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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kimberly Force of Gwinnett County CASA Awarded as 2023 CASA Volunteer of the Year in Georgia

Atlanta, Georgia, August 18, 2023 - Kimberly Force, CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) volunteer with Gwinnett County CASA, has been chosen as the 2023 Karen N. Sibley CASA Volunteer of the Year Award in Georgia for her outstanding dedication to the organization. Named in honor of the late founding board chair of Georgia CASA, the Karen N. Sibley CASA Volunteer of the Year Award is bestowed to a CASA volunteer that exemplifies the organization's core values, collaboration, compassion, and accountability in an outstanding way. Kimberly was officially awarded at the Georgia CASA Conference in Atlanta on August 12th.

Kimberly has spent nearly five years as a CASA volunteer, serving as the "eyes and ears of the court" and consistently providing comprehensive reports from extensive research and investigation. Her approach to each case is meticulous, similar to an investigative reporter, as she carefully examines facts, interviews witnesses, and considers every request in the child's best interest.

"Kimberly treats every case with specialness," says Gwinnett County CASA Program Director Ericka McClam. "She finds the opportunity in each case to grow in herself beyond the role of the volunteer. I think that's what makes her special. Many of the cases that she's involved with are not necessarily in the wheelhouse of her personal life, but she finds a way to be very respectful, engaging, open, and having very good opportunities to find a way to learn in her experiences with this work. I really appreciate that about her personality, it shows that she uses her competencies as pluses to learn from these experiences."

Kimberly's reports are known for their attention to detail and effective communication. As a CASA volunteer, she brings a broader perspective, allowing her to conduct more thorough, impartial, and fact-based interviews that result in court orders closely aligned with her recommendations.

Kimberly's dedication to her work and the satisfaction of being an integral part of a child's safety and protection motivates her to continue her vital work. Her exceptional contributions and unwavering dedication make her a shining example of a CASA volunteer deserving of the CASA Volunteer of the Year in Georgia award.

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 Gwinnett County CASA affiliate program, visit <https://gwinnettcasa.org/>.

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