



Court Appointed Special Advocates of Collin County, Inc.

PRESS RELEASE

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McKinney, TX (November 13, 2009) – Hon. David Dorman, CASA of Collin County Capital Campaign Chair and Advisory Board Member announces the completion of the *Caring Friends Play Yard* to benefit the child abuse victims served by CASA of Collin County. “When we purchased the Craig International Building in 2008, we wanted to make sure the children have their own play spaces for supervised visitation”, shares Dorman. “With the help of a dedicated group of community supporters, the indoor and outdoor play areas are completed!”

In early 2009, the design concept for the outdoor play yard was born. The staff at CASA visualized a transformation of an overgrown side lot into a magical place for children to play and heal. Some 10 months later, with the help of over 20 community partners, over 100 volunteers and almost 1,000 hours of dedicated volunteer efforts, the *Caring Friends Play Yard* is ready to serve children.

“Today, we are hosting a dedication to thank the many people and businesses that stepped forward to provide funds, labor and materials for this special play area”, stated Susan Etheridge, CASA Executive Director. “Without the generosity of JCPenney, 3e McKinney, Grimes Construction, Dr. Khan, and many, many others, this would not have been possible.”

CASA board and staff would like to thank the many caring businesses that helped complete this project including: JCPenney and their IT Department; Larry Robinson, 3eMcKinney; Russell Grimes and Tyson Theilen of Grimes Development Company; Lattimore Materials Company; Pete Hutchinson of Hutch-n-Son Paint and Drywall, Sherwin Williams, Avenue K in Plano; Plano Metro Rotary Club; Skinner Nurseries; JBS Express, Inc. Natural Stone; Glass Contractors, Inc.; McKinney Lumber Company; CalHar Construction; Synthetic Turf of North Texas; Spurgin and Associates Architects; Haynes Landscape; Irrigators Supply, Inc.; D.M. Moore, Inc.; The Welcome Class of Custer Road UMC; Dr. M. Akram Kahn; Don Hudson; Legacy Tax and Financial Advisory Group; and Brinker International.

Lisa Smith, JCPenney IT Operations Management employee, spearheaded the efforts to support CASA. During the dedication program, Tom Nealon, Chief Information Officer at JCPenney, shared how Lisa wouldn't leave his office until she finished telling him about the vital CASA program and how important JCPenney's support would be for vulnerable child abuse victims in the community. With a generous \$25,000 donation to CASA's Capital Campaign, the employees at JCPenney wanted to share more than the financial support. After an estimated one thousand hours that included office organization, oiling paneling in the offices, painting structures and the murals for the indoor and outdoor play spaces as well as planting and landscaping, the project is completed.

After the dedication, the over 50 supporters, CASA staff and board all enjoyed refreshments courtesy Ginny Robinson and friends, as well as a custom decorated cake by Market Street, McKinney. Ms. Smith and her colleagues gave a joyful farewell to their friends at CASA and lamented, “Now that it's finished, what else can we do?” Larry Robinson, Executive Director of 3e McKinney, is sure to find another project for the group!

About CASA of Collin County: Incorporated in 1991, the mission of **CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of Collin County** is to train community volunteers as advocates on behalf of abused and neglected children involved in the court system, so that each child is placed into a safe, loving home. **CASA of Collin**

County serves as the Guardian ad Litem for all the children court-ordered into Collin County foster care. CASA staff is supported by more than 165 trained volunteers who annually donate over 25,000 hours to serve hundreds of Collin County foster children. CASA of Collin County moved into their new offices at 101 E. Davis St, McKinney, TX 75069 on February 28, 2009 and can be reached at 972-529-2272. For more information, please visit us online at www.casaofcollincounty.org

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