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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
CASA DAY AT THE CAPITOL BROUGHT CHILD
ADVOCATES AND LEGISLATORS TOGETHER TO CONNECT OVER CHILD WELFARE**

Atlanta, Feb 27, 2024 – Georgia CASA, Inc. hosted its annual CASA Day at the Capitol on February 15th at the State Capitol. CASA volunteers, board members, and staff attended a legislative briefing and met with members of the Georgia General Assembly. Representatives for the nonprofit organization and its affiliate programs, which cover all 159 Georgia counties, expressed gratitude and sought ongoing support for abused or neglected children in foster care.

Constituents connected and shared with legislators the growth of CASA representation in Georgia and how legislative funding helps to support CASA organizations in the state. One hundred eighteen incidents of child abuse or neglect are reported daily in the state, and every day, 22 children are victims of confirmed abuse or neglect in Georgia. Last year alone, 2,500 CASA volunteers advocated for over 8,600 children in our state’s legal custody, providing each child with impartial advocacy that nurtures hope, seeks solutions, and stands in the gap between a challenging present and a promising future.

“Advocacy for children experiencing foster care is front and center for CASA organizations and volunteers,” said Georgia CASA’s Executive Director Jen King. “CASA Day at the Capitol is an important opportunity for CASA staff, volunteers, and board members to share our work and local impact with legislators. From our day-to-day in courtrooms throughout Georgia to this annual day under the gold dome, we bring attention to the needs of children and families across the state. We are grateful to our leaders who continue to support the child welfare system.”

Forty-six affiliate CASA programs have been established throughout the state since Georgia CASA was founded 35 years ago. 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/>.

About Georgia CASA: Forty-six affiliate CASA programs have been established throughout the state since Georgia CASA was founded 35 years ago. The year 2023 brought 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 www.gacasa.org/grow.

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