[insert your program logo here]

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE—[insert date]

Contact: [Your name, program name, phone number, email]

**New CASA Volunteers Sworn In to Advocate for Children**

[Insert name of your town and state]—On [insert day/date], the Hon. [insert name of judge] swore in [insert number of volunteers] volunteers as CASA volunteers—court-appointed special advocates for abused and neglected children.

Family and friends gathered in the [insert name of courthouse] to watch the volunteers take an oath promising to advocate for the best interest of the child.

The newly appointed CASA volunteers join [insert number of current CASA volunteers] other dedicated community members who have been trained and are advocating for foster children in the county’s juvenile dependency court system. As officers of the court, they ensure that the children’s needs are recognized and best interests are considered both in the courtroom and in the community.

CASA volunteers are asked to meet with the child regularly and are authorized to interview people in the child’s life such as social workers, attorneys, and teachers. They attend court hearings with the child and report their findings to the judge.

“Our volunteers pledge to stay with each child until the case is closed, and the child is placed in a safe, permanent home," said [insert name of executive director], director of the [insert name of your CASA program and link it to your website]. "The advocate is often the only consistent adult presence in the child’s life.”

With more than [insert number of children waiting for a CASA volunteer in your community] children waiting for a CASA volunteer, many more advocates are still needed. There are no prerequisites for becoming a CASA volunteer other than being at least 21 years of age, clearing an extensive background screening and successfully completing 30 hours of training.

(- more -)

The next advocate training session for [insert name of your service area] begins [insert date of next training session]. If you are interested in learning more about becoming a CASA volunteer and the rewards that come along with serving as the voice of a child, please contact [insert contact information—phone number and email].

The [insert name of your CASA program] is a member of the [National CASA Association](http://www.casaforchildren.org/site/c.mtJSJ7MPIsE/b.5301295/k.BE9A/Home.htm), a network of more than 900 CASA programs serving children in 49 states and Washington DC.

(- end -)