CASA of Los Angeles Receives $125,000 Grant From General Motors

Grant Will Focus On Aiding Mobility For Children in Foster Care in LA County

October 15, 2018 --- Court Appointed Special Advocates of Los Angeles (CASA of LA) is proud to announce that it has received a grant of $125,000 from General Motors as part of its mobility initiative. GM is committed to improving access and utilization of the social mobility ecosystem for underrepresented individuals. CASA of LA has already begun utilizing these new funds to provide access for its volunteers to HopSkipDrive, a tech-enabled transportation solution for kids whose mission is to give all kids access to opportunity through mobility. This opportunity can greatly improve mobility and equity among the youth they serve.

Currently, CASA of LA has over 950 advocates serving over one thousand children in Los Angeles County's child welfare system per year. By providing accessibility to free rides through HopSkipDrive, CASA volunteers are able to increase foster youth's ability to get to school, visit siblings, go to medical appointments and even have transport to activities like sports or piano lessons.

"When people think of children in foster care, they often overlook challenges like simply getting where you need to be," said CASA/LA CEO Wende Nichols-Julien. "It's hard enough for these kids to get new clothes each year, let alone have reliable transportation to see loved ones, get to dialysis, or get a ride to an activity the rest of us take for granted. Our deepest thanks to General Motors for helping us help LA County's children."

"GM is committed to creating safe and prosperous opportunities for children to thrive through our relationship with Court Appointed Special Advocates of Los Angeles," said Heidi Magyar, director of Corporate Giving at GM. "We're thrilled that our investment will help provide greater access with new mobility solutions for children in their local communities."

ABOUT CASA/LA

Founded in 1978, CASA of Los Angeles (www.casala.org) is a community-supported 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to mobilize community volunteers to advocate on behalf of the 30,000 children in Los Angeles County who have experienced abuse and neglect and find themselves in the overburdened LA County foster care system by no fault of their own. Dependency Court Judges appoint CASA volunteers to work one-on-one with the most serious cases of abuse and neglect to help these children navigate through the court system and reach the appropriate social services. Studies show that children with CASAs receive more assistance and support than children without, and are more likely to be adopted or returned to their families and less likely to reenter the child welfare system.

About General Motors

General Motors is a global company committed to delivering safer, better and more sustainable ways for people to get around. General Motors, its subsidiaries and its joint venture entities sell vehicles under the Chevrolet, Buick, GMC, Cadillac, Holden, Baojun, Wuling and Jiefang brands. More information on the company and its subsidiaries, including OnStar, a global leader in vehicle safety and security services, and Maven, its personal mobility brand, can be found at http://www.gm.com.

About HopSkipDrive

HopSkipDrive is a mission-driven company whose goal is to give all kids access to opportunity through mobility. Founded in 2014, HopSkipDrive is the most caring, tech-enabled transportation solution for families and K-12 schools, non-profits, and kid-based businesses. The company is building a national transportation network that connects schools and families with trusted CareDrivers who get kids wherever they need to go safely, reliably, and economically. CareDrivers must have a minimum of 5 years of caregiving experience and pass a rigorous 15-point certification process, which includes extensive background checks, fingerprinting, DMV checks, driver training, and an in-person meeting with HopSkipDrive staff. To learn more visit, www.hopskipdrive.com or download the iOS or Android App.