

CASA of Morris and Sussex Gets New Home



CASA RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY: From left to right: The Hon. Thomas Weisenbeck; Lisa Barsky Firkser, **CASA** Executive Director; Michael Hanifin, Co-Trustee, Margaret A. Darrin Charitable Trust; and Kevin O'Donnell, Co-Trustee Margaret A. Darrin Charitable Trust; and Skippy Weinstein, **CASA** Board President.

The Margaret A. Darrin Charitable Trust recently provided the necessary funding to allow **Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Morris and Sussex Counties** to purchase an office condo for their new home in Cedar Knolls. The organization moved into its new offices on March 25 from a very small office in Morristown. The ribbon cutting with the trustees took place on June 15. “The Margaret A. Darrin Charitable Trust has provided **CASA** with a place for our volunteers, staff, and board to gather and collaborate as we carry out our vital mission. This is truly what I dreamed of,” said Dr. Lisa Barsky Firkser, **CASA’s** executive director, in a statement. The location includes a training room, conference room, offices for all 10 staff members, and space to house in-kind donations of new books, clothes, games, bicycles, stuffed animals, and school supplies to be distributed to the children and families the organization serves. **CASA** of Morris

and Sussex Counties' mission aligns with that of The Margaret A. Darrin Charitable Trust seeking to empower and positively transform the lives of children and youth who have experienced severe trauma under adverse circumstances, the announcement said. A Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) is a trained community volunteer appointed by a family court Judge to represent the best interests of a child in court. CASA volunteers advocate for children who are victims of abuse, neglect, or abandonment. "We can think of no group more worthy of our assistance than the unfortunate children who have been placed in the foster care system. CASA of Morris and Sussex has a long history of providing the necessary resources to bring stability to the lives of these children. We are proud to partner with CASA in this important work," said Michael Hanifan, co-trustee of Darrin Trust. CASA of Morris and Sussex Counties is part of a statewide network of community-based, nonprofit programs that recruit, screen, train, and supervise volunteers. Visit casamsc.org or call 973-998-7590 for more information.

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