

Attorneys Serving the Community announces Dallas CASA as the 2015-2016 beneficiary

Dallas, Texas, Aug. 28, 2015—Dallas CASA is pleased to have been selected as the 2015-2016 Attorneys Serving the Community (ASC) beneficiary in ASC's 30th anniversary year.

Attorneys Serving the Community is a volunteer organization of about 400 women lawyers whose mission is to pool their talents, interests and community spirit to support local nonprofits that serve women, children and/or families. Since ASC's inception in 1987, the group has raised more than \$4 million for Dallas-area nonprofits.

ASC will organize a number of fundraising events throughout the year, including the Heart & Sole 5K race, networking events and a silent auction, all culminating in the annual ASC luncheon, which will be held in June of 2016. Past luncheon speakers have included Robin Roberts, Viola Davis, Laura Bush and Jenna Bush Hager, Erin Brockovich, Antwone Fisher and Hillary Rodham Clinton. The 2016 luncheon date and speaker will be announced this fall and all proceeds from ASC's 2015-2016 events will benefit Dallas CASA.

"ASC is the epitome of a well-oiled machine that makes incredible things happen," ASC Lead Co-Chair Cortland Kelly Grynwald said. "I am thrilled to have Dallas CASA as our beneficiary this year and know that their services and our mission make for a strong tie that will resonate within the legal community and far beyond."

Dallas CASA is a nonprofit organization that trains and supervises volunteer advocates to serve as voices for children in the court proceedings that are opened when abused and neglected children are removed from home. In 2014, more than 770 volunteer advocates served 2,264 children living in foster care and other protective care placements.

"Dallas CASA has a long-term partnership with the Dallas legal community, and we are honored to be chosen as the ASC 2015-2016 beneficiary," Dallas CASA Executive Director and President Kathleen LaValle said. "Funds ASC raises will allow us to train and supervise more volunteer advocates to serve more of Dallas' most vulnerable children at an incredibly uncertain time in their lives. We also see huge potential for this partnership to help us attract the additional volunteer advocates we need to serve more children in foster care."

Dallas CASA has undergone steady growth, serving 500 percent more children annually in 2014 than it did 20 years before. Still, nearly half of Dallas County children in protective care last year did not have a CASA volunteer. ASC will be a critical partner helping Dallas CASA

reach its goal of doubling the current number of volunteer advocates to serve all children in need.

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“We are focused on the day when we will not have to think about the child who was left alone to navigate through the child welfare system without a volunteer advocate,” LaValle said. “Through the eyes of a child who has been physically, sexually or emotionally abused or severely neglected, a CASA volunteer is a port from the storm, a familiar face in the stream of strangers who will cycle in and out of the life of a child who has already experienced trauma.”

About Dallas CASA

All children have the right to be safe. In 2014, almost 4,400 abused and neglected children were in the protective care of the courts because it wasn't safe for them at home. Sadly, nearly half of these children did not have CASA volunteer advocates to speak for them. For many abused children a CASA volunteer is the only constant adult during a frightening, uncertain time. CASA volunteers gather information to help judges decide where these children can safely and permanently live. CASA volunteers can make an immediate and critical difference in the lives of abused children. By 2019, Dallas CASA hopes to become the largest nonprofit CASA program in the country to serve all abused children in protective care. To learn more about advocating for abused children, call 214-827-8961 or visit dallascasa.org.

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