



CASA of the Appalachian Judicial Circuit
Serving Fannin, Gilmer, and Pickens Counties, Georgia

August 01, 2018

Contact: Kristy Lindstrom
Community Engagement Specialist
Appalachian CASA
(706) 276-2272
klindstrom@appalachiancasa.com

New Advocates for Children in Foster Care Two New Classes of CASA Volunteers Sworn In

ELLIJAY, GEORGIA – Congratulations to two new classes of CASA volunteers! CASA Volunteer Karin McNeill was sworn in as an officer of the court on May 11, 2018. In addition, Telia Cunningham, Debra Volk, Swan McKnight, Ann Dyer, and Traci Busch were sworn in on May 20, 2018. Both classes were sworn in by the Honorable Chief Juvenile Court Judge Jan Wheeler. These volunteers successfully completed 30 hours of training and 10 hours of courtroom observation to be the voice of a child. Welcome to our new Everyday Heroes!

You can become an Everyday Hero, too! Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) are trained community volunteers, appointed by a judge to speak up for the best interest of an abused or neglected child involved in a juvenile court proceeding. Currently, Appalachian CASA is supporting 75 community volunteers who have stepped up to provide a powerful voice for 200 foster youth in the Appalachian Judicial Circuit, which includes Fannin, Gilmer and Pickens counties. These children are faced with tough situations, and entering the foster care system can be traumatic. They aren't just removed from their homes but most times are removed from their schools, friends and community.

CASA Volunteers speak to everyone involved in the child's life, including their family members, teachers, doctors, lawyers, social workers and others; and make written recommendations to the court in the child's best interest. The advocate is often the only constant adult presence in the child's life.

To learn more about becoming the voice of a child in foster care, visit our website at appalachiancasa.com or call (706) 276-2272. You can also follow us on social media on Facebook @casaofappalachianjudicialcircuit or on Instagram or Twitter. The next CASA Volunteer Training Class begins on October 16, 2018.

###



CASA of the Appalachian Judicial Circuit
Serving Fannin, Gilmer, and Pickens Counties, Georgia

PHOTO CAPTIONS:

PHOTO CAPTION - 1: Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Karin McNeill was sworn in as an officer of the court by the Honorable Chief Juvenile Court Judge Jan Wheeler on May 11, 2018.

PHOTO CAPTION - 2: Five new CASAs were sworn in as officers of the court on July 20, 2018 by the Honorable Chief Juvenile Court Judge Jan Wheeler (left to right): Judge Wheeler, Telia Cunningham, Debra Volk, Swan McKnight, Ann Dyer, and Traci Busch.