



CASA of Coconino County
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www.CASAofCoconinoCounty.org

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FOR RELEASE May 12, 13 or 14, 2017

Public invited to learn more about CASA Program

(Flagstaff, AZ—May 15, 2017) CASA stands for Court Appointed Special Advocate. CASA volunteers are everyday citizens appointed by a judge to speak up for abused and neglected children to ensure they have a safe and permanent home. Eleven dedicated individuals from Flagstaff, Williams and Page who have just completed training and thirty five continuing CASA volunteers from across Coconino County will take an oath as a CASA volunteer on Monday, May 15, 2017.

The ceremony will take place at 5:30 p.m. at 1101 East Sawmill Road in the Coconino County Juvenile Court and marks the end of 30 hours of training the individuals have completed to take on this new role. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

“This is a big day for our advocates,” said Amber Martin, coordinator for CASA of Coconino County. “They’ve been through a lot of training and they are excited to get started working on their first case. This is our chance to say thank you to them for being willing to speak on behalf of a child in need and this is their chance to promise to do so.” This is the first oath ceremony in Coconino County so all CASA volunteers, including those who have worked with us for many years, are participating in this event. There are thirty five active CASA volunteers in addition to the eleven who are new this quarter.

CASA volunteers are appointed to a child dependency case by a judge and spend 10-20 hours per month visiting the child involved in the case and researching what is happening in that child’s life. They act as the eyes and ears of the court and send a written report to the judge before each court hearing so the judge has complete and unbiased information to base decisions on—in addition to the reports a judge receives from child welfare professionals.

There is no specific degree or experience needed to become a CASA volunteer. Volunteers must be 25 years of age or older, a U.S. citizen, and pass the thorough screening process. All training for the position is provided at no cost to the volunteer.

More volunteers are needed for this important position. CASA volunteers provide a valuable service to judges and also become a consistent person in the life of a child while in foster care. Currently only 37 percent of children in foster care in Coconino County benefit from having a CASA volunteer on their side. We need over 100 CASA volunteers in Coconino County to meet the needs of the children in dependency care. For more information please join us for our *Coffee*

with a CASA events scheduled this week or visit www.CASAofCoconinoCounty.org or call 928 226-5420.

Coffee with a CASA:

- Wednesday, May 17; 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.; White Dove Coffee, 2211 E. 7th Ave, Flagstaff, 86004
- Thursday, May 18; 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.; Pinewood Grill, 65 Pinewood Blvd, Munds Park, 86017
- Friday, May 19; 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.; Single Speed Coffee Café, 2 S. Beaver St, Flagstaff, 86001