



GEORGIA COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES, INC.

CONTACT: Lori Derhammer, Georgia CASA
404-874-2888

Georgia CASA's Annual Luncheon & Fashion Show Raises Money for Child Advocacy Program Statewide

ATLANTA, Feb. 17, 2010 – [Georgia Court Appointed Special Advocates \(CASA\)](#), the state organization that supports and promotes advocates for abused and neglected children, announced that it will hold its sixth annual Luncheon & Fashion show on March 24. The event raises much-needed funding for Georgia CASA's 48 affiliates that serve 135 counties across the state. Last year's annual Luncheon & Fashion Show raised \$30,500, for a total of more than \$230,000 raised since the event began.

This year's event, held at the Biltmore Ballrooms in midtown Atlanta, honors Rebecca and Dr. Sanjay Gupta. Rebecca is a current member of the Georgia CASA Board of Directors and has previously served on the Luncheon & Fashion Show committee. Dr. Sanjay Gupta has graciously shown his support by being a model in several fashion shows. A raffle, held in conjunction with the Luncheon, features prize packages with donated items from [AirTran Airways](#), [American Girl](#), [Carole Parks Catering](#) and several others.

The fashion show, emceed by WXIA-TV's [Ted Hall](#), highlights items from the following local boutiques: [Guffey's of Atlanta](#), Guffey's for Her, [Mint Julep](#), [Seed Factory](#) and Susan Lee. The celebrity model is Dr. Sanjay Gupta. Other models include CASA staff, volunteers and supporters.

Sponsors include Mr. and Mrs. Harold T. Barrett, Jr., Chick-fil-A Inc., Ms. Carolyn Dobbins, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Hannon, Ms. Cecile M. Jones, Ms. Linda T. Mauldin, Mrs. Catherine T. Porter and Mrs. Karen N. Sibley (founder of Georgia CASA).

"In order to fully train CASA volunteer advocates who work together with the court system to protect the best interests of foster children, we need financial support from members of the community," said Duaine Hathaway, executive director of Georgia CASA. "Money raised at events such as the annual Luncheon & Fashion show goes to support services Georgia CASA provides to affiliates throughout the state in addition to developing new affiliates. Each year it costs approximately \$740 to serve one child through the CASA program and approximately \$400 to train each volunteer."

Additional tickets are available through Georgia CASA for \$75. For more information or to purchase tickets, please call 404-874-2888.

About Georgia CASA

Georgia CASA, Inc., develops and supports CASA programs throughout Georgia. As community partners in the child welfare system, CASA volunteers increase abused and neglected children's access to services, promote safety, and advocate for timeliness and permanency for children involved in juvenile court proceedings. CASA volunteers are independent advocates and provide individualized attention for children in a massive state system. Last year, more than 2,000 CASA volunteers served more than 8,700 children in Georgia. CASA has 48 affiliates across Georgia that serve 135 counties and 47 of the 49 judicial circuits. For more information about CASA in Georgia, visit www.gacasa.org, e-mail info@gacasa.org or call 404-874-2888/800-251-4012.

###