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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Christine Ariens of Ariens Family Foundation Awarded as 2023 CASA Champion of the Year by Georgia CASA

Atlanta, Georgia, August 18, 2023 – Christine “Chirs” Ariens of the Ariens Family Foundation has been chosen as the 2023 CASA Champion of the Year in Georgia for her outstanding dedication to the CASA organization. The CASA Champion of the Year award is bestowed to an outstanding community member in Georgia that champions the CASA mission, demonstrates a strong commitment to CASA advocacy, and whose actions positively impact the advancement of the CASA organization in the community. Chris was officially awarded at the Georgia CASA Conference in Atlanta on August 12th.

Chris has been involved with CASA for over 20 years, starting as an attorney working alongside volunteers in court. She eventually became a dedicated CASA volunteer in 1999 and has since become an influential ally and donor for Ocmulgee CASA, headquartered in Milledgeville, GA, and numerous other CASA programs nationwide.

In 2013, Chris and her husband Bruce established the Ariens Family Foundation to support CASA financially and inspire others to advocate for children facing abuse or neglect. Chris leads the foundation's annual golf tournament, which has raised millions of dollars in proceeds for CASA programs, including Ocmulgee CASA.

Ocmulgee CASA Executive Director Elaine Odom describes Chris as "more than just a supporter" and "more than a donor." She is a true champion for CASA and has made it her mission to ensure as many people as possible learn about CASA. Chris has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to CASA advocacy and has positively impacted the lives of thousands of children in foster care nationwide through the Ariens Family Foundation's multimillion-dollar donations and countless hours of advocacy. Her legacy will continue to bring immense benefits to CASA children for years.

About Georgia CASA: Forty-six affiliate CASA programs have been established throughout the state since Georgia CASA was founded 35 years ago. This year brings Georgia CASA's final geographic expansion to reach children in foster care in all 159 counties throughout the state of Georgia. Each CASA affiliate program engages the community to train volunteer advocates. Volunteers are everyday citizens who offer individualized attention and best-interest advocacy for children in foster care. The CASA organization is the only model of this kind, built around one child and one compassionate, highly trained adult advocate. For more information about Georgia CASA or to find an affiliate program near you, visit <https://www.gacasa.org/>. For more information about the Ocmulgee CASA affiliate program, visit <https://www.ocmulgeecasa.org/>.

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