



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **CASA SHaW is Awarded Funding and Highlights Community Partnerships**

Washington, NJ (July 6) – Court Appointed Special Advocates of Somerset, Hunterdon and Warren Counties (CASA SHaW) is proud to announce funding they have received due to community partnerships that have been forged over the months and years in our community.

CASA SHaW was awarded \$5,000 for their Traveling Tutor Program for foster children with assistance from the The Children's Hope Initiative. The Hackettstown Medical Center Foundation has also awarded CASA SHaW \$5,131 for staff to attend Trauma Informed Care certification training in August. This critical training will enable CASA SHaW to be trauma certified.

“We are incredibly fortunate to have many amazing community partnerships. We appreciate the dedication The Children’s Hope Initiative and Hackettstown Medical Center Foundation have shown us to ensure that we are continuing to advance our mission to serve as many foster children as possible” said Tracy Heisler, Executive Director of CASA SHaW.”

The Traveling Tutor Program has been successful since inception. CASA SHaW has served more than 40 children in our region. Each student has been promoted to the next grade level without anyone being retained. As the academic year wraps up, CASA SHaW has a goal to train more tutors for the upcoming school year. The tutors have not only assisted the children with their academics but have also been a source of support for parents, who sometimes struggle with academic issues as well. The enhanced funding will allow for more children to be served.

CASA SHaW also believes it is critically important to recognize the importance of Trauma Informed Care training that will inevitably benefit our community as a whole. Foster children are more likely to suffer harmful long-term consequences, including serious impairments in mental and physical health, when not met with understanding and trauma-appropriate responses from adults. When more professionals are trained, the better we are able to understand and assist children and families who suffer from trauma.

“We are proud of our community partnerships and excited that other organizations see the value in helping our most needy children in the community,” Heisler said.

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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**CASA**

Court Appointed Special Advocates  
**FOR CHILDREN**

CASA OF SOMERSET, HUNTERDON  
AND WARREN COUNTIES

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