



## GEORGIA COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES, INC.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### WILLIA BANKS, FROM HALL-DAWSON CASA, NAMED 2004 CASA VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR IN GEORGIA

*Atlanta, Apr. 28, 2005* – Willia Banks, Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteer with Hall-Dawson CASA Program, Inc., in Gainesville was chosen as the 2004 CASA Volunteer of the Year in Georgia. Willia received the 2004 Karen N. Sibley Volunteer of the Year Award, named in honor of Karen N. Sibley, founding chairman of Georgia CASA, at the annual volunteer recognition reception of Hall-Dawson CASA, which was held on April 28 in Gainesville.

Willia was cited for her outstanding skills in advocating for the best interests of over 50 abused and neglected children in Hall and Dawson counties since becoming a CASA volunteer in 1994. In one case, she helped a young neglected toddler find a permanent home with a loving adopted family. The toddler was also malnourished, could not sit, had poor motor skills and virtually no verbal skills. She helped to ensure his physical and developmental needs were met.

In addition to serving as a CASA volunteer, Willia has also been involved with CASA in the community in Gainesville, including being a CASA presenter to various groups and representing CASA on the Domestic Violence Task Force of Hall County.

Willia is an outstanding community volunteer who truly has a heart for serving abused and neglected children as well as other victims, including homeless women and those affected by domestic violence. She has been honored with several awards for her community service and Georgia CASA is pleased to present her with the 2004 CASA Volunteer of the Year Award for the state.

Georgia CASA, Inc., develops and supports CASA programs throughout Georgia. A CASA volunteer assesses the child's situation and reports to the judge what is in the best interests for the child. The goal of CASA is to advocate for a safe, permanent home for each child. Last year, over 1,500 CASA volunteers served over 7,400 children in Georgia. 43 CASA programs are located across Georgia, serving 100 counties. For more information about CASA, visit [www.gacasa.org](http://www.gacasa.org) or call 404.874.2888 or 1.800.251.4012.

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