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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Pictured above: (From Left to Right) Vernon Whitmore, publisher of the Globe Newspaper Group; Eleanor Boswell-Raine, General Manager and Editor of Globe Newspaper; Honorary CASA Chair Pamela Joyner; Speaker of the Assembly Karen Bass and National CASA CEO Michael S. Piraino

The National CASA Association, Speaker of the Assembly Karen Bass and Honorary Chair Pamela Joyner Host Reception Launching “Keeping the Promise” Campaign

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. (February 12, 2010) – The National Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Association joined by Speaker of the Assembly Karen Bass and honorary chair Pamela Joyner hosted a reception in San Francisco to celebrate the launch of “Keeping the Promise” campaign.

The reception raised awareness and funds for “Keeping the Promise” campaign, which helps National CASA better serve its’ local chapters. The funds will allow CASA to train and appoint more CASA volunteers to foster children.

Last year, more than 68,000 CASA volunteers served more than 240,000 abused and neglected children through 1,018 program offices. CASA volunteers have helped more than two million abused children since the first program was established in 1977. CASA volunteers are appointed by judges to watch over and advocate for abused and neglected children, to make sure they don't get lost in the overburdened legal and social service system or languish in an inappropriate group or foster home.

To volunteer, or for more information on the national studies on foster care, please visit the National CASA Association website, www.nationalcasa.org. You can also call 1-888-805-8457.

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About National CASA Association

In 1977 a Seattle judge, concerned over making decisions about abused and neglected children's lives without sufficient information, conceived the idea of using trained community volunteers to speak for their safety and wellbeing, and to help them find safe and permanent homes where they can thrive. Overwhelmingly, African American and Latino children are overrepresented in the child welfare system making up 35% and 15% of those in foster care, respectively. So successful was this volunteer program, that judges across the country began utilizing citizen advocates. Today, almost 1,000 CASA/GAL offices operate in 49 states, with more nearly 70,000 men and women serving as CASA/GAL volunteers.