



F&M MAKES DONATION TO CASA OF MAURY COUNTY

CASA supports volunteers serving abused and neglected children

COLUMBIA, Tenn., May 24, 2007 – First Farmers & Merchants Bank recently donated \$2,500 to CASA of Maury County, a local chapter of the National Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Association. CASA of Maury County supports and promotes court-appointed volunteer advocacy for abused and neglected children so that they can thrive in safe, permanent homes.

“A responsible member of the community stands up for those who are not able to defend themselves,” said T. Randy Stevens, F&M chairman and CEO. “F&M is proud to support the efforts of CASA as they work to improve the lives of children who desperately need help.”

Volunteers are the heart of CASA’s mission. Local CASA programs recruit, train and support volunteers who interact with abused children to find out what is in the best interest of the child and speak on their behalf in court.

There are currently 17 local CASA programs in 26 counties throughout Tennessee. CASA of Maury County is the newest, independent program in the state.

“Maury County has been very supportive of CASA,” said CASA of Maury County Executive Director Marsha Boren. “F&M’s donation shows that this community truly cares about the efforts of CASA and the needy children we serve.”

There are more than 50,000 advocates serving in 948 state and local program offices nationwide. CASA programs across the country are known by several different names, including Guardian ad Litem, Child Advocates and Voices for Children. Since the inception of CASA advocacy, volunteers have helped more than 1,000,000 children.

Founded in 1909, First Farmers & Merchants Bank (Member FDIC) is one of the most successful independent banks in Tennessee, with total assets of approximately \$800 million and an additional \$2.6 billion in assets held by its Trust & Financial Management Department. Headquartered in Columbia, the bank operates 19 offices in a seven-county area that includes Maury, Lawrence, Marshall, Hickman, Dickson, Giles and Williamson counties. It is distinguished by its commitment to traditional, personal banking

relationships that incorporate state-of-the-art technology to provide the highest possible level of service.

###