



MEDIA ALERT / PHOTO OP

- WHAT:** Young Professionals for CASA present the “Casas for CASA” Playhouse Live Auction Benefiting CASA Child Advocates of Montgomery County
- WHY:** By supporting CASA Child Advocates of Montgomery County, guests will join the fight against child abuse in our community and make a difference in the lives of children whose future is uncertain. For more information, please visit <http://www.casaspeaks4kids.com>.
- WHEN:** **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2014**
2:00 PM – Live Music by The Powell Brothers, Complimentary Refreshments & Auction Preview
3:00 PM – Live Auction
- WHERE:** **The Woodlands Mall Outdoor Courtyard**
1201 Lake Robbins Drive
The Woodlands, TX 77380
- CONTACT:** Allison Stephens, Marketing and Communications Director
Phone: 361-946-1821

NEWS RELEASE ATTACHED

CASA Child Advocates is Montgomery County's only organization appointed by the court to advocate for abused and neglected children. Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) speak up for the best interest of children who have been removed from their parents and are under the Court's jurisdiction. CASA's goal is to provide a court-appointed volunteer to serve as Guardian ad Litem for every child in the foster care system, and to break the cycle of abuse, one child at a time. For the past 22 years, CASA has been training volunteers, raising awareness in the community, and working to stop the cycle of child abuse in Montgomery County. Learn more about CASA Child Advocates of Montgomery County at www.casaspeaks4kids.com and on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CASACHildAdvocatesofMontgomeryCounty>



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Playhouses Auction at The Woodlands Mall for a Worthy Cause

Upcoming Live Auction Fundraiser to Help Support Abused and Neglected Children in Montgomery County

CONROE, Texas (September 13, 2014)-- Three custom-built children's playhouses that have been on display at The Woodlands Mall Courtyard for the "Casas for CASA: Parade of Playhouses" program will be auctioned off this Saturday.

Proceeds from the sale of the playhouses during a live auction on September 13 will benefit CASA Child Advocates of Montgomery County. An auction preview extravaganza will begin at 2:00 pm and will feature live music by The Powell Brothers, as well as complimentary food and beverages. The live auction for the three playhouses will begin at 3:00 pm with Ray Burgess serving as auctioneer.

The Casas for CASA: Parade of Playhouses was a popular community event during the 1990's, and the volunteer group, Young Professionals for CASA, a fundraising and friend-raising arm of CASA, was eager to bring this successful program back into action. "We kept hearing what a memorable and rewarding event this was," says Blake Myers, Young Professionals for CASA Fundraising Chair, "so we jumped at the chance to bring it back to help raise funds in support of the work that Advocates do to speak up for abused and neglected children."

When a child enters the foster care system because his or her home is no longer safe, a judge may appoint a committed volunteer to help them. That volunteer is called a Court Appointed Special Advocate (c) or CASA.

CASA Child Advocates of Montgomery County trains and supports volunteers to represent and advocate for a child's best interest in the child protection system. CASA volunteers serve as the "eyes and ears" for the judge in child welfare cases. This includes researching each child's situation and making objective recommendations to help them reclaim their childhoods from abuse and neglect. CASA volunteers are frequently the only stable presence in these children's lives as they navigate the foster care system.

Last year, 796 children were in the custody of DFPS in Montgomery County. 623 children were served by a CASA Advocate. In Montgomery County, it costs \$1,215 to provide and Advocate for a child for one year. All proceeds from Casas for CASA benefit CASA Child Advocates of Montgomery County and support their mission of providing an Advocate for every abused child in need.

Two of the playhouses were constructed and donated by students from the Texas A&M University College of Architecture and the third playhouse was constructed and donated by students from the University of Houston College of Technology. Horacio Elizondo and Bobby Strahan with H&E Equipment Services donated the use of a forklift for movement of the playhouses, Straight Shooter Transport helped with transportation of the playhouses to the mall, and TETRA Technologies, Inc. provided use of one of their warehouses for storage prior to the houses going on display at the mall.

For more information about "Casas for CASA: Parade of Playhouses" or CASA Child Advocates of Montgomery County, visit the website at www.CASASpeaks4Kids.com or call (936) 441-5437.

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