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CASA FOR THE HIGHLAND LAKES AREA NAMES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

November 1, 2011— **CASA for the Highland Lakes Area**, a charitable non-profit organization that speaks up for the best interest of abused and neglected children in Blanco, Burnet, Lampasas, Llano, and San Saba counties, has named Sue Thornton as Executive Director.

Ms. Thornton will be responsible for guiding the 20-year old organization as it advocates for the ever increasing number of children entering the foster care system. **CASA for the Highland Lakes Area** recruits and trains volunteers to provide direct services to children after they have been removed from their home by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services due to abuse and/or neglect.

“As the number of children in foster care continues to grow, it is important to add an experienced professional like Sue to help us with our mission,” said Kathy Kasparek, Board President of the organization.

Most recently Ms. Thornton served as Principal of *Thornton & Co. Consulting*; a full service consulting firm which helps non-profits strategically manage change. Prior to this, she served as Executive Director for *Texas Dentists for Healthy Smiles* and Executive Director for *Texas IMPACT*, an advocacy organization that addresses the needs of poor women and their children.

“All children should have the chance to live a happy, successful life, and I am excited about joining this committed organization as it speaks for abused and neglected children. I look forward to leading this group of dedicated volunteers and staff as we work to protect those in our society whom are most vulnerable,” said Thornton.

Since its inception, **CASA for the Highland Lakes Area** has served over 1300 abused and neglected children; and in calendar year 2011 its 97 volunteers have served over 245 abused and neglected children.

CASA for the Highland Lakes Area is currently collecting donations for its Angel Tree, located at Security State Bank in Marble Falls, so the children they serve will receive a Christmas present.

For more information on becoming a CASA volunteer, and a list of upcoming **CASA for the Highland Lakes Area** events, please go to www.highlandlakescasa.com or call **325-388-3440**.

Our Mission: To recruit, train and supervise court appointed volunteers to advocate for children who come into the court system as a result of abuse and neglect. Those volunteers, who serve as a Guardian ad Litem, will make recommendations to the court, based on fact-finding and investigation, in the best interest of the child.

CASA for the Highland Lakes Area is a member of:
Texas CASA, Inc. and National Court Appointed Special Advocates Association