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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Legislators to Meet with Child Advocates at CASA Day at the Capitol on Wed., Feb. 14**

**Atlanta, Feb. 8, 2018** – CASA Day at the Capitol, an annual event hosted by Georgia Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), Inc., will take place on Wed., Feb. 14, at the State Capitol. CASA volunteers, board members and staff from across the state will meet with members of the Georgia Legislature to thank them for their support of the CASA organization and to share concerns about the abused and neglected children in foster care in the state, numbering over 12,000 at any one time.

The CASA organization in Georgia embarked in 2015 on an unprecedented three-year growth plan with the projection to serve 13,000 children in foster care at the end of 2018. Constituents will be sharing with legislators about the progress on the growth plan and how legislative funding helps to support the growth of the CASA organization in the state.

Sadly, 113 children in Georgia died from abuse or neglect in 2015. 200 incidents of child abuse and neglect are reported daily in the state and every day, 33 children are victims of confirmed abuse or neglect in Georgia.

CASA is central to fulfilling society's most fundamental obligation by making sure a qualified, compassionate adult will fight for and protect a child's right to be safe, to be treated with dignity and respect and to learn and grow in the safe embrace of a loving family.

#### **Details**

The day will begin at 9:30 a.m. with remarks by EmpowerMENT policy advocate Nyeelah Inniss and a legislative briefing, then meetings with legislators, followed by a drop-in thank you luncheon for legislators from 11:45 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. The briefing and luncheon will both take place in the Freight Room of the Georgia Railroad Depot, across from the Capitol.

### **Volunteers Needed**

Everyday citizens can make a big difference to the CASA program in their community by becoming a CASA volunteer or giving a charitable donation. CASA volunteers currently serve 143 of Georgia's 159 counties and CASA continues to work to expand into the few remaining counties in the state not currently served.

Georgia CASA, Inc., located in Atlanta, is a nonprofit organization that develops and supports court-sanctioned, community-based affiliate programs that provide trained and supervised volunteers to advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children involved in juvenile court proceedings. The vision of Georgia CASA is for each abused and neglected child to have a safe and permanent home. Last year, over 2,400 CASA volunteers served over 11,200 children in Georgia.

To find out more about CASA Day at the Capitol, visit <https://www.gacasa.org/casa-day-capitol-2018/> or call 404.874.2888.

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