



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

GEORGIA COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES DAY

- WHEREAS:** Since its founding 35 years ago, 45 affiliate Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) organizations have been established in Georgia. 2023 will see Georgia CASA's final geographic expansion to reach children in foster care in 159 counties, which covers all counties throughout the State of Georgia; and
- WHEREAS:** Last year alone, over 2,600 CASA volunteers advocated for nearly 10,000 children in our state's legal custody, providing each child with impartial advocacy that nurtures hope, seeks solutions, and stands in the gap between a challenging present and promising future; and
- WHEREAS:** CASA is central to ensuring that all children who experience abuse or neglect have opportunities to thrive and reach their full potential with the support of permanent connections to family; and
- WHEREAS:** A CASA volunteer is a deeply committed, specially trained individual from the community who is appointed by the juvenile court judge to improve a child's experience in foster care by providing individualized attention, bringing urgency to children's needs throughout their time in state custody, and offering consistency and continuity by helping to connect information among case managers, foster parents, attorneys, and many other stakeholders; and
- WHEREAS:** As an external partner, CASA maximizes resources and support for children and families involved with the child welfare system through increased community involvement and awareness, local and state advocacy efforts, and a more coordinated, compassionate response to child victims and families in crisis. Georgia CASA and affiliate CASA organizations have made countless contributions on behalf of Georgia's children; now
- THEREFORE:** I, BRIAN P. KEMP, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim February 2nd, 2023, as GEORGIA COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE (CASA) DAY in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 25th day of January in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Three.



B. Kemp

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

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CHIEF OF STAFF