



GEORGIA COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES, INC.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Mountain Circuit CASA Volunteer Karen Nasworthy Awarded
as 2008 CASA Volunteer of the Year in Georgia in Atlanta on Sat., Mar. 28th**

Atlanta, Apr. 3, 2009 – Karen Nasworthy, CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) volunteer since the inception of Mountain Circuit CASA five years ago, has been chosen as the 2008 Karen N. Sibley CASA Volunteer of the Year in Georgia. She received her award at the Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon of the Georgia CASA State Conference on Sat., Mar. 28th in Atlanta. (The award is named in honor of the founder of Georgia CASA.)

Karen was cited for her outstanding skills in advocating for the best interests of 23 abused and neglected children in the Mountain Circuit CASA area – Habersham, Rabun and Stephens counties in Northeast Georgia. She goes above and beyond the call of duty in seeking the best permanency outcomes for children.

On one of Karen's earliest cases, four children in foster care began to have extended, unsupervised visits with their parents since their parents had obtained steady employment and achieved all of their case plan goals. After the very first extended visit, an investigation began due to suspected abuse to the four year old girl. Karen asked the parents to give a step-by-step account of what happened during the weekend visit and the parents were happy to comply. The family had spent a day tubing down the river and Karen suspected the life jacket's straps could cause serious chafing to the little girl, depending on the swimsuit design. Karen went to the tubing rental company and got a life jacket like a four year old would have been required to wear and as it turned out, her suspicions were correct and the little girl had not been abused at all. After additional extended visits, the children were returned to their parents.

In addition to serving as a CASA volunteer, Karen is a true ambassador for Mountain Circuit CASA as she recruits volunteers and donors, helps with fundraisers and is a donor herself. She is tireless in her defense of our most vulnerable population - the abused and neglected children in our community - and she is an inspiration to everyone involved with CASA. She also is active in advocating for children and families in the community through other organizations.

Georgia CASA, Inc., develops and supports affiliate CASA programs throughout Georgia. Through individualized attention, CASA volunteers advocate for the best interests of abused, neglected and abandoned children. Bringing urgency to a child's needs, both in and out of a courtroom, CASA volunteers promote safety, permanency and well-being through independent recommendations. Last year, over 1,870 CASA volunteers served over 8,760 children in Georgia. Currently, 48 affiliate programs are located across Georgia, serving 126 counties. To contact Mountain Circuit CASA, email mountaincasa@alltel.net, call 706-886-1098 or visit www.mountaincasa.org. For more information about CASA in Georgia, visit www.gacasa.org or call 404-874-2888/800-251-4012.

(photo on following page)

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MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE ASSOCIATION



Karen Nasworthy (second from right), 2008 CASA Volunteer of the Year in Georgia from Mountain Circuit CASA, stands with Jack McMillan, Georgia CASA Board Chair, Melissa Mitchell, Mountain Circuit CASA Executive Director, and Duaine Hathaway, Georgia CASA Executive Director, as she receives her award at Georgia CASA's state conference on Saturday, March 28th in Atlanta.

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