

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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7th Annual “Lawyers for Kids 5K” Supports Local Abused and Neglected Children

[MORRISTOWN, NEW JERSEY] On July 7th, 2011, Morris County Bar Foundation hosted the 7th Annual “Lawyers for Kids 5K” at the Ginty Field Complex to benefit Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Morris and Sussex Counties. Even with threatening skies, over 600 adults and children of all ages from around the area came out to test their endurance, walk with their families and friends, enjoy live music, and support abused and neglected children.

After a quick registration and a set from The Imposters, the runners were off by 7:15. Volunteers from the Morris County Bar Foundation and CASA lined the course to provide water and cheers for the contestants. In a heated finish, Ben Clarke and Jane Albright came in first place for the men’s and women’s divisions. They, along with other top finishers, were given prizes donated by local businesses.

Teams from local law firms and businesses were very well represented throughout the evening. Paula Castaldo, an attorney with the Morristown law firm McElroy, Deutsch, Mulvaney & Carpenter, LLP, joined her colleagues in the 2 mile walk. Ms. Castaldo, who also serves as the Secretary on the Board of Trustees at CASA of Morris and Sussex, said regarding the event: “The annual Race is a successful and fun vehicle for raising funds for, and building awareness of, CASA and its mission within the Morris County legal community.” Sponsors such as County College of Morris, Investors Savings Bank, On Your Mark Productions, and Madison Jaguar also had teams that participated in the day’s events.

After all runners and walkers completed the course, the attention shifted to the children in attendance. The “Kids Gallop” started at 8:00 with kids aged 2-11 competing by age groups in a 150 yard dash. After the gallop, Lisa Barsky Firkser, Executive Director of CASA, reminded those in attendance the cause they were there to support: “CASA of Morris and Sussex Counties is so fortunate to have angels in the Morris County Bar Foundation. Every year they are committed to this event. Attorneys and their families come out to haul water, pitch tents, direct traffic, run, walk, sing and play in the band. They all work to make this event a success to

support victimized children in our community.” Profits from the night were shared between the Morris County Bar Foundation and CASA of Morris and Sussex Counties. CASA volunteer advocates speak up for victimized children who are caught in the court and child welfare systems.



The Morris County Bar Foundation is the charitable arm of the Morris County Bar Association, a 1200 member organization of attorneys who practice or live in Morris County. They serve the community through legal clinics, fellowships and grants for needy law school students, fundraising on behalf of community-based organizations, financial grants to area non-profits with programs related to the law, and seminars for local residents to provide information about the law.

CASA of Morris and Sussex Counties is part of a statewide network of community-based non-profit organizations that recruit, screen, train and supervise volunteers to “Speak Up for a Child” removed from their home due to abuse, neglect, or abandonment. CASA is the only program in New Jersey 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.casamc.org or call 973-998-7590 for more information about CASA of Morris and Sussex Counties.