

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New CASA Advocates to be Sworn-In

Monmouth County's Court-Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) for Children program will graduate its twelfth class of 16 CASA volunteers on June 8, 2011 at the Monmouth County Courthouse. After the volunteers are sworn in by the family court judge, they will be empowered to advocate for abused and neglected children in out-of-home placements. Invited to the ceremony will be family members of the volunteers, the CASA Board of Directors, CASA staff, United Way members, and veteran CASA volunteers.

This volunteer class represents the newest generation of court-appointed advocates in Monmouth County, NJ. CASA volunteers are a carefully selected, diverse group of individuals devoted to representing a child's best interests in court. Each member completes 30 hours of intensive training that includes information from CASA supervisors and lectures from professionals in the legal, child welfare, and educational fields. After the swearing-in ceremony and subsequent court observation, volunteers will be able to begin accepting cases from our waiting list.

CASA for Children of Monmouth County is a non-profit charitable organization which works through professionally trained and supervised volunteers to promote the welfare of children in foster care. Our mission is to help children have a more stable foster care experience and achieve permanency.

CASA is a nationwide organization that began in 1977, with approximately 950 programs across the country providing support and direction to more than 50,000 CASA volunteers. CASA was first established in New Jersey twenty years ago, and the Monmouth County office in Eatontown first opened its doors in 2004. In FY 2010, CASA of Monmouth County served 150 children from Monmouth County.

The program is especially delighted by the number and varying expertise of Spring 2011 training volunteers, which is sure to prove advantageous to the children they will be assigned. Those interested in becoming a CASA volunteer should contact the CASA office at 732-460-9100 or www.casaofmonmouthcounty.org.

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