

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY COUNTY OF HUNTERDON

## PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, every child deserves to grow up in a safe, loving permanent home where his or her physical, emotional and educational needs are fully met thereby giving the child an opportunity to realize his or her full potential; and

**WHEREAS**, approximately 3 million children are reported abused and neglected in this country each year, including over 180,000 calls annually to child protective services in New Jersey; and nearly 8,000 children are removed from their homes because of severe abuse or neglect; and

**WHEREAS**, the effects of child abuse are both inhumane and costly, involving the mental health system, juvenile justice system, law enforcement agencies, criminal and civil courts, and health care and educational institutions; and

**WHEREAS**, preventing child abuse and neglect is a community responsibility that depends upon the involvement of citizens from every sector of the community and can be reduced by making sure each family has the support they need to raise their children in a healthy environment; and

**WHEREAS**, the impact of abuse and neglect has long term personal, economic and social costs and a child's journey in the child protection system can be traumatic and overwhelming; as that child has been removed from his or her home and placed with strangers often in a different county away from his or her school, friends, place of worship and the only life they have ever known; and

**WHEREAS**, Court Appointed Special Advocates® – CASA Volunteers – are assigned by the court to speak up for a child's best interest and be a voice for that child in the courts; every child in care deserves a CASA Volunteer, but half the children in care do not have a CASA volunteer; and

**WHEREAS**, the "Go Blue for CASA" campaign is coming to our community, bringing with it the belief that effective child abuse prevention efforts succeed because of partnerships created among social service agencies, schools, faith communities, civic organizations, law enforcement agencies, and the business community, and also because of organizations such as CASA.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Hunterdon hereby proclaims **April 2017** as **GO BLUE FOR CASA and CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION and AWARENESS Month** in the County of Hunterdon and commends all organizations, including CASA SHaW and CASA Volunteers, for their commitment and dedication to preventing abuse and mitigating the devastating effect of abuse and neglect by serving children who have been victimized; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders call upon all citizens, community agencies, religious organizations, medical facilities and businesses to become a powerful friend to children and parents by supporting the families in the County with friendship, information and participation in efforts to prevent child abuse.



Freeholder Directory John Lanza presents the above proclaiming April 2017 as Go Blue for CASA and Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month at the April 04, 2017 Freeholder Board Meeting.

Left to Right: Director Lanza, Tracey Heisler, Executive Director of CASA Debbie Cummings and Alice Condo.