

Cumberland County CASA Program
1 Courthouse Square, Suite 301
Carlisle, PA 17013



Press Release

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MEDIA CONTACT:

Virginia Koser

O: 717.240.6351

casa@cumberlandcountypa.gov

Cumberland County CASA Advocates Sworn In to Help Children in the Court System

Carlisle, PA – Five new advocates will be helping children involved in the Dependency Court System. The new Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) were sworn in by Cumberland County Judges Edward E. Guido and Christylee L. Peck on Wednesday, May 7, during the 21st Annual Light of Hope Ceremony. Five volunteers were also honored for their years of service.

CASA volunteers advocate for the best interests of children involved in the Dependency Court System, including those who have been abused and/or neglected. Volunteers gather information about the child and family situation, advocate for the child, facilitate communication among those involved in the child's life to best support their needs, and monitor the case until the child is in a safe and permanent home.

"Over the past 24 years, the Cumberland County CASA program has trained 306 volunteers, who have advocated for 648 children and youth," said Anita Brewster, CASA Program Director. "Our CASAs collectively have donated thousands of hours and miles to present their findings and recommendations to the court, offering the judges and the hearing officer pertinent information to help them make incredibly difficult decisions regarding what is in the child's best interest."

CASA volunteers are appointed by a judge to work with one child or a sibling group. They remain focused on the child for the duration of the court case, until the child is placed in a safe, permanent home. Children often return to their homes of origin, or they may be adopted.

The new volunteers are Amy Arker of Mechanicsburg; Susan Palyo of Carlisle; Michelle (Micki) Paxton of Carlisle; Letisia Sellers of Mechanicsburg; Gamble Stevenson of Harrisburg; and Stephanie Watts of Mechanicsburg, will be sworn in at a later date.

The CASA volunteers recognized for their years of dedication to the program included Violet Nissly, for 15 years of CASA service; Peter Adams, for 10 years of CASA service; and Craig Jurgensen, Elizabeth Walker, and Kim Pirtle, each for five years of CASA service.

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P: 717.240.6159; 888.697.0371 x6159 ■ fax: 717.240.6460 ■ www.cumberlandcountypa.gov/casa
■ casa@cumberlandcountypa.gov

New Volunteers



Years of Service Recognition



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