



# COMMISSIONERS OF CUMBERLAND COUNTY

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March 30, 2015

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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***Cumberland County Commissioners Recognize Light of Hope Ceremony***

**Cumberland County, PA-** As part of their public meeting, the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners highlighted the upcoming Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Swearing-in/Light of Hope Ceremony. The ceremony will take place on March 31, 2015 at 6pm at the Old Courthouse.

The purpose of this annual ceremony is to swear in new CASA volunteers, once they have completed their extensive training. As part of the swearing-in program, candles will also be lit as a symbol of the hope a caring adult can bring to a child's life. This year the CASA Program will swear in 8 new volunteers. The new volunteers to be sworn in are:

- Gail Chiodo
- Denise Hoffman
- Katitia Marietta
- Julie McKain
- Mary Miluski
- Heidi Parke
- Diane Sheppard
- Susan Wooley

In addition a reception which will be hosted by the Dickinson College Chapter of Kappa Alpha Theta (KAT). The Thetas will also provide some dance and music throughout the ceremony. Members of the Harrisburg Area Alumnae Chapter of KAT will present a potted pansy to each of the new CASA volunteers as well as the five and ten-year volunteers being recognized.

In the 14 years the CASA program has existed in Cumberland County, 188 volunteers have been trained and 393 children who have been deemed to be dependent (without proper parental care and control) by the Court of Common Pleas have been represented by CASA volunteers. The CASA Program and its volunteers assist the court in determining what is in the best interest of abused and/or neglected children whose cases are in the court system. Through objective investigation and observation with the focus on the child assigned, trained CASA volunteers develop and present their recommendations to the court to aid in establishing a safe, permanent and nurturing home in an expeditious manner. To learn more about CASA and becoming a volunteer visit [www.ccpa.net/casa](http://www.ccpa.net/casa).

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