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 **For Immediate Release**

**CASANA CELEBRATES THE FIRST EVER APRAXIA AWARENESS DAY ON MAY 14TH**

Apraxia Awareness Day promotes awareness about Childhood Apraxia of Speech

**PITTSBURGH, PA (April 23, 2013)** – On May 14, 2013, the Childhood Apraxia of Speech Association of North America (CASANA) invites communities worldwide to become aware and educated about the needs, challenges, and abilities of children affected by apraxia. Apraxia is among the most severe speech and communication problems in children. Affected children have difficulty planning and producing the precise, highly refined and specific series of movements of the tongue, lips, jaw, and palate that are necessary to produce clear, intelligible speech.

“Families have truly longed to have a day recognizing the struggles faced by their children. There are many misconceptions about children who speak little or do not speak well. We aim to improve the public awareness so that accurate information is shared and understood,” says Sharon Gretz, Executive Director of the Childhood Apraxia of Speech Association of North America (CASANA). A statement acknowledging Apraxia Awareness Day is scheduled to be placed in the Congressional record of the United States House of Representatives as well as state level legislative bodies.

CASANA will be using social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube and blogs to mobilize families, friends, and professionals to help educate and raise apraxia awareness. An online Apraxia Awareness Day store has been set up to purchase t-shirts, buttons, and other awareness items. The first Apraxia Awareness Day will include an online apraxia quiz, Twitter chat, contests, and a question and answer webinar.

For more information on Apraxia Awareness Day visit the Facebook page established: <https://www.facebook.com/events/397272530369926/>

**About The Childhood Apraxia of Speech Association of North America (CASANA)**

CASANA is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization based in Pittsburgh, PA dedicated to improving the system of support in the lives of children with apraxia of speech so that each child is afforded their best opportunity to develop speech and full communication. CASANA was founded in 2000 and is the only national nonprofit dedicated to those with childhood apraxia of speech (CAS) and their families. The organization raises awareness; provides support, information and education; and funds and supports CAS research. Learn more about CASANA and apraxia at [Apraxia-KIDS.org.](http://apraxia-kids.org.)