



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CASA FOR CHILDREN WELCOMES FIVE NEW BOARD MEMBERS

New Trustees Brings Wealth of Knowledge and Experience to Board

SOMERS POINT, N.J.: Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) for Children of Atlantic and Cape May Counties is pleased to announce the addition of Barbara Ridge of Linwood, Vicki Clark of Cape May, Adam Busler of Ventnor, Barbara Schaaf of Galloway, and, Susan Curcio, Esq. of Hammonton to the CASA Board of Trustees. Each new member has knowledge and experience in strategic planning, marketing, family law, finance, and community development and will help fulfill the organization's mission of ensuring that children living in foster care find a safe, permanent home as quickly as possible.

"I am looking forward to working with the CASA Board to bring about greater awareness of this fantastic organization that does so much to support children in the foster care system," said Clark. "As a grandparent of children adopted from the foster program, I bring a unique understanding about the critical importance for every child to have their own advocate - someone whose only priority is representing the best interest of the child."

Ridge added, "There is a saying "It takes a village..." I can remember as a child if I skipped school, my mother would know before I got home that night. I used to think that the person that called was a busybody. It was not until later I realized that she was looking out for me. I also never skipped school again! I believe in that saying. We all need to help children. We need to do what we can in whatever way we can

to keep them safe, warm, fed, and educated. I joined CASA because...I wanted to be one of the people who will make that phone call.”

“As an adoptive parent, I experienced the vital role that CASA plays for a child in the foster care system. To become part of such an important organization is an honor,” shared Schaaf.

“We are thrilled to have all five individuals join our Board of Trustees,” said CASA Executive Director Angie Waters, “Their experience, both in business and within the community, will only advance the mission of the organization and help us fulfill our goal of serving every child living in foster care in Atlantic and Cape May Counties.”

About Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) for Children of Atlantic and Cape May Counties

Trained CASA volunteers speak on behalf of abused and neglected children living in the foster care system and are dedicated to ensuring these children are placed in safe permanent homes as quickly as possible. Last fiscal year, CASA provided advocates to over 65 percent of the abused and neglected children in Atlantic and Cape May Counties and helped place 223 children in permanent homes. For more information about CASA for Children visit www.AtlanticCapeCASA.org or www.Facebook.com/CASA4Children.

About National CASA

The National Court Appointed Special Advocate Association is a network of almost 1,000 programs that recruit, train and support more than 76,000 citizen-volunteers who advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children in the courtrooms of their communities. The only program of its kind, Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteers are empowered by the courts to provide children with one-on-one advocacy. CASA volunteers see their assigned children regularly and interview all the adults who influence their lives. Volunteer advocates offer judges the critical information they need to ensure each child’s rights and needs are being attended to while in foster care, staying with the child until she is placed in a loving permanent home. For many abused children, their CASA volunteer is the only constant adult presence in their lives. For more information about the National CASA Association, readers are encouraged to visit casaforchildren.org.

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