



Eighth Judicial District Court

For Immediate Release

Feb. 6, 2014

22 Volunteers To Take Oath At Family Court To Help Kids *More CASA Volunteers Needed To Advocate For Children In Foster Care*

Twenty-two Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteers will be sworn in at a ceremony at the Eighth Judicial District Family Court on **Monday, Feb. 10 at noon, at Family Court, Courtroom 9, 601 N. Pecos Road**. The trained volunteers will bring the total number of CASA volunteers in the community up to 368. Many more volunteers are needed to advocate for the nearly 3,500 children receiving services under supervision of Family Court. Last year, 980 children had a CASA volunteer to help them navigate through the system, and deal with the challenges with school and home life.

The CASA volunteers will take an oath Monday to provide foster children with a voice in court and will receive their cases so they can get right to work to advocate for the children. The CASA volunteers of the month will also be recognized during the ceremony. They will share their inspirational experiences.

"The goal is to get a CASA volunteer for every child in foster care. Right now, only one-third of the children are represented. I know as a community we can do better." said Family Court Judge Frank Sullivan, who oversees the program. "CASA volunteers make a huge difference in these young people lives. It's truly rewarding for those who volunteer. By helping kids, you're helping our community."

The CASA program recruits, screens, trains and supports volunteers to represent the best interests of hundreds of foster children annually. The advocates represent the children in school, child and family team meetings, and in court. Volunteering for the program involves a two-year commitment and a willingness to spend time with the children to advocate for them. In 1980, Judge John Mendoza led the creation of the Clark County CASA Program. The CASA mission continues to be fully supported by Family Court judges.

For those interested in volunteering with CASA, monthly orientations are held on the third Wednesday of each month to provide more information about the program. Upcoming orientations will be held at the Government Center, 500 S. Grand Central Pkwy. For more information about the program please call 702-455-4306, visit www.casalasvegas.org or Facebook at www.facebook.com/#!/CASALasVegas.

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