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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **CASA Cherokee, Program of The Children's Haven, inc., Receives Established Program Award of Excellence from Georgia CASA**

**Atlanta, Georgia, August 26, 2025** – CASA Cherokee has received the 2025 Established Program Award of Excellence from Georgia CASA. The award was officially received at the Georgia CASA Conference in Atlanta on August 23<sup>rd</sup>.

CASA stands for Court Appointed Special Advocates. CASA Cherokee was established in 1993 with just 13 volunteers and is the flagship program of The Children's Haven in Canton. In its 30 years, CASA Cherokee has served nearly 3,000 children in foster care with the help of over 800 dedicated CASA volunteers—who together have driven more than a million miles on behalf of the children they serve.

Today, CASA Cherokee operates with 163 active volunteers, who served 345 children in fiscal year 2024, representing 72% of the children in foster care in Cherokee County. The team recently played a key role in launching Cherokee County's first Family Treatment Court, where every child has a CASA volunteer. CASA Cherokee also continues to grow. The CASA Cherokee team trained 37 new CASA volunteers in fiscal year 2024 and expanded outreach efforts through fun and innovative recruitment events.

CASA Cherokee's commitment to volunteer support and retention is evident in its long-standing community of advocates; 35% have served for more than five years. Engagement efforts include a Book Club, quarterly "Taco 'Bout It" peer discussions, and an upcoming "Teen Talk" initiative to better serve older youth. CASA volunteers also play a central role in organizational fundraising and strategic efforts, including the annual Adult Prom.

Known for its strong community partnerships, exceptional staff, and financial transparency, CASA Cherokee is deeply embedded in Cherokee County's child welfare system. Jennifer King, Executive Director of Georgia CASA, states that, "For over three decades, CASA Cherokee has stood the test of time and continues to grow stronger each year. Now as the flagship program of The Children's Haven, their commitment to excellence, innovation, and unwavering advocacy for children is felt across every aspect of advocacy and collaboration. It's an honor to recognize their legacy and leadership."

**About Georgia CASA:** Forty-seven affiliate CASA programs, serving all 159 counties in the state, have been established since Georgia CASA was founded in 1988. Each affiliate CASA 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 CASA Cherokee, visit <http://www.cherokeechildrenshaven.org>.

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