PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Paris McConnell Director of Development CASA of Peoria County casa@peoriacounty.org 309-669-2939 www.casapeoria.org



January 5, 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CASA (COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES) OF PEORIA COUNTY INVITE TO "I AM FOR THE CHILD" PRESS CONFERENCE

Peoria, IL - CASA of Peoria County is pleased to invite you to share in our new 2017 initiative "I am for the child"

Wednesday, January 11, 2017 10:30 am Becker Building 401 Main Peoria, IL 61602 (Lobby facing Jefferson Street)

Your presence, support and circle of influence will enable us to communicate this 2017 initiative to the community.

"I am for the child" initiative goal:

To recruit, train, and supervise additional volunteers and raise awareness of CASA of Peoria County's mission and purpose

Campaign financial goal: To raise \$50,000 from January through May of 2017

Target audience: Tri-county residents and businesses

Community impact:

Increase CASA of Peoria County's ability to serve an additional 41 abused and neglected children in Peoria County and a potential savings to taxpayers of \$1,869,231.

The CASA of Peoria County "Impact" Story:

CASA of Peoria County is not state funded and relies on individual donations, corporate sponsorships, and grants to implement our direct services. The average cost per child placed outside of the family home costs taxpayers approximately \$5,700 per month. CASA involvement reduces the time children spend in foster care by an average of 8 months. A case with a CASA volunteer provides a potential savings to taxpayers of \$45,591 (8 months of foster care) per closed case.

Media information kits with the complete details of the "I am for the child" initiative will be available at the press conference. For more information visit our website or contact the CASA of Peoria County office: 324 Main Street, Room 215 Peoria, IL 61602; <u>casa@peoriacounty.org</u>; phone: 309-669-2939.

Website and social media information: www.CASAPeoria.org www.facebook.com/CASAPeoria

About CASA of Peoria County (www.casapeoria.org)

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Peoria County is a 501(c)3 non-profit, volunteer organization that advocates for the best interests of abused and neglected children within the Juvenile Court system. Its existence is based on the belief that every child has the right to a safe and permanent home allowing them the chance to reach their full potential in life. The organization has been serving abused and neglected children since 2005. CASA is supported by Heart of Illinois United Way, Caterpillar Foundation, Community Foundation of Central Illinois and generous donors.