



NEWS RELEASE

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Milam County Becomes 74th Court Appointed Special Advocates Program in Texas

AUSTIN, Texas – The 74th Texas program of Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) is calling Milam County home this fall. CASA of Milam County will recruit, train and support a community of volunteers – known as CASAs – to advocate for the best interests of a child or youth in the child protection system when a family is in crisis, including reunification with parents or family members when possible. Volunteers will be screened, highly trained and appointed by local judges to support the child in the courtroom, school and beyond.

“I am so excited to make the announcement that CASA of Milam County is officially the 74th CASA in Texas,” Executive Director Rachel Owens said. “I am especially excited for the children in Milam County. They now will have one more person on their side to help their voices be heard and looking out for their best interests.”

CASA of Milam County will partner with families, additional child protection organizations, community organizations, social workers and judges – like John Youngblood, the 20th District Court Judge who handles Child Protective Services (CPS) cases in the county and County Judge Bill Whitmire who was a founding member of the program’s steering committee and helped bring CASA to Milam.

“I couldn’t be more excited to welcome Milam County to the statewide CASA family,” said Vicki Spriggs, CEO of Texas CASA. “This program will play an essential part in helping more Texas children and families secure safe and positive futures and we’re honored to support them,” Spriggs added.

The new program is recruiting Board members and is seeking volunteers to work directly with children. For more information on how to get started, contact Rachel Owens at Rachel.owens@casaofmilamcounty.org or call (512) 429-1336. You can donate to CASA of Milam County online through PayPal at bit.ly/MilamDonate.

CASA of Milam County operates in the cities of Ben Arnold, Buckholts, Burlington, Cameron, Davilla, Gause, Milano, Praesel, Rockdale and Thorndale.

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About CASA of Milam County

CASA of Milam County is the 74th program of [Texas CASA](#). The mission of CASA of Milam County is to work on behalf of at-risk children in Child Protective Services (CPS) custody in Milam County helping to increase public awareness of child abuse and neglect and community support for the prevention of child abuse and neglect; recruit, train and empower members of the community to advocate for abused and neglected children in CPS care; decrease the occurrence of child abuse in the community and advocate for children at-risk of child abuse and neglect.

About Texas CASA

Austin-based Texas CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) is the statewide organization of 73 local CASA programs that recruit and train volunteers to advocate for children and families in the child protection system. Last year, 9,590 well-trained volunteers served 23,943 children in 219 of the 254 Texas counties. Texas CASA supports the local CASA programs by advocating for effective public policy for children in the child protection system and by providing funding, training and technical assistance to program staff, board and volunteers.

CASA volunteers are everyday people from all walks of life in the child's community who are specially trained to advocate for them. They get to know the child, parents and family, and gather information from everyone involved in their daily life. Volunteers work collaboratively with professionals, family members and others to promote the child's best interest in court, school, their foster placement and other settings. CASA volunteers advocate first for reunification when safe and possible, and work to keep children connected to their family and community of origin. They focus on facilitating nurturing relationships for the child and helping to find, engage and strengthen a support network for the child and family.

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