



Contact: Susan Stoltzfus, 206-774-7227  
[susans@casaforchildren.org](mailto:susans@casaforchildren.org)

## **CASA of Lexington leader honored for her work on behalf of children in foster care**

**SEATTLE, WASHINGTON | March 20, 2018** – CASA of Lexington Program Director Melynda Jamison was recently honored as Program Director of the Year during the 2018 Awards of Excellence at the annual conference of The [National Court Appointed Special Advocates \(CASA\) Association](#). Together with its state and local member programs, National CASA supports and promotes court-appointed volunteer advocacy so every child who has experienced abuse or neglect in the United States can be safe and thrive in a permanent home.

Jamison received the award for her work over the past five years to recruit volunteers and raise funds to help local children. Under her leadership, CASA of Lexington has more than doubled the number of trained volunteer advocates and tripled the number of children served. She expanded the program to an additional county with plans to add another soon. She has strengthened relationships with family court judges and she takes every opportunity to tell the CASA story.

“I honestly believe this award is an award for our staff, volunteers, board, fellow local program directors and our Kentucky CASA Network team,” said Jamison. “I don’t believe there is any magic potion, or fundraiser or even person that will take our programs to the next level of success. But, if we each just keep working together, we will one day provide a voice through CASA for every child who needs us.”

The Program Director of the Year is specially recognized by Kappa Alpha Theta, an organization of women that adopted The National CASA Association as its philanthropy in 1989. Theta’s 147 college chapters raise funds and recruit volunteers to support local CASA programs, adding more than 7,000 new champions for children each year.

National CASA is a network of nearly 1,000 programs that recruit, train and support volunteers to advocate in courtrooms and communities for the best interests of children who have been abused and neglected. These volunteers see their assigned children regularly, staying with them until they are placed in a loving, permanent home. They provide judges the critical information they need to make decisions in the best interest of each child. For many abused children, their CASA volunteer is the only constant adult presence in their lives. More information about National CASA Association is available at [www.casaforchildren.org](http://www.casaforchildren.org).

###