



Contact person: Ellen M. Bush, 406 443 2448
Executive Director, CASA of Montana
For details, call 866 863 2272 or 406 439 6298 (cell phone)

June 3, 2010 – For release immediately

Wanted: Riders to Bike Across Montana for CASA and Abused Children

CASA of Montana is seeking bike riders to cycle from Glacier to Yellowstone to raise money and awareness of CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) programs across the state.

The Sixth Annual Park-2-Park event also is seeking sponsors to support the 400-mile, five-day ride. Sponsor levels are Platinum - \$1,500, Gold - \$750 and Silver - \$300. Businesses also are encouraged to sponsor a local bike rider. A special category for sponsoring bike riders also is available at the \$3,500 rate which includes a package of benefits with registration and a custom jersey.

Platinum sponsors of the event include JCT Construction of Ballantine, Jim and Janet Charbonneau, ALPS Insurance, Presidio Medical Reinsurance and the Montana Police Protective Association. Law enforcement officers in Billings and Bozeman are part of the driving force behind this year's volunteer organizing committee.

More than 400 CASA volunteers throughout the state speak for nearly 900 Montana children who are in the court abuse and neglect system through no fault of their own.

Called "a ride of a life-time through spectacular scenery" by previous riders, some 18 riders from Kalispell, Billings, Great Falls and Helena as well as Florida, have already registered via CASA's website www.Park2ParkMontana.org or www.casagal.org. Only 50 slots are available. Last year riders raised almost \$50,000 for CASA and organizers aim to top that total this year. Proceeds will benefit CASA of Montana and the non-profit network of 15 local CASA programs.

The Sixth Annual Park-2-Park Montana ride is planned for Sept 6-10, 2010. The route will take cyclists from St. Mary – on the eastern side of Glacier National Park – through spectacular scenery down along US 89 through Dupuyer, Choteau, Great Falls, White Sulphur Springs and Livingston and conclude at Gardiner near Yellowstone National Park.



Early registration cost for the ride is \$495. Riders must also fundraise \$300 in addition to the registration fee, with a jersey assured for those who raise \$800. The registration cost, which includes four nights of lodging, all meals and snacks, and support along the way, goes to \$595 after July 15.

Gold Sponsors include Alan Nicholson of Great Northern, Big Sky Dental Group, St. Mary's/East Glacier KOA, Townhouse Inn of Great Falls, Hammer Nutrition and Montana Association of Chiefs of Police (MACOP). Silver sponsors include Billings Police Protective Association, Crane Chiropractic PLLC, Deputy Sheriff Benevolence Association, First Interstate, Morrison-Maierle, Montana Marketing, New West Health Systems, The Spoke Shop, and The Neighborhood Office of Helena.

Daily ride distances are 55-100 miles. The ride begins at the St. Mary's/ East Glacier KOA campground in St. Mary. Local CASA programs, including CASA for Kids (Kalispell), Front Range CASA in Choteau, Great Falls CASA CAN, Gallatin County CASA/GAL and 6th Judicial CASA in Livingston will provide meals, snacks and support services for the riders as they come through their area.

See www.Park2ParkMontana.org or www.casagal.org for more details on CASA of Montana. Call 866 863 2272 or e-mail info@casagal.org.