

20th annual Parade of Playhouses provides support for abused and neglected children

Dallas, Texas, June 22, 2015—Dallas CASA's 20th annual Parade of Playhouses, presented by Crest Cadillac/Crest Infiniti and the ORIX Foundation, kicks off July 10 at NorthPark Center in Dallas. The 16 imaginative children's playhouses on display will be given away during a raffle drawing on Sunday, July 26. Visitors have the opportunity to purchase raffle tickets and win dream playhouses so that abused children can have safe homes.

Parade of Playhouses raises funds to recruit and train CASA 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.

"These playhouses represent our hope for abused and neglected children in Dallas," said Kathleen M. LaValle, Dallas CASA executive director and president. "Some children dream of having their very own fantasy playhouses, but abused children dream of having safe and stable homes. We want all children to have loving and permanent homes. Sadly, almost half of abused children in protective care in Dallas County do not have CASA volunteer advocates. We look forward to the day when we have enough volunteers for each child to have an advocate."

Playhouses this year include an urban playhouse with a loft, a frozen castle replica, a movie theater, a ski lodge, a modern playhouse with a climbing wall, a reading room with a window seat, an elephant-shaped playhouse and a beach-themed house, as well as many more.

Raffle tickets to win one of these creative playhouses designed and constructed by local architects, home builders, corporations and organizations are \$5 each or five for \$20. Tickets may be purchased at the event ticket tables at NorthPark Center or online at dallascasa.org.

Angela and Jim Thompson, long-time supporters of Dallas CASA and Parade of Playhouses, are serving as honorary co-chairs of this year's 20th anniversary event.

Parade of Playhouses would not be possible without the support of our sponsors and builder partners. Dallas CASA is pleased to recognize the following for their support of abused children:

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Palace - Crest Cadillac / Crest Infiniti

Castle - ORIX Foundation

Chateau – Fran and Mark Berg; FDHouse and Angela and Jim Thompson

Estate - Highland Capital Management; NorthPark Center and PIRCH

Mansion – BERNBAUM/MAGADINI Architects; CEC Companies; Kappa Alpha Theta; Oak Mortgage; and RICOH.

Villa - All My Sons Moving and Storage; Glazer's; and People Newspapers.

Playhouse Builders

Austin Commercial with Tyler Murph and Life of an Architect; Beck with Integrated Interiors Inc.; Buford Hawthorne with Bob Borson; Butscher Construction; Classic Urban Homes; Coats Homes with Jerry Coleman; Creekview Custom Homes with parmadesign; CRThurman Homes with PBD, Inc.; HARMAN; Kinetic Ingenuity; LRO Residential; OMNIPLAN with DNG Construction; parmadesign with Creekview Custom Homes; Perk Homes with Andres Moreno and Life of an Architect; REDLEE/SCS Inc. with Susann Stein and Life of an Architect; SpawGlass with BOCA Powell Architects.

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.