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Governor Bobby Jindal Declares May Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Month in Louisiana

BATON ROUGE, LA Over 3,500 children entered the Louisiana foster care system in 2009. Louisiana CASA and 18 CASA Programs throughout the state work together to ensure that abused and neglected children in the Louisiana legal system have a Court Appointed Special Advocate volunteer (CASA) to advocate on behalf of the child's best interest. CASA volunteers positively impact the lives of abused children in foster care as trained advocates who provide strong voices to abused and neglected children in the state's care.

The State of Louisiana and Governor Bobby Jindal have acknowledged Louisiana CASA, the 18 programs, and CASA volunteers by declaring May Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) month. The proclamation is part of a statewide initiative to encourage residents thorough out the state to be a CASA volunteer.

WHEREAS, the people of Louisiana pride themselves for giving back to their communities and contributing to the improvement of the quality of life of their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) programs in Louisiana speak for the best interest of the abused and neglected children who have been drawn into the juvenile court system; and

WHEREAS, some 12,000 children in Louisiana suffer some form of abuse or neglect each year; and

WHEREAS, over 5,000 Louisiana children are currently unable to live safely with their families and have been placed in the care of foster homes and institutions; and

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WHEREAS,	in 2009, more than 1,800 CASA volunteers served as powerful voices on behalf of over 4,100 abused and neglected children in Louisiana; and
WHEREAS,	National Court Appointed Special Advocate recognizes the work that CASA does on behalf of the people of Louisiana.
NOW, THEREFORE,	I, Bobby Jindal, Governor of the State of Louisiana, do hereby proclaim May 2010 as **COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE MONTH** in the State of Louisiana.

For more information, contact Louisiana CASA at (225) 930-0305 or visit www.louisianacasa.org.