

Cumberland County CASA Program
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Press Release

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County CASA Advocates Sworn-In to Help Aid Children in The Court System

Carlisle, PA – Six new advocates will be helping children who are in the Dependency Court System. The new Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) were sworn-in by Cumberland County Judge Jessica Brewbaker, on Tuesday, May 2, during the 19th Annual Light of Hope Ceremony. Nineteen volunteers were also honored for their years of service.

CASA volunteers advocate for the best interest of children involved in the Dependency Court system, which includes children who have been abused and/or neglected. The volunteers work to gather information on the child and family situation, advocate for the child, facilitate communication between those involved with the child to best support the child's needs, and monitor the case until the child is in a safe and permanent home.

“In our 23 years of operation, the Cumberland County CASA program has trained 290 volunteers, who have represented 607 children,” said Anita Brewster, director of CASA. “Our volunteers collectively have dedicated hundreds of hours and driven thousands of miles to present their findings and recommendations to the court; offering the judges and hearing officer pertinent information in order to make those incredibly difficult decisions.”

CASA volunteers are appointed by a judge to work with one child or a sibling group. They focus on the child for the duration of the child's court involvement, until they are deemed to be in a safe, permanent home. Children are often able to return to their homes of origin or sometimes they may be adopted.

The new volunteers are Susan Kostelac, Amanda Rodriguez, and Timothy Younes from Mechanicsburg; Penny Adams from Shippensburg; Christine Lay from Boiling Springs; and Lisa Murphy from Millersburg.

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The CASA volunteers recognized for their years of dedication to the program, included Michael Pimental and Linda Wiser each for their 15 years of CASA service; Vi Nissly for 10 years of CASA service; and Peter Adams, Doris Moss, Margo Stanton, Ginny Stankiewicz, Minka Saracina, Joan Duffield, Marie Savakinas, Daphne McCoy, Paula Bussard, Sandra Goodling, Deborah Gross, David Howell, Michal Howell, Suzanne McDougall, Art McNulty, and Kathy Yorkievitz all for five years of CASA service.

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