



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES (CASA) RAISES RECORD-HIGH
NUMBERS AT COMMUNITY AWARENESS LUNCH**

140 Attendees Help the Organization Raise Over \$44,000

SOMERS POINT, N. J.: - On May 5 over 140 people attended CASA's Cause for Children Community Awareness Lunch at the Atlantic City Country Club in Northfield, N.J. and helped the organization raise a record-high \$44,710 in gifts, pledges, sponsorships, including a \$10,000 leadership gift from members of the Board of Trustees.

During the hour-long lunch, provided entirely by Caesars Entertainment, stories of the impact that CASA volunteers have on foster children, birth parents and foster parents were shared. "It was just an amazing event, we were able to share success stories but also show the hardships that these children and their families face every day. Living in the foster care system puts a tremendous amount of stress on everyone involved and our stories showed how CASA volunteers help in the struggle to find Forever Families for foster children." said Executive Director Angie Waters.

"It was wonderful to see all of the support from the community," said Board President Maureen Siman, "We are grateful that so many people came to hear these stories and we hope that they share them with others to help raise awareness about foster care and the children caught in the system."

This year's lunch was generously sponsored by Caesars Entertainment, AtlantiCare, Ocean City Home Bank Charitable Foundation, Tropicana Hotel and Casino, the Scarborough Family, Morey's Pier, Atlantic City Electric, Wells Fargo Advisors, Glenn Insurance, AMI Foundation of Atlantic Medical Imaging, Baumgardner Construction and Capaldi Reynolds & Pelosi .

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About CASA

Trained CASA Volunteer Advocates speak in family court on behalf of abused and neglected children in the foster care system and are dedicated to ensuring these children are placed in safe permanent homes as quickly as possible. In Atlantic and Cape May Counties, over 700 children are placed in foster care annually. Last year, CASA served nearly 300 abused and neglected children with 175 Advocates and helped place 94 children in permanent homes. Volunteering for CASA is a rewarding experience says Volunteer Advocate Judy from Mays Landing, N.J., “The CASA program addresses one of the most compelling problems of our society, narrows it to one small child and allows me to enter that life and make a difference.” For more information about CASA visit www.AtlanticCapeCASA.org. CASA is a United Way Partner Agency.

About National CASA

In 1976, Judge David Soukup, then Presiding Judge of King County Superior Court in Seattle, Washington, realized he was making life-altering decisions regarding children’s lives without enough information about the children. He began to look for alternative ways to make sure that the child’s best interests would be consistently presented to the court. Judge Soukup decided to use trained community volunteers, individuals who would be asked to make a commitment for the life of a child’s case. His idea became a full-fledged program in 1977 and word of its success spread quickly. Encouraged by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, new CASA programs began to develop around the country. Currently, over 1,000 CASA programs exist nationwide, with 68,000 CASA Volunteer Advocates serving over two million children. For more information on the national CASA program please visit www.casaforchildren.org.

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