FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CASA volunteer training begins November 17

Tahlequah - CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of Cherokee Country recruits, screens, trains, and supervises volunteers to serve as independent voices for victims of child abuse and/or neglect. More than 120 such children were found in Adair and Cherokee County District Courts and Cherokee Tribal Court in 2024.

The need for more CASA volunteer advocates is great: more advocates would enable more children to benefit from the life-changing results accomplished by CASA volunteers.

CASA volunteer training will be offered beginning November 17. A preliminary interview is required, and background checks and references are conducted prior to enrollment in the training course. The training course will take four weeks to complete. Certification is granted when the prospective advocate completes the 30-hour training course plus the six hours of courtroom observation. The deadline for applications is November 6, 2026.

CASA volunteer advocates are men and women from all walks of life. No special experience or education is required. They are appointed by a judge as officers of the court, and work with legal and child welfare professionals to ensure that judges have all the information needed to make potentially life-changing decisions for each child, with the ultimate being a safe, permanent home for each child. Although it varies from case to case, being a Court Appointed Special Advocate usually means devoting about 10-15 hours per month to a case for 12-18 months.

Individuals over the age of 21 who are interested in becoming CASA volunteer advocates are asked to phone CASA at 918-456-8788 as soon as possible to request an application and schedule an interview. Applications for training are also available online at www.cherokeecasa.org. The CASA office is located at 403 N. Misson Avenue in Tahlequah.