**Media Contact:**

Sharon Gretz
412-343-7102
sharong@apraxia-kids.org

**For Immediate Release**

**CASANA PARTNERS WITH SSIS TO FUND SPEECH THERAPY FOR CHILDREN WITH APRAXIA OF SPEECH**

**PITTSBURGH, PA (May 2, 2013) –** The Childhood Apraxia of Speech Association of North America (CASANA) and Small Steps in Speech (SSIS) have initiated a joint project to aid families of children with apraxia of speech by providing small grants for children’s speech therapy.

Children with apraxia of speech typically require frequent and intensive speech therapy, especially initially and when severely affected. With appropriate and early speech therapy, most children with apraxia can become verbal communicators, speaking with their very own voices. Without the appropriate therapy, children with apraxia may never develop intelligible speech. Apraxia can be life altering for the families who struggle to find and afford sufficient help for their children.

SSIS, an organization that provides financial therapy assistance for children with speech and communication disorders, will distribute CASANA grants for therapy on behalf of eligible children with apraxia selected in a thorough application process.

#### “SSIS already has an excellent reputation as well as a solid application and selection process in place. While we know we cannot help all who may need it, with funding from CASANA, SSIS will be able to have a special focus on apraxia and aid some of those who are the most in need,” says Sharon Gretz, Executive Director of CASANA. CASANA will provide funding to SSIS for the project. The project is funded through donations to the Walk for Children with Apraxia®[ <http://www.apraxiawalk.org> ].

#### “We at Small Steps in Speech are grateful to CASANA. Not only are we able to provide supplemental funding for speech therapy for children with apraxia, but this collaboration strengthens the reach of both organizations. Small Steps in Speech was founded in honor of fallen hero, U.S. Army Medic and Green Beret SSG Marc J Small. SSG Small supported the growth and improvement of all children and it is fitting that these funds will allow children the opportunity to be the best that the can be,” says Amanda Charney, Executive Director of SSIS. SSIS will receive applications, operate the selection process, and distribute the therapy funds.

***About Small Steps in Speech (SSIS)***

*Small Steps in Speech is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization whose mission is to help children with speech and/or language disorders take the steps needed to be better communicators. This is achieved through grants and donations to service providers and qualifying charitable organizations. Learn more at* [*http://www.smallstepsinspeech.org*](http://www.smallstepsinspeech.org)*.*

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

*CASANA is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization 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* [*http://www.Apraxia-KIDS.org*](http://www.Apraxia-KIDS.org)*.*