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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CASA of Peoria County Receives National Certification Recognizing the Quality of Its Work for Abused and Neglected Children

Peoria, IL – The Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) of Peoria County has been awarded certification by the National Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Association. This certification recognizes that CASA of Peoria County is in compliance with National CASA’s high standards for quality child advocacy.

According to Michael Piraino, CEO of the National CASA Association, “The National CASA quality assurance process is very rigorous, and reflects our commitment to ensure every child we serve has the most powerful volunteer advocate working on their behalf. This certification says has CASA of Peoria County demonstrated to us a strong capacity to provide excellent services to the abused and neglected children within their community.”

In the last fiscal year CASA of Peoria County served 227 Children. At the end of the 2nd quarter of 2014 there were 1,066 pending abuse and neglect cases in the Peoria County Juvenile Court system. Peoria is ranked 3rd in the State for the number of children in Foster/Relative Care. CASA of Peoria County believes that all children have the right to a safe, permanent home and deserve the support and involvement of their community to make this possible. Find out how you can help CASA of Peoria County serve more children visit our website www.casapeoria.org or call our office (309)669-2939.

About the National CASA Association

In 1976, concerned over making decisions about abused and neglected children's lives without sufficient information, a Seattle judge conceived the idea of using trained community volunteers to speak for the best interests of these children in court, helping to ensure that they will live in a safe and loving environment. So successful was this Seattle program, that soon judges across the country began utilizing citizen advocates. In 1990, the U.S. Congress encouraged the expansion of CASA/GAL with passage of the Victims of Child Abuse Act. Today, there are more than 950 National CASA member programs across the country, with more than 70,000 men and women serving as CASA or Guardian ad Litem volunteers.

About Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Peoria County

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Peoria County is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization that advocates for the best interests of abused and neglected children within the Juvenile Court system. Its existence is based on the belief that every child has the right to a safe and permanent home allowing them the chance to reach their full potential in life. The organization has been serving abused and neglected children since 2005. For additional information visit our website www.casapeoria.org, like us on Facebook www.facebook.com/CASAofPeoria, and follow us on Twitter at @CASAPeoria.

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