

PRESS RELEASE

CASA of Kern County

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



CASA of Kern County milestone reached - 1,500 children served

Bakersfield, CA – January 14, 2007

Since 1994, the **Court Appointed Special Advocates of Kern County** program has been recruiting, screening, training, and supervising volunteers from our local communities to **speak for the best interests of abused and neglected children** whose lives are supervised by the juvenile dependency court. It was just over two years ago in May 2005 that the CASA program presented to Judge Robert Anspach an order seeking the appointment of the 1,000th child to a CASA volunteer. **Today, a CASA volunteer was appointed to the 1,500th child in the program's history.**

Judge Jon Stuebbe and Judge Robert Anspach made these comments jointly *"Because of these efforts, these children have been provided with an important advocate in their lives and an adult who cares especially for them. Those of us in the Juvenile Courts appreciate the fine efforts of the volunteers we appoint and we consider very carefully the help they provide us in making decisions that are truly in the best interest of these children."*

Last fiscal year CASA of Kern County served 12% more abandoned children, than the previous fiscal year. As exciting as that is, **there are still over 3,000 infants, children and youth in need of our unique, one-on-one advocacy.** With our goals to recruit and train approximately 75 CASA volunteers from throughout Kern County this next year, we will have the ability to "Stand up" for 100 - 175 additional infants, children and youth.

CASA of Kern County – a non-profit organization that trains community volunteers to speak for the best interests of abused and neglected children in court – is a member of the National Court Appointed Special Advocate Association.