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Make your love grow: Celebrate your valentine at the swanky CASAblanca gala

AUSTIN, TEXAS (January 25, 2012) – On February 11th, 2012, the Hyatt Regency Austin will be jumping with casino games and romantic Valentine’s surprises, all to help children in our community who’ve been abused or neglected. Be inspired by the success stories of foster children and their CASA volunteers, savor regional fare by Chef Javier Ortiz, enjoy the sparkling downtown skyline, and bid on once-in-a-lifetime live and silent auction items.

The 2012 CASAblanca Gala honors Gigi Edwards Bryant, chair of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services Council, for her fierce advocacy for the rights of children in foster care, her deep commitment and leadership to improving the foster care system and her own resilience as a former foster youth who overcame countless obstacles to become a successful businesswoman, community leader and parent.

“Gigi Edwards Bryant’s inspiring story proves that it only takes one adult who believes in a child to make all the difference in that child’s life. For a child in foster care, a CASA volunteer can be that one caring adult,” shared Laura Wolf, Executive Director of CASA of Travis County.

Highlights of the live auction include a Bruce Springsteen autographed "Born in the USA" acoustic guitar with 2 SXSW music badges, one week at the beach-side South Bay Beach Club on Grand Cayman, 4 romantic nights at Hotel Punta Islita in Costa Rica’s cloud forest, a \$5,000 jewelry shopping spree in Dallas, a Justin Bieber autographed electric guitar and much more. The gala will feature a photo booth to capture the fashion of the evening, romantic tunes, and an after-dinner espresso bar to keep the fun going late into the night!

About CASA of Travis County

CASA of Travis County speaks up for children who’ve been abused or neglected by empowering our community to volunteer as advocates for them in the court system. When the state steps in to protect a child’s safety, a judge appoints a trained CASA volunteer to make independent and informed recommendations in the child’s best interest. After 33 hours of intensive training, background checks and being sworn-in by a judge, volunteers are appointed to a child or family of children and spend an average of 20 hours a month advocating for these children for at least a year. Created in 1985, CASA of Travis County is now one of the top ten CASA programs in the nation, supporting more than 550 volunteers who advocate for at least 1,400 children a year.

Learn more about CASA of Travis County at www.casatavis.org or 512.459.2272.

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