

## Jeff Sprinkle of Northeast Georgia CASA Named CASA Volunteer of the Year in Georgia



Jeff Sprinkle, CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) volunteer with Northeast Georgia CASA headquartered in Toccoa, has been chosen as the 2019 Karen N. Sibley CASA Volunteer of the Year in Georgia. (The award is named in honor of the late founding board chair of Georgia CASA.) She was awarded at the Georgia CASA Conference on August 3rd in Atlanta. In addition to being named Georgia's 2019 CASA Volunteer of the Year, Jeff was also named as the 2019 National CASA Volunteer of the Year as well!

Jeff has been a CASA advocate for 10 years, serving more than 20 children during his tenure. A CASA volunteer who exhibits high standards in every facet of his advocacy, Jeff consistently goes above and beyond in his service to children.

Jeff brings many personal strengths and skills to his advocacy: he is focused and knowledgeable about child welfare issues; detail oriented yet sees the bigger picture; effective and persuasive in both oral and written communication; respectful of and professional with all parties; and creative in solving issues and problems. However, the strength that really sets him apart is his genuine congeniality. He is always courteous and personable, knows the names of each and every individual involved in his cases, and greets everyone by name.

Jeff has an uncanny ability to establish a rapport with the children and youth he serves and understands the importance of small details and normalcy. For a teen girl who planned to attend a school dance, Jeff made sure that she had what other girls had – her hair and nails done. She felt confident and beautiful because Jeff assured she had a typical teen experience. She hopes that that all children have a CASA volunteer named Jeff Sprinkle!

On another case, Jeff located a father who resided out of state and was unaware he had a child. Jeff visited the father and testified on the condition of his home and his willingness to become involved in his child's life at the next court hearing. Because of his thorough investigation, diligent search efforts, and follow-through, the child established familial connections and now lives with his birth father.

In addition to his case advocacy, Jeff supports and promotes Northeast Georgia in other ways, including coordinating CASA in-service trainings, recruiting other volunteers, serving on the board, and representing on state committees.

Jeff is truly an everyday hero, advocating both in and out of the courtroom to ensure children and youth have their needs and best interests met and most importantly has an adult champion who believes in their potential.