAD, NW • SUITE 219, SOUTH TOWER • ATLANTA, GA 30309
404.874.2888 • 800.251.4012 • FAX 404.874.2889 • info@gacasa.org • www.gacasa.org

MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE ASSOCIATION