

Cumberland County CASA Program
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cumberland County Swears-in New CASA Volunteers

Carlisle, Pa. – Seven new Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) will be sworn in by the Honorable Christylee Peck and Edward Guido during the 17th Annual Light of Hope celebration from 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, April 11 at the Historic Courthouse, 1 Courthouse Square, Carlisle, PA. A reception provided by Kappa Alpha Theta will follow the event.

The Cumberland County CASA Program requires all potential volunteers to complete more than 50 hours of pre-service training. The training, which uses materials from the National CASA Association, introduces the trainees to the Children and Youth Services and the dependency court systems, and to topics such as cultural diversity, child development, confidentiality and ethics, the role of the CASA volunteer, and community and social service resources. Prospective volunteers are also required to attend at least one dependency hearing as part of their training.

After the swearing-in, the Light of Hope event will take place, when candles will be lit as a symbol of the hope one caring adult can bring to a child's life.

The new volunteers are Robin Gipe, Sylvia Tonic and Tina Turner from the Carlisle area; Jacqueline Stone from Newville; Marie Savakinas from Mechanicsburg; Joan Duffield from Enola; and Daphne McCoy from Harrisburg. Volunteers who completed the training for a second time, in order to update their skills, include Natalie Crowley from Dillsburg and Virginia Reid from Mechanicsburg. Tammy Schall will also be recognized for successfully completing the 50 hour CASA training, as part of an internship for her HACC (Harrisburg Area Community College) degree in Human Services. In addition to recognizing the new volunteers, several CASAs will be recognized for years of service, including Peggy Shedden, 15 years, and Dan Doyle and Arnold Jenkins, 10.

In the 17 years the CASA program has been operating in Cumberland County, 220 volunteers have been trained and 469 children have been represented by CASA volunteers.

For more details on the Light of Hope celebration and Swearing In Ceremony, please contact the Cumberland County CASA office at (717) 240-6159 or casa@ccpa.net. Please feel free to join us.

The CASA Program recruits, screens, trains, assigns and supports CASA volunteers in their work on behalf of abused and/or neglected children whose cases are in the Cumberland County Dependency Court system. CASA volunteers gather current and background information for each child assigned; advocate for the child's best interests in court; facilitate communication between the parties involved in the case; and monitor the situation in order to develop and present their recommendations to the Court to aid in establishing a safe, permanent and nurturing home in an expeditious manner. More information on CASA can be found at www.ccpa.net/107/Court-Appointed-Special-Advocates-CASA.

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Cumberland County is the fastest growing county in the Commonwealth and offers the perfect mix of small town, suburban and rural living. Established in 1750, Cumberland County consistently maintains one of the lowest tax and unemployment rates in the State, while providing exceptional services for its nearly 250,000 residents. More information on Cumberland County can be found at www.ccpa.net.

Photo Caption: The CASA trainees, which will be sworn in on April 11, are, back row from left, Natalie Crowley, Tina Turner, Marie Savakinas, Tammy Schall, and Ginny Reid. Front row from left, Daphne McCoy, Sylvia Tonic, Jacqueline Stone, Joan Duffield, and Robin Gipe