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MEDIA CONTACT:

Jenny Walberg
512.573.4635
jenny@blabbermouthpr.com

Caring Crowd Comes Through for CASA of Travis County

AUSTIN, TEXAS

With total attendance hovering just under 400, CASA of Travis County supporters came out in force for the annual CASAblanca gala. Honoree Judge Jeanne Meurer told the crowd that CASA was the number one difference for children brought before her over the years and confirmed her continued support for CASA of Travis County. CASA of Travis County paid special tribute to Judge Meurer for her vigorous attention to those children who have been removed from their home dues to abuse or neglect.

Held at the Four Seasons Hotel on the banks of Lady Bird Lake, supporters were able to enjoy casino games and bid on auction items throughout the evening. "It is always an amazing feeling seeing the swell of supporters at this annual event," said Laura Wolf, Executive Director of CASA of Travis County. "We have been overwhelmed with the generosity of our donors and everyone who is willing to do what they can to change the life of a child in need."

CASA of Travis County closed cases for 449 children, helping them to find safe and permanent homes in 2008. This annual gala and benefit auction helps CASA provide a powerful voice to every child victim in Travis County.

About CASA of Travis County

CASA of Travis County is the only organization in Travis County appointed by judges to be *guardians ad litem* in child protective services cases. CASA provides advocates to speak up in court for the best interest of children who have been removed from their home due to abuse or neglect. CASA recruits, trains, screens, and supervises these community volunteers so that they may properly advocate for the best interest of the child. Volunteers drive the success of CASA and do so by being the voice so many children are left without. CASA volunteers not only spend time with the child entrusted to them but also meet with the child's school, doctor, and care-giver in order to better assess recommendations they make to the court. CASA of Travis County was established in 1985 and continues to grow with over 400 trained volunteers serving more than 1,200 children each year.

For further information on CASA of Travis County, visit www.casatexas.org.

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