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CASA of the Augusta Judicial Circuit, a Program of Child Enrichment, Receives an *Innovative Program Award of Excellence* from Georgia CASA

Atlanta, Aug. 7, 2018 – CASA of the Augusta Judicial Circuit (Court Appointed Special Advocates), a program of Child Enrichment, Inc. has received a 2018 Innovative Program Award of Excellence from Georgia CASA. The CASA program received the award at the Georgia CASA State Conference, held in Atlanta on August 4th.

CASA of the Augusta Judicial Circuit was recognized for their recent volunteer recruitment, training, and retention efforts fueled by enthusiasm and creativity. Inspired by and in response to Georgia CASA’s three-year, statewide growth plan (2015 – 2018), CASA of the Augusta Judicial Circuit rose to the challenge of increasing and strengthening volunteer advocacy for children in foster care.

Established in 1994, CASA of the Augusta Judicial Circuit, serving Burke, Columbia and Richmond counties, has recently increased the number of CASA volunteers at an exponential rate. In 2011, 40 CASA volunteers were on the roster, with only 28 serving children. Through implementing intentional, diligent recruitment initiatives and building partnerships connecting CASA to the community, they currently have 100 volunteers. In one example, 40 people attended a single CASA interest meeting of which 23 volunteers were later sworn-in as active advocates.

CASA of the Augusta Judicial Circuit provides frequent training opportunities so that potential volunteers can get involved right away, and they have engaged their collaborative partners, including judges, DFCS staff, and attorneys in their recruitment and training efforts.

Last year, over 2,400 CASA volunteers served over 11,000 children in Georgia. Currently, 47 CASA programs are located across Georgia, serving 150 counties. For more information about CASA of the Augusta Judicial Circuit, visit www.ChildEnrichment.org or call 706-737-4631. For more information about CASA in Georgia, visit www.gacasa.org or call 404-874-2888 or 800-251-4012.

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