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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CASA Volunteers Attend Swearing-In Ceremony and Safety Training

Cumberland County, PA – On Saturday, November 14, 2015 the CASA Program held an Appreciation Brunch at the Stern Great Room, Dickinson College, to recognize program volunteers and swear-in four new advocates. This 31st class of volunteers brings the total number trained in Cumberland County to 201 since the program's first class was sworn-in in 2001. The Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program works to help children who are dependent within the Court system. Cumberland County's CASA Program Office is responsible for recruiting, screening, training, assigning, and coaching CASA volunteers for their work on behalf of these dependent children within the Cumberland County Court system. At this time nearly 40 CASA volunteers are advocating for 60 children.

The event also included a personal safety training program, facilitated by Mike Guido of MG Tactical Advantage. This training provided the volunteers an opportunity to learn more about situational awareness safety in their roles as CASA volunteers. The Kappa Alpha Theta sorority of Dickinson College hosted the event with help from the Harrisburg Area Alumnae.

Once potential CASA volunteers have completed a screening process that includes multiple criminal background checks, they are required to complete 35-40 hours of preservice training. The training addresses topics such as Children and Youth Services and the legal system, cultural diversity, child development, confidentiality and ethics, the role of the CASA volunteer, and community and social service resources. Prospective volunteers are also required to attend at least one dependency hearing as part of their training. To learn more about Cumberland County's CASA Program and how to become a volunteer, visit www.ccpa.net/casa.

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