

## **20<sup>th</sup> annual Parade of Playhouses provided support and awareness for abused and neglected children**

**Dallas, Texas, Aug. 6, 2015**—Dallas CASA's 20th annual Parade of Playhouses, presented by Crest Cadillac/Crest Infiniti and the ORIX Foundation, sold more raffle tickets than any prior year in Parade of Playhouses' history. Some children dream of a playhouse to call their own. Abused and neglected children dream of a safe place to call home.

Since 1996, NorthPark Center has hosted Parade of Playhouses, which features playhouses on display and available to be won by raffle. Parade of Playhouses annually raises funds to recruit and train Dallas CASA volunteer advocates to serve as voices for abused and neglected children in court. Over the 20-year history of the event, the event has grown into an annual destination event for families. Sixteen houses were raffled this year, including an urban playhouse with a loft, a movie theater, a ski lodge and an elephant-shaped playhouse, making dreams come true. Generous corporations, organizations and individuals designed, built and donated each of the playhouses.

In addition to funds, Parade of Playhouses raises awareness about the need for additional volunteer advocates for children in our community who desperately need help and hope. On any given day in Dallas County, more than 2,000 abused children who have been removed from unsafe homes are living in protective care. CASA volunteers gather information and make recommendations to help judges decide where these children may safely and permanently live.

### **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 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](http://dallascasa.org).