



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**FIRST FARMERS & MERCHANTS BANK DONATES \$2,500
TO CASA OF MAURY COUNTY**

COLUMBIA, Tenn. – July 11, 2008 – First Farmers & Merchants Bank has made a \$2,500 donation to CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of Maury County announced the bank's Maury County President, Harvey Church.

“We are happy to support the important work that CASA does each day to ensure children within the court system receive much-needed representation.” said Church.

The portion of the donation will be used to train new advocates through a 6-week training session that begins in August. Individuals interested in participating in the course and becoming a CASA volunteer should contact Marsha Boren, CASA of Maury County's executive director at 931.381.4733.

Within the past year, CASA of Maury County has served 88 children and has trained 33 advocates. CASA's mission is to speak for the best interests of abused and neglected children in the courts and to support quality volunteer representation for children in order to provide them with a safe, permanent, nurturing home.

About CASA of Maury County

Every year more than half a million abused and neglected children are in need of safe, permanent, nurturing homes. That's where CASA steps in. CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) was created in 1977 to make sure the abuse and neglect these children originally suffered at home doesn't continue as abuse and neglect at the hands of the system. As trained advocates, CASA volunteers are appointed by judges to be a voice for these children in court. The result is that a child is placed into a safe, loving home where he/she can thrive. It is the

CASA vision to provide a volunteer for each and every abused and neglected child who needs one. For more information, contact 931.381.4733 or visit www.casamaurycounty.org.

About First Farmers & Merchants Bank

Founded in 1909, First Farmers & Merchants Bank (Member FDIC) is one of the most successful independent banks in Tennessee, with total assets of more than \$823 million and deposits in excess of \$698 million. An additional \$2.6 billion in assets held by its Trust & Financial Management Department. Headquartered in Columbia, Tenn., the bank operates 20 offices in a seven-county area that includes Lawrence, Maury, 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. For additional information, visit www.fandmbank.com or call the main office at 931.388.3145.

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