
Cumberland County COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE Program

Cumberland County CASA Program
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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 10, 2024

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

Carlisle, PA – Three 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 Christylee L. Peck, on Thursday, May 9, during the 20th Annual Light of Hope Ceremony. Eleven 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 24 years of operation, the Cumberland County CASA program has trained 305 volunteers, who have represented 628 children," said Anita Brewster, director of CASA. "Our volunteers collectively have dedicated thousands of hours to present their findings and recommendations to the court; offering the judges and hearing officer pertinent information in order to help them be able to make their 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 Vince DiFilippo of Mechanicsburg, Anna McPherson of Carlisle, and Ellen Whitesell of Newville.

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The CASA volunteers recognized for their years of dedication to the program, included Judy Beskid, Cindy Garfinkel, Joy Gross, Sarah Pearce, and Maggie Smith each for their 15 years of CASA service; Kathy Kelly for 10 years of CASA service; and Larry Boresow, Maureen Beltrandi, Cheryl Hale, Kim Clash, and Lynn Hoffman all for five years of CASA service.

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