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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Debra McKeever of CASA of Forsyth County Awarded as 2021 CASA Volunteer of the Year in Georgia

Atlanta, August 7, 2021 – Debra “Deb” McKeever, CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) volunteer with CASA of Forsyth County, has been chosen as the 2021 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.) Deb was officially awarded at the Georgia CASA Conference in Atlanta on August 7th.

Deb has been a CASA advocate for five years serving with a singular focus. Deb is a CASA volunteer who exhibits high standards in every facet of her advocacy; she consistently goes above and beyond in her service to children. Her current advocacy centers on working with a teen girl, who has experienced unbelievably traumatic hardships resulting in the severing of parental rights.

As the CASA volunteer and Guardian ad Litem, Deb thoroughly researched the extensive case history to advocate for very specific needs with the recommended and available targeted therapies. With so much trauma and many disruptions and failed prospects, Deb became a trusted adult and often the first responder in a crisis situation. Throughout all the challenges, Deb has ensured consistency in treatment, school transfers, and so much more. With an unwavering commitment and dedication to her CASA assignment and against all odds, Deb has formed a trust and bond with the teen.

After yet another setback, Deb initiated a referral to the Cold Case Project, a collaborative effort that harnesses expert legal, health, and system resources to change outcomes for children who are most at risk of aging out without permanency after an extended foster care stay. The Cold Case Project team and Deb were instrumental in uncovering information not otherwise available and resulted in a reconnection to biological family. Throughout the case, Deb consistently ensured a singular focus on the individual needs of the child and the importance of familial connections.

In addition to her case advocacy, Deb shares her CASA experience with prospective and new volunteers as well as through social platforms to encourage and inspire others. Deb is an exemplary CASA volunteer, advocating far beyond the courtroom for the best interest of the child.

Georgia CASA, Inc., strengthens and supports court-sanctioned, affiliate CASA programs that empower community volunteers who advocate for abused or neglected children and contributes to advancements within the child welfare system. CASA volunteers provide compassionate, one-on-one attention, offering children experiencing foster care the opportunity to thrive and reach their full potential with the support of permanent connections to family.

Last year, 2,700 CASA volunteers served over 10,000 children in Georgia. Currently, 45 affiliate programs are located across Georgia, serving 156 counties. To contact CASA of Forsyth County, visit www.forsythcountycasa.org or call

678-679-3838. For more information about CASA in Georgia, visit www.gacasa.org or call 404-874-2888 or 800-251-4012. ###