



NEWS RELEASE – City of Cottonwood, AZ

For Immediate Release

Date: March 25, 2013
Contacts: Mayor Diane Joens 634-4112 mayor@dianejoens.com
Cottonwood City Hall 634-5526 djoens@cottonwoodaz.gov

APRIL 2013 IS “GO BLUE FOR CASA”

Diane Joens, Mayor of the City of Cottonwood, Arizona, proclaimed April 2013 as “Go Blue for CASA®” (Court Appointed Special Advocate) month in the City of Cottonwood at the March 19 Council meeting. Verde Valley CASA® President Lisa Richards, right, accepted the proclamation. The National CASA® Association is a network of 955 programs that are recruiting, training, and supporting volunteers to represent the best interests of abused and neglected children in the courtroom and other settings. CASA® volunteers are appointed by judges to watch over and advocate for abused and neglected children, to make sure they don’t get lost in the overburdened legal and social service



systems or languish in inappropriate group or foster homes. The Verde Valley CASA® Children’s Foundation, a member of the National CASA® Association, a nonprofit 501(c)(3), was created in 2006 to provide financial assistance for the unmet needs of the children of our greater Verde Valley who are wards of the Court. The Mission Statement of the Verde Valley CASA® Children’s Foundation reads: “To enhance the quality of life for dependent children under Court supervision in the greater Verde Valley.” At this time there are more than 100 children in the greater Verde Valley that have been removed from their homes and are currently wards of the Court. Independent research has demonstrated that children with a CASA® volunteer are substantially less likely to spend time in long-term foster care and less likely to reenter care. The color blue is the national color representing abused and/or neglected children and the month of April has been declared “Go Blue for CASA®” month in the greater Verde Valley.