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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

CASA (COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES) OF PEORIA COUNTY  
ANNOUNCES **WINNERS** of the 9<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL "CASABLANCA - DANCING WITH THE LOCAL STARS"

Peoria, IL – CASAblanca 2014 was a fun-filled evening of entertainment to raise awareness of our organization and is our primary fundraiser for the year. The evening featured local "Celebrities" dancing with Dance Specialists from Central Illinois. Local "Celebrity" judges rated a score and the audience voted to determine the winner.

**Winners of the "2014 Critics' Choice Award" went to:**

JR Runkel, Fortner Insurance Agency, Inc., with Dance Instructor, Ellen Cook from Ms. Laura's School of Dance LTD.

**Winners of the "2014 People's Choice Award" (Pre-event voting) went to:**

Elizabeth Khazzam of Elizabeth Khazzam Design, with Dance Instructor, Ed Caballero, Independent Dance Instructor

Runners up of the Local Stars and Dancing Pros include:

Jennifer Behnke with Jon Young  
Kevin Cassulo with Kathryn Hollandsworth  
Matt George with Beverly Caballero  
Karoline Seitz-Goddard with Apollo Shaw  
Zack Weaver with Dominique Alexandre

**Congratulations to all our Dancers on a great performance!**

We extend special appreciation to our Judges:

Lesley Matuszak, CEO, Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Peoria  
Michael Piraino, CEO, National CASA Association  
Ian Poulis, Artistic Director, Peoria Ballet (Mystery Judge)  
Michele Sullivan, President, Caterpillar Foundation, Caterpillar, Inc.

Special thanks to our co-chairs Aneta Youngblood and Teri Cook, our Emcees - Sandy Gallant and Greg Batton, and our Auctioneer - Dusty Polhemus on a job well done! Sponsors of CASAblanca included: PricewaterhouseCoopers, Par-A-Dice Hotel and Casino, Essential Wellness Pharmacy, G&D Integrated, Heart Technologies, CMFI, Memories By Aida Photography, and Lisa Murphy Web Design. Many thanks to all of our table sponsors, child sponsors, and guests who shared in this exciting event! A big thank you to those who sponsored the cost to serve **61** children this year!

For more info see:

[www.CASAPeoria.org](http://www.CASAPeoria.org)

[www.facebook.com/CASAPeoria](https://www.facebook.com/CASAPeoria)

[www.firstgiving.com/CASAPeoria](http://www.firstgiving.com/CASAPeoria)

@CASAPeoria on Twitter

**About CASA of Peoria County ([www.casapeoria.org](http://www.casapeoria.org))**

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Peoria County is a 501(c)3 nonprofit, volunteer 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. CASA is supported by Heart of Illinois United Way, Caterpillar Foundation, Community Foundation of Central Illinois and generous donors.