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Community Leaders Step Up to Help Steer CASA

Adams & Broomfield Counties, CO – CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of Adams & Broomfield Counties, a non-profit organization that works to recruit, train and supervise community volunteers who advocate for children who cannot live safely at home because of abuse and neglect, has announced its 2011-2012 Board of Directors.

The slate of community leaders who will help guide the direction of the program's efforts to positively impact the lives of innocent child victims is led by Bill Christopher of Westminster who stepped up as Board Chair; Loren Brown (Donelson, Ciancio & Goodwin, PC) of Broomfield as Vice-Chair; Antelia Ball (United Power) of Brighton as Secretary; and Tanner Tweten (First Bank) of Westminster as Treasurer. In addition nine other community members will serve including:

Ken Ciancio (Hyland Hills Golf Course); Adam Gollin (Riley-Gollin Law); Bob Grant; Kevin Kildow (Wells Fargo); Nancy Lake; Fred Marvel (Brannan Sand & Gravel); Eric Mott (Prudential Real Estate of the Rockies); Karen Stuart; and Belva Wildman (City View Industrial Park).

"Our Board of Directors is comprised of some of our community's finest leaders — each one understands how critical it is to ensure that the more than 1,300 children who are currently in child protective care have a right to thrive, to be treated with dignity and to live in safe, loving homes," said Simone Jones, Executive Director of CASA of Adams & Broomfield Counties. "The juvenile justice and child welfare systems are full of compassionate lawyers, judges, social workers and foster families, but according to recent statistics each year more than 748,000 children are placed in foster care nationally. This intense need can strain the system to the point where they are simply unable to protect the rights of each and every child."

Jones added, "Not only does our Board understand the transformative impact that a CASA Volunteer can have on the life of a child, they are more than one-hundred-percent committed to increasing our capacity to serve more children."

"We currently have two-hundred and sixty active CASA Volunteers advocating for the emotional, physical and educational needs of abused and neglected children here in

Adams and Broomfield Counties," said Christopher. "We recognize that isn't enough. We are dedicated to ensuring that every child in the foster care and child welfare system has a qualified CASA Volunteer looking out for their best interests."

Jones further commented, "Bill Christopher, who has tremendously impacted the CASA of Adams & Broomfield Counties Program during his tenure as a Board Member, is a strategic and strong leader who will help guide us towards achieving our mission."

The CASA Board of Directors will serve as a working board responsible for strategic direction, financial oversight and for fundraising efforts for the program. For more information about CASA of Adams and Broomfield Counties visit www.casa17th.org.

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CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of Adams and Broomfield Counties is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization that works to make sure that every child who cannot live safely at home has a caring, compassionate CASA Volunteer who will help fight for their right to be safe, ensure that they are treated with dignity, and assure their safe passage out of foster care. Building a stronger community for all. Each year, in Adams and Broomfield Counties, there are over 1,300 children who have been physically, sexually or emotionally abused or neglected, and who are in desperate need of a caring, committed CASA Volunteer to speak up for their best interests. In Adams and Broomfield Counties, there are over 250 CASA volunteers, and we are in need of more great community members to become advocates for children. CASA conducts volunteer training classes three times a year. For more information about CASA, call (303) 654-3378 or visit www.casa17th.org.



From left to right: Adam Gollin, Tanner Tweten, Antelia Ball, Bill Christopher and Loren Brown.