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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CASA Kids, a Program of Family Enrichment Group, Receives *Established Program Award of Excellence* from Georgia CASA**

**Atlanta, Aug. 7, 2018** – CASA Kids (Court Appointed Special Advocates), a program of Family Enrichment Group, Inc., serving Brooks, Colquitt and Thomas counties, has received the 2018 Established Program Award of Excellence from Georgia CASA. The CASA program received the award at the Georgia CASA State Conference, held in Atlanta on August 4<sup>th</sup>.

CASA Kids is one of the original seven CASA programs in Georgia and was established in 1991. Since its inception, the CASA Kids leadership has understood the importance of community involvement and support. Its consistent and robust board leadership has provided the necessary resources and connections needed to lead successful start-up and expansion efforts. The board and community together demonstrated their support in many different ways, including generous donations, appreciation for its volunteers, addressing gaps in services for families, and continued sponsorship and awareness, while the Thomas County Juvenile Court pioneered a belief in the power of volunteer advocacy.

In 2007, CASA expanded to Brooks County. In 2012, responding to community needs, CASA formed an umbrella organization, Family Enrichment Group, to serve as a hub for children, families, and caregivers involved in dependency proceedings. In 2017, Colquitt County joined the two existing counties, and its expansion progress has exceeded all set-goals and expectations. These successful efforts were the result of a clear vision, plans, and determination necessary to spark volunteer recruitment and training, support case assignments, and reengage existing volunteers.

CASA Kids now boasts 67 volunteers, more than tripling the existing volunteer base, and supports more than 231 children of the 300+ children in foster care. Most recently, additional funding has provided a unique opportunity to expand services through the purchase of a permanent home base for the staff, volunteers, and children served. Through all the years of transition, growth, and renewal, CASA Kids has continued to strengthen its efforts and advocacy for the children throughout their southwest Georgia community.

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 Kids, visit [www.familyenrichmentgroup.org](http://www.familyenrichmentgroup.org) or call 229-225-4338. For more information about CASA in Georgia, visit [www.gacasa.org](http://www.gacasa.org) or call 404-874-2888 or 800-251-4012.

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