**Speak Up Toolkit: For Businesses**

**Sample social media posts:**

* More than 5,000 foster children in San Diego County have no home to call their own. Join *[Company Name]* in helping Voices for Children speak up for abused and neglected children in our community. Visit [www.speakupnow.org](http://www.speakupnow.org) to learn more.
* More than 5,000 foster children in San Diego County have no home to call their own and no one to speak on their behalf in the courtroom, classroom, and community. Join *[Company Name]* and Voices for Children’s CASA volunteers in speaking up for abused and neglected children in our community. Visit [www.speakupnow.org](http://www.speakupnow.org) to learn more and sign up for a Volunteer Information Session.
* Join *[Company Name]* in helping Voices for Children recruit volunteer advocates to speak up for abused and neglected children. Do you have 10-15 hours a month to help a foster child? Do you know someone who would make a great volunteer advocate? Visit [www.speakupnow.org](http://www.speakupnow.org) to learn more.
* *[Company Name]* is speaking up for foster youth. Join us in helping give abused and neglected children a voice. Learn more: [www.speakupnow.org](http://www.speakupnow.org).

**Sample post for your intranet:**

* April is Child Abuse Prevention Month and *[Company Name]* is speaking up for the abused, neglected, and abandoned children living in San Diego County foster care. To help, volunteer as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) with Voices for Children. With just 10-15 hours a month, you can create a brighter future for a foster child. To learn more, visit [www.speakupnow.org](http://www.speakupnow.org).

**Sample email to your employees or newsletter article:**

*Subject/Title:* [Company Name] Speaks Up for Foster Children

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. In San Diego County, more than 5,000 children live in foster care each year. These children have been removed from their homes and placed in foster care due to abuse, abandonment, and neglect. This month, *[Company Name]* joins Voices for Children in encouraging our community members to consider how they can play a role in shaping a foster child’s life by becoming a volunteer Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA).

Voices for Children, a nonprofit organization, is the only agency designated by the San Diego Superior Court to recruit, train, and supervise CASA volunteers for our community. CASAs are empowered by the Juvenile Court to become experts about their case children. Much more than mentors, CASAs have broad access to legal, medical, educational, and other records and professionals. CASAs make recommendations to the Court to ensure that the judge is informed about their case children’s unique needs and desires.

But more importantly, CASAs are a source of caring focus and stability. They *listen* closely to their case children and then *speak up* when it matters most—in the courtroom, classroom, and community. Research shows that CASAs make a vital impact on their case child’s life:

* **90%** of foster children with a CASA **do not** re-enter the child welfare system
* Foster children with a CASA spend **50%** **less time** in foster care
* **85%** of the CASA recommendations are **accepted** by the court
* **20%** more children with a CASA passed **all** school courses

With just 10-15 hours a month as a CASA, you can create a brighter future for a foster child. No prior experience is necessary—Voices for Children will provide all the training you need. Visit [www.speakupnow.org](http://www.speakupnow.org) or call (858) 598-2230 to learn more and sign up for a volunteer information session.

Share this information with your friends and family, and help *[Company Name]* speak up for foster children.

Thank you for your commitment to our community, for sharing this information, and speaking up for foster children! [www.speakupnow.org](http://www.speakupnow.org)