

Dallas CASA honors AT&T and its employees as Champion of Children Award recipients

Dallas, Texas, Sept. 28, 2015—Dallas CASA will honor AT&T and its employees with the prestigious Judge Barefoot Sanders Champion of Children Award Oct. 14 at The Fairmont Dallas. The award is given annually to recognize community leaders who significantly improve the lives of children in our community, particularly those whose young lives have been marked by abuse, neglect or other adversity.

The New York Times best-selling author Ashley Rhodes-Courter will share her story with dinner guests during an on-stage, sit-down interview with Gloria Campos, former WFAA anchorwoman and long-time host of Wednesday's Child. The author of "Three Little Words" and "Three More Words," Ashley will chronicle her many years of childhood despair living in foster care and the impact one CASA volunteer advocate had on her life. Since the age of 14, Ashley has spoken on behalf of the half-million children living in foster care by telling her moving story to elected officials, judges, social workers, policy makers and families. She has testified on Capitol Hill and has been invited to the White House to speak to the president.

Gloria Campos is serving as honorary chair for the event, and Jana and Mike Brosin are event co-chairs. The award is named for Judge Barefoot Sanders, a past recipient, a former federal judge and a steadfast supporter of Dallas CASA.

AT&T has made helping abused and neglected children in North Texas who do not have safe homes a top priority. AT&T employees serve on Dallas CASA's board, volunteer as advocates, work on the Children's Council and the Young Professional's Council and play a major role in various Dallas CASA events. In 2013, AT&T strengthened its commitment to these children, joining Pioneer Natural Resources and Goldman Sachs in hosting the Dallas CASA Classic, the largest one-day charity golf tournament in Texas. Last year the tournament raised more than \$1.5 million for Dallas CASA and more than 40 AT&T employees volunteer more than 800 hours annually to make the event a success.

Presenting: AT&T; Crest Cadillac / Crest Infiniti

Platinum: ExxonMobil; Goodman Networks; Pioneer Natural Resources

Crystal: Ciena; Citi; Ericsson; Glazer's/Marion and Bennett Glazer/Barbara and Shelly Stein; Gene and Jerry Jones Family Foundation; Jim and Angela Thompson Foundation

Gold: Accenture; Alcatel-Lucent; Jana and Mike Brosin; Caps Van & Truck Rental; Comerica Bank; Lisa and Clay Cooley; Deborah and Terry Gage; J.P. Morgan; Locke Lord LLP; Becky and Jim Lozier; MasTec Network Solutions; Kay and Bob Schleckser; Linda and Rob Swartz; Tech Mahindra; Thompson & Knight Foundation

Silver: Amdocs; AXS TV; Mary and Jack Balagia/Darcie Bundy and Ken Cohen/Margaret and Jaime Spellings; Bank of America Merrill Lynch; Brunswick Group; Lisa and Richard Chamberlain/Chamberlain's Steak & Chop House/Chamberlain Fish Market Grill; Goldman Sachs; The Hirsch Family Foundation; Intrado; Jackson Walker L.L.P./Retta Miller; Juniper Networks; Aubrey and John Labanowski; Deborah Ackerman and John Lozier; ORIX Foundation; Stephen B.L. Penrose; Bill Smith; Trinity Industries, Inc.

Bronze: Aon Risk Services; Cathy Bedford; Bracewell & Giuliani LLP; Suzanne Bryan; Cisco; Eiseman Jewels NorthPark; Suzanne and John Gibson; Cathey and Don Humphreys; Keane Landscaping, Inc.; KPMG; Hannah and Greg May; Paula and Scott Orr; Parsons Roofing; PwC; Rees-Jones Center for Foster Care Excellence, Children's Health; The Rosewood Corporation; Texas Rangers Baseball Foundation; Julie and Jim Thayer; Waldman Bros

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.