UPDATE ALL HIGHLIGHTED AREAS. ONCE FINALIZED, COPY AND PASTE THE TEXT INTO THE BODY OF AN EMAIL TO YOUR LOCAL MEDIA. INCLUDE A PROFESSIONAL HEADSHOT OF THE ED IF POSSIBLE.

IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE WITH ANYTHING, INCLUDING IDENTIFYING YOUR LOCAL MEDIA, PLEASE CONTACT THE TEXAS CASA COMMUNICATIONS & AWARENESS TEAM. PLEASE SEND A LINK OR PDF OF ANY COVERAGE YOU GET. GOOD LUCK!

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**For Immediate Release Contact:**Date First name, last name and title

Phone (xxx) xxx-xxxx

Email xxxxxxx

 **## Community Members Sworn in as CASA Volunteers with Your CASA Program**

City, Texas – On DAY MORNING/AFTERNOON at the LOCATION OF SWEARING IN, The Honorable JUDGE’S FULL NAME officially swore in ## new CASA volunteers. Also known as Court Appointed Special Advocates, these amazing volunteers will work with YOUR CASA PROGRAM to advocate for children and families involved in the foster care system in SERVICE AREA.

“Even in my pre-service training alone, I’ve seen the remarkable positive impact that CASA volunteers can have on the children and families they serve,” said VOLUNTEER’S FIRST & LAST NAME, newly sworn in volunteer with YOUR CASA PROGRAM. “ADDITIONAL, ONE-SENTENCE QUOTE FROM VOLUNTEER YOU ARE FEATURING.”

This new class of CASA volunteers will be assigned to a child or sibling group who they will commit to advocating for until the closure of their case. As a part of their advocacy, they will get to know important adults in the life of the child they represent, such as parents, foster parents, teachers, doctors, therapists and more.

“It is a long-term commitment and requires a lot of heart, but there just isn’t another volunteer experience that matches what you’ll get with CASA,” said ED’S FIRST & LAST NAME, Executive Director of YOUR CASA PROGRAM. “Our volunteers are dedicated to doing their very best on behalf of the children and families they serve.”

CASA volunteers go through 30 hours of in-depth, pre-service training before they are appointed by a judge to their case. They advocate for the child they represent in every facet of their life and make recommendations to the court about their best interest. Volunteers advocate for reunification as their primary goal whenever it is safe and possible to do so. When reunification is not an option, they may advocate for the child to live with another relative or family friend. They can also advocate for the child to be placed in an adoptive home. In all cases, CASA volunteers are steadfast, consistent presences for the children they serve, making sure they are safe and have the resources and connections they need to grow and thrive. They work with families to build life-long support systems for both the child and parents that will continue after the case is closed.

“We’re so excited to have this new class join our team of ## OF VOLUNTEERS AT YOUR PROGRAM volunteers,” said ED’S LAST NAME. “I know that they will do amazing work that will positively impact the children and families in the foster care system right here in our community.”

If you are interested in becoming a CASA volunteer at YOUR CASA PROGRAM, you can attend their next informational session on DATE/TIME at LOCATION or visit their website at YOUR PROGRAM URL for more.