



## GEORGIA COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES, INC.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **CASA of the Appalachian Judicial Circuit Receives *Established Program Award of Excellence* from Georgia CASA**

*Atlanta, Apr. 14, 2010* – CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of the Appalachian Judicial Circuit, serving Fannin, Gilmer and Pickens counties, has received a 2010 *Established Program Award of Excellence* from Georgia CASA.

CASA of the Appalachian Judicial Circuit was chosen as the winner of the *Established Program Award of Excellence* by a selection committee of the Georgia CASA Board of Directors. The program was begun in 1993, and has been under the Appalachian Juvenile Court since 1997, the same year Dianne Scoggins began as Director. As stated by Chief Juvenile Court Judge John E. Worcester-Holland, “I strongly depend on the CASA volunteers’ written reports and first-hand knowledge of the children they are appointed to represent. I know they have been well-trained and have exceptional support staff to give them the assistance they need.”

CASA of the Appalachian Judicial Circuit has a strong presence in the counties it serves, with CASA volunteers and staff serving on various child welfare committees. The CASA program has been instrumental in developing the child welfare protocols for the Circuit and has outstanding relationships with stakeholders in the court system.

CASA of the Appalachian Judicial Circuit adheres to standards of excellence and serves as a model CASA program for others. All of these attributes and more made CASA of the Appalachian Judicial Circuit very deserving of the 2010 *Established Program Award of Excellence* from Georgia CASA.

CASA of the Appalachian Judicial Circuit is a member of the National CASA Association and an affiliate of Georgia CASA, Inc., which develops and supports CASA programs throughout Georgia. Through individualized attention, CASA volunteers advocate for the best interests of abused, neglected and abandoned children. Bringing urgency to a child’s needs, both in and out of a courtroom, CASA volunteers promote safety, permanency and well-being through independent recommendations. Last year, over 2,000 CASA volunteers served over 8,700 children in Georgia. Currently, 48 CASA programs are located across Georgia, serving 135 counties. For more information about CASA of the Appalachian Judicial Circuit, visit [www.appalachiancasa.com](http://www.appalachiancasa.com) or call 770-276-2272. For more information about other CASA programs in the state, visit [www.gacasa.org](http://www.gacasa.org) or call 404-874-2888 / 800-251-4012.

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