

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Community Volunteers Sworn in as Advocates for Abused and Neglected Children**

[Morristown, NJ] On Thursday, December 1, 2011, 16 volunteers from Morris and Sussex Counties were sworn in as Court Appointed Special Advocates by The Honorable Michael J. Wright, Presiding Family Court Judge of the Morris/Sussex Vicinage. These community members are volunteers for CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of Morris and Sussex Counties, a local non-profit organization.

CASA of Morris and Sussex Counties trains and supervises community volunteers to speak up for the best interests of children who have been removed from their homes due to abuse and neglect. Essentially, CASA volunteers “speak up” for these children in court, making sure they are receiving the services they need, and are placed in a permanent, safe, and nurturing home as soon as possible. CASA volunteers make recommendations to the court to further the child’s physical, psychological, medical and educational well-being.

Volunteers participated in an extensive 33 hour training program before officially being sworn in as CASA volunteers. These 16 individuals have made an extraordinary commitment to serve as advocates and positive role models to vulnerable children in Morris and Sussex Counties.

About CASA of Morris and Sussex Counties:

CASA of Morris and Sussex Counties is part of a statewide network of community-based, non-profit programs that recruit, screen, train and supervise volunteers to “Speak Up for a Child” removed from home due to abuse or neglect. CASA is the only program in Morris and Sussex Counties that uses trained volunteers to work one-on-one with children, ensuring that each one gets the services needed and achieves permanency in a safe, nurturing home. Visit [www.casamsc.org](http://www.casamsc.org) or call 973-998-7590 for more information about CASA of Morris and Sussex Counties.