



From: Montcalm Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 6, 2019

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**6 New Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Volunteers To Advocate for Abused & Neglected Children In Montcalm County**

(Stanton, MI) –The Montcalm Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program held a swearing-in ceremony at the 8th Circuit Court Building in Stanton on June 6, 2019. 6 new CASA volunteers were sworn in by the Honorable Charles W. Simon III. The new CASA volunteers added to the program are Roxanne Wright of Greenville, Briana Wallin of Greenville, Julie Weipert of Stanton, Carrie Barringer of Weidman, Bailey Rothe of Blanchard, and Mike Krum of Greenville.

Many CASA Board members, CASA Volunteers, court staff, and family members were in attendance to celebrate the honored guests and congratulate them in completing the 30-hour training program required to become a voice for abused and neglected children in Montcalm County. Dan Eagles, CASA Advisory Board President, provided an overview of the program and its history. Dan Petersen, President of EightCAP Inc. spoke about the program and the mission to improve the lives of abused and neglected children in Montcalm County. Longstanding CASA volunteer Cathy Schermerhorn shared a poem entitled, “We Are CASA.”

“We now have 36 CASA Volunteers in Montcalm County. It’s so incredible to work with these brave and selfless people, who are standing up to ensure a child’s voice is heard and their needs are met. I’m grateful to each and every person who takes their time to volunteer for this cause and who steps up to support the CASA program.” said CASA Program Director Jamie Gorby. Volunteer Supervisor, Stephanie Barone, added “Our volunteers are truly the backbone of this program. The work they have signed up to do is so needed and it is so large at heart.”

Montcalm CASA is a program of EightCAP, Inc. that provides trained volunteers to advocate for abused and neglected children in the Montcalm County Juvenile Court system. CASA volunteers are assigned to a child or sibling group and work to ensure that the children’s needs are being met and that their voices are heard in court proceedings. Volunteers speak on behalf of children at court hearings and stay on each assigned case until it is closed and the child is placed in a safe, permanent home. For many abused children, a CASA volunteer will be the one constant adult present in their lives during a very difficult time. For more information about Montcalm CASA program please contact Jamie Gorby at (989) 831-3561 or [montcalmcasa@8cap.org](mailto:montcalmcasa@8cap.org)



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From left:

CASA Volunteer Supervisor Stephanie Barone, CASA Volunteers: Roxanne Wright, Julie Weipert, Briana Wallin, The Honorable Judge Charles W. Simon III, CASA Volunteers: Mike Krum, Carrie Barringer, Bailey Rothe, and CASA Program Coordinator Jamie Gorby