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Coweta CASA Receives *Established Program Award of Excellence* from Georgia CASA

Atlanta, Aug. 6, 2019– Coweta CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates), Inc. has received the 2019 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 3rd.

Coweta County was established 15 years ago to serve Coweta County exclusively. In 2018, the program accomplished a significant expansion to previously unserved children in Heard and Meriwether Counties in the Coweta Judicial Circuit. During this time of growth, the affiliate's formidable board of directors strategically focused efforts on sustainability.

Key to the success of these expansion efforts was the intensive, rigorous attention to the development of strong relationships with the juvenile court judges, DFCS (Department of Family and Children Services) directors, and Family Connection in each county. Additionally, influential networking and collaboration with local community providers was vital to ensure children and families in the additional counties had resources to meet their needs.

Coweta CASA's staff has a combined 39 years of CASA experience. Staff and volunteers alike are active in the statewide CASA network with participation in committees and events. Additionally, Coweta CASA's director regularly contributes in new CASA director orientations and is a peer reviewer with Georgia CASA quality assurance site visits.

Coweta CASA has an established, diverse funding base which includes state and federal grants, local foundation grants, and civic club giving, as well as board-led local fundraising efforts such as the SuperHero Run.

Keeping the momentum going, Coweta CASA has increased the number of CASA volunteers 34% in the last year and has a 96% volunteer retention rate. Today, Coweta CASA serves 73% of the children in foster care in Coweta, Heard, and Meriwether counties.

CASA is a nationwide and statewide organization with community volunteers who provide compassionate, one-on-one attention, offering children experiencing foster care hope for a brighter childhood and future that comes from growing up in a healthy, supportive, permanent family and a successful transition to adulthood with supportive connections, educational achievements, and life skills.

Last year, 2,700 CASA volunteers served over 11,000 children in Georgia. Currently, 46 CASA programs are located across Georgia, serving 151 counties. For more information about Coweta CASA, visit www.cowetacasa.org or call 770-253-0046. For more information about CASA in Georgia, visit www.gacasa.org or call 404-874-2888.

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