

## Jewelers Brilliantly Support Local CASA Programs

This year, Jewelers for Children (JFC)—the industry organization of jewelry retailers, manufacturers, watch companies and trade associations—awarded National CASA \$500,000, all of which will be re-granted to local programs. JFC has also recognized National CASA as a “Super Legacy Charity” deserving of continued support.

Since 2005, JFC support has put CASA volunteers into the lives of more than 4,300 children and youth in 416 communities across the US. Further, many individuals who work in the jewelry industry are deeply committed to helping CASA programs in their own communities. Here are two sparkling examples:

**Russell Kwiat**  
**Partner, Kwiat Diamonds**  
**Member, Junior Board of Directors,**  
**New York City CASA**



My company has long supported National CASA through JFC, and the more I learned about the organization, the more I loved what it did. I was looking to get involved locally—and personally—when I met National CASA CEO Michael Piraino at the jewelry industry trade show several years ago. He put me in touch with the New York City CASA program, and I went through training and became a CASA volunteer. I was an advocate for two years and then became the first co-chairman of the New York City CASA junior fundraising and awareness board, which was created to get more young professionals involved. We’ve held three fundraisers so far and raised more than \$150,000 for the program. I’ll keep working for CASA because it’s a great organization.

**John Berglund**  
**Group Vice President of**  
**Merchandising and Marketing,**  
**Fred Meyer/Littman Jewelers**  
**Secretary, Board of Directors,**  
**CASA for Children, Portland, OR**



I learned about CASA for Children, the program serving Multnomah and Washington Counties, because Fred Meyer Jewelers supports the program’s golf tournament fundraiser. Today I am secretary of the program’s board of directors and co-chairman of that tournament, which raises about \$50,000 each year for CASA for Children! I donate my time to CASA for Children because doing so helps kids in need. My youngest son, Blake, died when he was 16 months old from a disease called spinal muscular atrophy. The CASA mission of working to give kids voices resonates with me as a result of that tragedy.

## CASA Volunteer Featured in AARP The Magazine

*AARP The Magazine* is the largest circulation magazine in the world, with over 24 million readers. The September/October edition featured CASA volunteer Thelma Harris in the article “People Helping People.” Harris offered perfect examples of how a CASA volunteer can make a dramatic, positive difference in a child’s life. For helping us to gain this exposure, thanks go to Harris, who is pictured twice in the issue together with Tamika, a teen she guided, and to Fulton County CASA, GA. To read the article, visit [aarpmagazine.org](http://aarpmagazine.org) and search for “People Helping People.”



Photo by John Huba

“The AARP article exemplifies the success of intergenerational relationships and the long-term impact these relationships have in the lives of children,” said Robbyn Ingram, board chair of Fulton County CASA.

## Hollywood NOTE Foundation Award

National CASA’s commitment to humanitarianism and philanthropic work has been noted. On May 31, the Hollywood NOTE Foundation honored National CASA with its first-ever *Foundation Award of Giving*. Trustee and retired actress Renne Bilson accepted the award on our behalf at the first annual Change the World Awards Gala in Hollywood, CA. National CASA was one of 12 organizations and individuals honored. The mission of the Hollywood NOTE Foundation is to bring to light the work and philanthropy of the many men and women known for their craft in the arts and the film industry. Individuals at the foundation first learned of National CASA through one of CEO Michael Piraino’s appearances on the *Dr. Phil* show. The founders were moved by the CASA network’s commitment to children as well as by Dr. Phil and Robin McGraw’s commitment to volunteer advocacy. In addition to a sparkling piece of art referred to as the *Award of NOTE*, National CASA received a \$20,000 donation.



National CASA trustee and retired actress Renne Bilson accepted the award. Photo courtesy of Gates Photography ([gatesphotography.com](http://gatesphotography.com)).

## National CASA Helps Send Children Back to School with Confidence

National CASA, a partner since 2005 in the Office Depot Foundation National Backpack Program, received 25,000 backpacks for distribution this school year to youth served by CASA programs in 12 major urban communities. Logistics and shipping support were provided by Hewitt Associates and Xerox Corporation.



The Office Depot Foundation donated a total of 300,000 backpacks to organizations across the country this year to help disadvantaged children start the school year right. Since 2001, the foundation has distributed two million backpacks. On behalf of the more than 75,000 children who have received backpacks through the CASA/GAL network and through our community partners, thanks go to the Office Depot Foundation, Hewitt Associates and Xerox Corporation. 📩



Left to right: Office Depot District Manager Victor Palacio, Office Depot Foundation Board Member Vera Cuevas, Miami Voices for Children President and CEO Nelson Hincapie, Office Depot Foundation Board Member Robert McCormes-Ballou and Store Manager Oliver Codorniu

*"Fulton County CASA was able to partner with our local Department of Family and Children's Services in their back-to-school event to give away backpacks. I understand the event was an overwhelming success and they gave away all the backpacks we donated."*

—Iris Ross, Executive Director, Fulton County CASA, Atlanta, GA



*"I was impressed with the Office Depot Foundation and the way in which it handled the press conference. We also enjoyed the support of the Indianapolis Kappa Alpha Theta alumnae chapter. Thanks, National CASA, for keeping these partnerships going!"*

—Cynthia Booth, Executive Director, Child Advocates, Inc., Indianapolis, IN

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Give a child  
**A VOICE**

## Visit National CASA's New Website

Go to [CASAforchildren.org](http://CASAforchildren.org), and...



**...Be Informed.**

Find out about the latest news, events and developments affecting the children and youth we serve.

Read compelling stories from volunteers and hear what foster youth have to say about their lives.



**...Be Inspired.**

Discover our new social networking tools and become an active part of our growing online community.



**...Be Connected.**

National CASA thanks the following for making our new website possible through their generous donations:

- The Hearst Foundations
- Jewelers for Children
- Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
- Anonymous Donors

