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CASA of Cook County's 2010 Spirit Award

Honors everyday heroes who defy odds, embrace, encourage and prepare children for life

July 15, 2010

Dear Friends,

Court Appointed Special Advocates of Cook County (CASA) invites you to participate in this self-nomination process to honor an individual from the community who most reflects and embodies the spirit of CASA. For nearly 25 years, CASA of Cook County has been speaking up in court for abused and neglected children and helping ensure that children live in safe, permanent homes. CASA volunteers research cases and advocate for children, providing valuable information to the court. Judges rely on this additional information to make the best decisions about children's futures.

CASA of Cook County's **2010 Spirit Award** will be presented to an individual who is making a powerful difference in the lives of children in their community in ways consistent with CASA of Cook County's mission. Battling overwhelming obstacles in the face of adversity, there are some people who rise above those challenges and CASA of Cook County endearingly refers to them as "everyday heroes." We recognize that so often the efforts of these great people go unnoticed.

Collectively we can make a change.

CASA of Cook County will honor an individual from our community whose efforts align with the mission of CASA, on **October 5, 2010** at our annual Cocktails for CASA event.

If you are an advocate on behalf of underprivileged children, fight for improvement in lives of children, or believe that all children deserve a safe and permanent home, then nominate yourself or others who fit the criteria.

The nomination process includes the following:

- 1- Complete the nomination form. Include a maximum two-page description of how the nominee's involvement with youth is in alliance with CASA's mission.
- 2- Provide any additional materials that support your advocacy.

Nominations will be accepted via US mail or email to spiritaward2010@casacookcounty.org. All nominations must be postmarked or emailed by **August 27, 2010 at 5:00 p.m.** The winner of CASA's **2010 Spirit Award** will be announced by **September 10, 2010.**

For more information about CASA of Cook County or to download the nomination form, go to www.casacookcounty.org.

Sincerely,

Lanetta Haynes Turner
Executive Director, CASA of Cook County



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Recognition Award

The Spirit Award winner will be honored during the Cocktail's for CASA event on **October 5, 2010** at Zed 451, 739 N. Clark Street, Chicago. The winner's attendance at the event is essential to demonstrate community spirit and unity in the fight to advocate for abused and children. Nominations will be reviewed by CASA of Cook County's staff and board members. The winner will be notified by **September 10, 2010**. To submit a nomination, fill out and return the information below. Each submission must be accompanied by a written summary that best highlights the nominee's advocacy for youth.

Section I:

Submitted by		Date	
If you are nominating someone other than yourself please provide your contact information in this shaded area below:			
Relationship to the nominee		Phone number	Email
Address		State	Zip

Nominee contact information below:

Name of individual being nominated		
Address		
City	State	Zip
Phone number		Email

Section II:

List current employment and elaborate on how the nominee is able to manage work, youth advocacy, community affairs, etc.



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Section III:

Does the nominee have a Web site or any social media sites?

_____Yes _____No

If yes, please provide the Web address and social media address:

(Examples of social media are Myspace, Facebook, LinkedIn, etc.)

Section IV:

To demonstrate why you or someone you are nominating should be our 2010 community honoree, respond to the following categories and provide any additional supporting materials or commentary. Please limit your responses to the items below to a maximum total of two pages typewritten.

- 1. Mentorship** – Ability to motivate and inspire youth to accomplish a specific goal or objective. Elaborate on any elements of risk dealt with in order to benefit others.
- 2. Initiative** – Demonstrate the nominee's ability to take charge by creating or developing a program, project, or activity that impacts the community and or specific children. Show personal commitment to see the project through to its resolution with determined effort. Explain how the nominee's efforts benefit or improve the lives of underprivileged, abused, or neglected children.
- 3. Creativity** – Demonstrate how the nominee develops creative ways to accomplish the goals and objectives of projects, safety of children, or finding permanent homes for foster children. Share vision for improvement.
- 4. Dedication & Recognition**– Show how others recognize or admire the nominee for the nominee's commitment and advocacy for youth in their community. Indicate accomplishments within the community, courage, pursuit, enthusiasm, and zeal.

Mail completed nominations to:

CASA of Cook County
Community Spirit Award
910 W Van Buren St. #339
Chicago, IL 60607

OR

Via email at spiritaward2010@casacookcounty.org

Nominations must be postmarked by **August 27, 2010**. The winner will be notified by **September 10, 2010**.