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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Atlanta CASA Receives *Innovative Program Award of Excellence* from Georgia CASA

Atlanta, Aug. 7, 2021– Atlanta CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) has received the 2021 Innovative Program Award of Excellence from Georgia CASA for innovative practices in process improvements; increased and diversified funding sources; rebranding; and volunteer training, recruitment, and engagement.

Atlanta CASA, established in 1997, continues to move “onward and upward,” as often stated by CEO Robbyn Ingram, to achieve its mission to serve every child who experiences foster care in Fulton County. In 2013, Robbyn began leading the CASA program on an organizational transformation and has brought a wealth of experience from her previous career in corporate management and technology and prior CASA board service.

In 2020, after formerly being known as Fulton County CASA, Atlanta CASA successfully rebranded, with guidance and careful planning from Leadership Atlanta, to capitalize on the renowned energy, hospitality, and diversity of the Atlanta community. Today, Atlanta CASA is amid a three-year journey to become the first CASA program in the country to convert to a trauma-informed organization through the Sanctuary Institute, transforming its engagement and approach with its team, volunteers, court, and partners. The sanctuary model is a trauma-informed, trauma-responsive method for creating a more supportive work environment and changing organizational culture, which for Atlanta CASA has resulted in increased stability and tenure among its staff and increased volunteer engagement and tenure. With over 200 CASA volunteers, the Atlanta CASA team continues to find creative and meaningful ways to bring volunteers together, keep volunteers motivated, and build ownership within its volunteer ranks.

The board, executive leadership, and staff at Atlanta CASA work together to face obstacles, see the road ahead, and anticipate future needs, all while continuously diversifying funding and improving work processes along the way. With the innovative practices implemented for volunteer training, recruitment, and engagement, Atlanta CASA continues its growth to provide a CASA volunteer for every child in foster care in Fulton County.

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 Atlanta CASA, visit <http://www.atlantacasa.org> or call 404-613-4720. For more information about CASA in Georgia, visit www.gacasa.org or call 404-874-2888 or 800-251-4012.

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