



Annual ORIX Parade of Playhouses set for Aug. 5-21 at NorthPark

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The 15th annual **ORIX Parade of Playhouses** at **NorthPark Center**, which benefits **Dallas CASA**, will run Aug. 5-21. The event will feature 19 custom-designed children's playhouses that will be raffled and an additional one that will be auctioned to raise funds to support the work of Dallas CASA.

The mission of Parade of Playhouses is to raise awareness about the plight of abused and neglected children in our community and the role of CASA volunteers, who serve as advocates for the best interests of these victims.

"Parade of Playhouses helps us to spread the word about the 2,000 abused and neglected children who right now can't go home because it isn't safe," said Dallas CASA executive director **Beverly Levy**. "By buying a raffle ticket for one of these playhouses, you also are giving abused children the chance to find real, safe homes where they can thrive."

This year's lineup of playhouses includes an art studio, a pint-size bed and breakfast, a train engine, an airplane and a Dallas Mavericks-themed house. One very special playhouse will be auctioned to raise additional funds, and bids for this house may be made online at dallascasa.org.

Raffle tickets are \$5 each, or five for \$20, and may be purchased at NorthPark Center or online at dallascasa.org. The drawing to announce the playhouse winners will take place during the closing ceremony at NorthPark at 4 p.m. on Aug. 21. Winners do not need to be present to win.

"Parade of Playhouses is an important opportunity not only to give children a chance to win an amazing playhouse, but also to help connect abused children in our community to the safe, loving homes they deserve," said ORIX USA president and CEO **Jim Thompson**. "ORIX is proud to join Dallas CASA in standing up for our most vulnerable children, those who have been abused and neglected."

For many children, a CASA volunteer is the one constant during a frightening, uncertain time. More volunteers are needed to ensure that every child has a CASA voice in court. CASA volunteers and staff will be on hand during the Parade of the Playhouses to provide information about how to volunteer to help abused and neglected children.

In tandem with the playhouse display, raffle and auction, Dallas CASA will also partner with **Bookmarks**, a Dallas public library, to provide family-friendly activities periodically during the two-week special event at NorthPark.

Bookmarks will present **Hearts for Japan**, a chance for children to write letters to earthquake victims in Dallas' sister city of [Sendai, Japan](#), on Aug. 6 and 13 in the north court. On Aug. 6, children will also have a chance to learn about Japanese culture through a demonstration of Kabuki theater. On Aug. 13, Bookmarks will host Professor Brainius, who will give a presentation to help children understand the tsunami and earthquake that occurred in Japan earlier this year.

Sponsor ORIX is a Japan-based corporation.

To learn more about advocating for abused children, visit www.dallascasa.org or call 214-827-8961.