



## GEORGIA COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES, INC.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Cobb County CASA Receives *Innovative Program Award of Excellence* from Georgia CASA**

*Atlanta, Apr. 14, 2010* – Cobb County CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates), a program of the Juvenile Court of Cobb County in Marietta, has received the 2010 *Innovative Program Award of Excellence* from Georgia CASA.

Cobb County CASA was chosen as the winner of the *Innovative Program Award of Excellence* by a selection committee of the Georgia CASA Board of Directors. The program was begun in 1991 and served 298 children with 75 CASA volunteers in 2009. Cobb County CASA has been innovative in securing funding to help guarantee the financial stability of the program, as the funding as allowed for added staff in order to recruit, train and supervise more CASA volunteers to serve more children. The CASA program also has a new executive committee, as part of its Advisory Board, that is spearheading awareness and fundraising events for the future.

Cobb County CASA is very involved with other child welfare organizations in its community, as it collaborates with them on various events, trainings and serving on committees. The CASA program also has a great relationship with the county Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS). The juvenile court judges in Cobb County routinely address the CASA volunteers in their courtrooms and thank them for their efforts and hard work.

All of these attributes and more made Cobb County CASA very deserving of the 2010 *Innovative Program Award of Excellence* from Georgia CASA.

Cobb County CASA 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 1,870 CASA volunteers served over 8,760 children in Georgia. Currently, 48 CASA programs are located across Georgia, serving 126 counties. For more information about Cobb County CASA, email [carlene.redmond@cobbcounty.org](mailto:carlene.redmond@cobbcounty.org) or call 770-528-2285. 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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