



GEORGIA COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES, INC.

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Georgia CASA's Annual Luncheon and Fashion Show Raises Money for Child Advocacy Program Statewide

ATLANTA, Feb. 18, 2009 – [Georgia Court Appointed Special Advocates \(CASA\)](#), the state organization that supports and promotes advocates for abused and neglected children, announced that it will hold its fifth annual luncheon and fashion show on March 18. The event raises much-needed funding for Georgia CASA's 48 affiliates that serve 126 counties across the state. Last year's annual luncheon and fashion show raised \$35,000, for a total of more than \$200,000 raised since the event began.

This year's event, held at the Buckhead location of Maggiano's Little Italy, honors Marcy McTier, Georgia CASA Life Board Member, and features keynote speaker Tom C. Rawlings, a former juvenile court judge for Georgia's Middle Judicial Circuit and the current director of the [Office of Child Advocate](#), a state agency that provides policymakers and the public with advice, assistance and aid regarding at-risk families and foster children. A raffle, held in conjunction with the luncheon, features prize packages with donated items from [American Girl](#), [Buckhead Life Restaurant Group](#) and many others.

The fashion show, emceed by WXIA-TV's [Ted Hall](#), highlights items from local boutiques such as [Anne Barge](#), [Elements of Style](#), [Guffey's](#), Guffey's for Her, [Mims of Atlanta](#), [Sandpiper](#) and [Seed Factory](#). Models include CASA staff, volunteers and supporters.

The presenting sponsor for the event is [Brasfield & Gorrie](#). Other sponsors include Mr. and Mrs. John Aderhold, Mr. and Mrs. Harold T. Barrett, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. James H. Blanchard, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur M. Blank, Chick-fil-A Inc., Ms. Carolyn Dobbins, Ms. Cecile M. Jones and Mrs. Karen N. Sibley (founder of Georgia CASA).

"In order to fully train CASA volunteer advocates who work together with the court system to protect the best interests of foster children, we need financial support from members of the community," said Duaine Hathaway, executive director of Georgia CASA. "Money raised at events such as the annual luncheon and fashion show goes to support services Georgia CASA provides to affiliates throughout the state in addition to developing new affiliates. Each year it costs approximately \$740 to serve one child through the CASA program and approximately \$400 to train each volunteer."

Additional tickets are available through Georgia CASA for \$65. For more information or to purchase tickets, please call 404-874-2888.

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About Georgia CASA

Georgia CASA, Inc., develops and supports CASA programs throughout Georgia. As community partners in the child welfare system, CASA volunteers increase abused and neglected children's access to services, promote safety, and advocate for timeliness and permanency for children involved in juvenile court proceedings. CASA volunteers are independent advocates and provide individualized attention for children in a massive state system. Last year, more than 1,870 CASA volunteers served more than 8,760 children in Georgia. CASA has 48 affiliates across Georgia that serve 126 counties and 45 of the 49 judicial circuits. For more information about CASA in Georgia, visit www.gacasa.org, e-mail info@gacasa.org or call 404-874-2888/800-251-4012.

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MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE ASSOCIATION