UPDATE ALL HIGHLIGHTED AREAS. ONCE FINALIZED, COPY AND PASTE THE TEXT INTO THE BODY OF AN EMAIL TO YOUR LOCAL MEDIA. INCLUDE A PROFESSIONAL HEADSHOT OF THE ED IF POSSIBLE.

IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE WITH ANYTHING, INCLUDING IDENTIFYING YOUR LOCAL MEDIA, PLEASE CONTACT THE TEXAS CASA COMMUNICATIONS & AWARENESS TEAM. PLEASE SEND A LINK OR PDF OF ANY COVERAGE YOU GET. GOOD LUCK!

----------------

**For Immediate Release Contact:**Date First name, last name and title

Phone (xxx) xxx-xxxx

Email xxxxxxx

 **## New Volunteers Sworn in to Advocate for Kids in Foster Care**

City, Texas – On the MORNING/AFTERNOON of DAY OF THE WEEK, MONTH, DATE, The Honorable JUDGE’S FIRST AND LAST NAME officially swore in ## new Court Appointed Special Advocates in a virtual ceremony on ZOOM/SKYPE/WEB CONFERENCING PLATFORM.

These trained community members, known as CASA volunteers, will work with YOUR CASA PROGRAM to advocate for children and families who are involved in the foster care system.

“We’re so excited to have this new class join our team of ## OF VOLUNTEERS AT YOUR PROGRAM volunteers,” said ED’S FIRST AND LAST NAME, Executive Director of YOUR CASA PROGRAM. “I know that they will do amazing work that will positively impact children and families right here in our community.”

CASA PROGRAM NAME is committed to safe practices in the midst of COVID-19. In addition to virtual swearing-in ceremonies, INSERT WHAT YOUR PROGRAM IS DOING DURING COVID-19, E.G. DIGITAL TRAINING, PHYSICAL DISTANCING, CLOSED OFFICE, ETC.

The pandemic may have changed the way CASA does business, ED’s LAST NAME said, but it has not changed CASA’s commitment to providing a highly trained, passionate volunteer advocate for every child in SERVICE AREA.

NEW VOLUNTEER’S FIRST AND LAST NAME, newly trained and sworn-in CASA volunteer, decided to join the CASA movement BECAUSE/WHEN (REASON THEY VOLUNTEERED). NEW VOLUNTEER’S LAST NAME and the rest of the new volunteers will soon be assigned to an individual child or sibling group, who they will advocate for until the closure of their case.

“Even in my training alone, I’ve seen the remarkable positive impact that CASA volunteers can have on the children and families they serve,” said NEW VOLUNTEER’S LAST NAME. “I can’t wait to get started on my case!”

CASA volunteers advocate for the child they represent in every facet of their life and make recommendations to the court to ensure the child’s safety and well-being. As a part of their advocacy, they get to know important adults in the life of the child they represent, such as their parents, foster parents, teachers, coaches, doctors, therapists and more.

CASA volunteers work for reunification with the child’s parents as their primary goal whenever it is safe and possible to do so. When reunification is not an option, CASA volunteers advocate for the child to live with another relative, family friend or a loving adoptive family. Whatever the circumstances of the case may be, CASA volunteers work with the child’s caseworker, family and others to build lifelong, committed support systems that will last long after the case is closed.

“There isn’t another volunteer experience that matches what you’ll get with CASA,” said ED’S LAST NAME. “There is a human element that drives our volunteers to do their very best on behalf of the children and families we serve.”

Have you been looking for a lasting way to make a positive difference and pay it forward to your community? There’s no better time to become a CASA volunteer. Maybe Judge JUDGE’S LAST NAME’s next volunteer swearing-in ceremony will be yours!

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer at YOUR CASA PROGRAM, you can attend their next informational session on DATE/TIME at LOCATION/ONLINE PLATFORM or visit their website at YOUR PROGRAM URL for more.

XXX