



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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*Contact* Samantha Koepp- Stemplinger  
*Telephone* 361-884-2272  
*Cell* 361-876-1062  
*Email* samantha@coastalbendcasa.org  
*Website* Coastalbendcasa.org

## COMMUNITY MEMBERS STEP UP TO ADVOCATE FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE VOLUNTEERS WILL TAKE OATH TO BECOME CASA ADVOCATES

(Corpus Christi, TX) After 24 hours of classroom training plus court room observation, four community members will be sworn in by Judge Timothy McCoy as Court Appointed Special Advocates this evening at 5:30 p.m. at the CASA office located at 2602 Prescott. These individuals will volunteer their time to advocate for the best interest of children who have been abused and neglected; ultimately helping them find their forever home.

During 2017 there were 734 children under the age of 18 placed in a non-relative or kinship home throughout Aransas, Nueces and San Patricio counties. Only 343 of these children had a CASA to speak up for them and help them build their future. As of date, there are only 180 children being served by an advocate.

With children entering foster care daily, more volunteers are needed to become a CASA however there has been a decline since this time last year with those who have taken an interest in the program. In January 2017, 16 volunteers stepped up for children in foster care and completed training however in January 2018 only 4 volunteers completed training. This is a call to action to our community for the urgent need of individuals to get involved and make a lasting difference for these children in crisis.

The overall goal for CASA is for every child in foster care to have an advocate who is their voice in court and is a consistent positive influence during a critical point in their lives. Children without a CASA are more likely to linger in foster care, perform poorly in school and re-enter the system.

Those interested in learning more about CASA and the rewards that come along with serving as the voice of a child are encouraged to attend a brief, non-committal information to hear about the roles and requirements of a CASA volunteer. Information sessions are held at the CASA office every Wednesday at noon.

CASA Of Nueces County, Inc. (Casa Of The Coastal Bend) is a nonprofit 501 (c) (3) organization of trained, court appointed volunteers who advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children in courtrooms and communities. CASA of the Coastal Bend serves children in Nueces, San Patricio and Aransas counties. ###