



The National Center on
Addiction and Substance Abuse
at Columbia University

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**FIRST LADY OF WYOMING NANCY FREUDENTHAL
JOINS CASA* FAMILY DAY AS STATE HONORARY
CHAIR**

Cheyenne, WY, January 9, 2008 – The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA) at Columbia University announced today that First Lady of Wyoming Nancy Freudenthal has been named Honorary Chair for *Family Day* in Wyoming. She is the first state Honorary Chair to be named for CASA’s 2008 *Family Day – A Day to Eat Dinner with Your Children™* initiative which is celebrated nationwide every year on the fourth Monday in September, the 22nd in 2008.

Family Day – A Day to Eat Dinner with Your Children™ reminds parents that what their kids really want at the dinner table is THEM! *Family Day* encourages parents to be engaged in their children’s lives. Frequent family dinners are a simple, effective way for parents to connect with their kids on a regular basis. CASA launched *Family Day* in 2001 after its research consistently found that the more often children eat dinner with their families, the less likely they are to smoke, drink or use prescription or illegal drugs.

“We are honored that First Lady Nancy Freudenthal has agreed to serve as Honorary Chair for *Family Day* in Wyoming as she has been spearheading the *Family Day* celebration in her state for the past three years,” said Joseph A. Califano, Jr., CASA’s Chairman and President and former U.S. Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare. “With her longstanding commitment to keeping kids substance free, the First Lady is an excellent ambassador for *Family Day* and helps remind parents in Wyoming that frequent family dinners make a difference in children’s lives.”

“As our lives get busier and busier families work even harder to spend time together,” said Wyoming First Lady Nancy Freudenthal. “The *CASA Family Day* celebration, in coordination with several state agencies, the schools, faith communities and non profits, offers support for our busy Wyoming families to give their children the tools they need to grow up substance-free.”

CASA is the only national organization that brings together under one roof all the professional disciplines needed to study and combat all types of substance abuse as they affect all aspects of society.

*The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University is neither affiliated with, nor sponsored by, the National Court Appointed Special Advocate Association (also known as "CASA") or any of its member organizations, or any other organizations with the name of "CASA".



CASA has issued 66 reports and white papers, published one book, conducted demonstration projects focused on children, families and schools at 211 sites in 81 cities and counties in 31 states plus Washington, DC and two Native American tribal reservations, and has been evaluating the effectiveness of drug and alcohol treatment in a variety of programs and drug courts. In May of 2007, CASA Chairman Joseph A. Califano, Jr. called for a fundamental shift in the nation's attitude about substance abuse and addiction with the publication of his book, *HIGH SOCIETY: How Substance Abuse Ravages America and What to Do About It*. For more information: www.casacolumbia.org.

For more information about *Family Day*: www.CASAFamilyDay.org.

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