**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CASA SHaW and partners bring holiday gifts and hope to children in foster care**

**Lebanon, NJ (December 14)** – Court Appointed Special Advocates of Somerset, Hunterdon and Warren Counties (CASA SHaW) continued their annual holiday toy drive tradition, providing children in foster care with toys, clothing, coats, and other gifts amid the challenges and complications created by the COVID-19 crisis.

“Each year, it warms our hearts to provide gifts for our children and youth during the holiday season.  Thanks to countless and generous individuals, all the children we work with will receive gifts that are special to them,” said Tracey Heisler, Executive Director of CASA SHaW.  “All of the children who have a CASA Volunteer Advocate requested what they wanted this holiday season, and with help from our community partners, that’s exactly what they are getting. From bicycles to gift cards, LOL dolls, Beyblades, and more, these children’s wishes have been filled.  It’s our goal to bring a little bit of joy into their lives, especially during the holidays, but we could not do it without the help of our friends” Heisler said.

These friends included:

·         Barry’s Appliance

·         Bridgewater Women’s Club

·         Financial Resources

·         Fulton Bank

·         Goddard School of Flemington

·         Jack and Jill of Central New Jersey

·         New York Life

·         Peapack Gladstone Women’s Club

·         Somerset County Library System

·         Somerset Pediatric Group

·         Sts. Basilios-Gregorios Church

·         Wendy’s

·         Numerous individual donors

CASA SHaW thanks these businesses and individuals for everything they have done to help fill the children’s wishes during this special time of year.

CASA SHaW also embarked on new endeavor this year by providing a holiday shop for parents to choose gifts for their children.  “This was a thrilling opportunity for us to be able to support parents, especially during the pandemic, to be able to have gifts to share with their children,” said Heisler.  “Family is so important, especially during the holidays. We’re honored to play a small role bringing them together through gift giving.”

CASA of Somerset, Hunterdon, and Warren Counties is part of a statewide network of community-based, non-profit programs that recruit, screen, train and supervise volunteers to “Speak Up for a Child” removed from home due to abuse or neglect. CASA is the only program in New Jersey that uses trained volunteers to work one-on-one with children, ensuring that each one gets the services needed and achieves permanency in a safe, nurturing home. To find a local CASA program in your county, visit [www.casaofnj.org](http://www.casaofnj.org).

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