



Court Appointed Special Advocates of Collin County, Inc.

112 W. Virginia St. McKinney, TX 75069-4423

PRESS RELEASE

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CASA TO PURCHASE CRAIG INTERNATIONAL BUILDING Group Launches Capital Campaign

McKinney (June 12, 2008) – David E. Dorman, CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) Advisory Board member and chair of the 2008 Capital Campaign, announces the acquisition of the Craig International building at 101 E Davis St., McKinney, for the future home of CASA of Collin County.

CASA, currently located at 112 W. Virginia St., McKinney, will add an additional 3,000 square feet with the move, anticipated to occur in November. The agency employs 11 caseworkers and administrative personnel and has 170 active volunteers who advocate for children who have been removed from their homes in Collin County due to abuse and neglect.

“The move is badly needed,” said Dorman, Mayor of Melissa and recipient of the 2007 CASA Voice for Children Award. “They have been working in less-than ideal circumstances for some time, with three people in offices designed for one and with badly-outdated computer equipment.” The campaign includes updating technology as well as some building modifications.

The new location offers additional office space, parking for 24 cars, a training/board room and a small conference room as well as a family visitation room. The current building has nine parking spaces, one conference room and a visitation room which shares space with the lobby,

(more)

a detriment to confidential meetings between parents and their children. Staff will have private offices for improved confidentiality.

A small conference room in the new facility will be used for meetings between CPS, attorneys, caseworkers, CASA volunteers and parents. Volunteers will also have a workroom for preparing reports equipped with a computer to network with casework supervisors.

Susan Etheridge, executive director, said the new building will eventually house an additional casework supervisor. “Our caseworkers have a ratio of 1 worker per 36 children, while Dallas CASA’s ratio is 1:22. Collin County has been named the fastest-growing county in Texas, growth which unfortunately brings increased rates of abuse and neglect. We have needed another caseworker for some time but a lack of space has prevented us from fulfilling this need.”

Naming opportunities are available for the building and offices, beginning with the Diamond Level at \$500,000 for the CASA building. The Platinum level, \$200,000, offers naming the training/board room or the donor’s choice for any room. The lobby will become the David Craig Lobby.

The \$100,000 Gold Level offers donors the choice of naming the conference room or another room of the donor’s choice. The Silver Level of \$50,000 will buy a legacy for the parent/child visit room, toy room, outdoor play area or the donor’s choice.

Available for naming at the \$25,000 Bronze Level are offices for the executive director, program director and development director or the donor’s choice. The Ivory Level, at \$10,000, will fund the kitchen/break area, volunteer work room or the staff work area.

Inscribed bricks at \$1,000 are available to honor loved ones and families as champions for children.

Members of the capital campaign committee are: chair, David E. Dorman, and members: Diane Chester, president of the CASA Board of Directors; Randy Roland, vice president of the CASA board; Barry Fromberg, CASA board treasurer, Jenni Tran, CASA board secretary, Jose Monzon, board member; Connie Boucher of Lattimore Materials Co., James Keller, CFP,

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AXA Advisors, Inc., and CASA staff members Susan Etheridge, executive director and Debbie Mormon, development director.

Craig International will re-locate to Craig Ranch in McKinney.

Texas law gives all children removed from their homes the right to an advocate, necessitating those counties without CASA programs to pay for advocates. In Collin County, CASA saves residents \$4.3 million by performing this valuable service for 100 percent of neglected and abused children entering the court system. In 2007, 750 children received this service.

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