



# News Release

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## Hear “The Real Word” Speakers Panel of Current and Former Foster Youth in Rancho Peñasquitos on January 25

**(January 18, 2017) San Diego, CA**— Voices for Children’s “The Real Word” speakers panel is comprised of courageous youth and young adults who currently live or have lived in San Diego County foster care after being abused, neglected, or abandoned by their parents or caregivers. The Real Word is a question-and-answer style event where panelists are open and forthright about their experiences in foster care, such as what it is like to move from home to home, how it feels to be separated from their siblings, and how they cope in the face of adversity.

The Real Word panelists are trained and supervised by Voices for Children, and have spoken both locally and nationally about life in the foster care dependency system. The speakers also describe how their lives were impacted by their volunteer Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA), assigned to them by Voices for Children. CASA volunteers advocate for a foster child or sibling group in Court, in school, and in the community, and make a profound difference in the lives of foster youth.

**THE REAL WORD SPEAKERS PANEL**  
**Wednesday, January 25, 2017 (6:00 to 7:30 p.m.)**  
Admission is free, but space is limited. Registration required.

**Rancho Peñasquitos Library**  
13330 Salmon River Road, San Diego, CA 92129

Register online at the Voices for Children website: [www.speakupnow.org](http://www.speakupnow.org). *Adults (age 18+) only, please. This event is not appropriate for children.*

For more information about the event, contact Voices for Children at (858) 598-2205. To learn more about becoming a CASA volunteer, visit the Voices for Children website at [www.speakupnow.org](http://www.speakupnow.org).

### ABOUT VOICES FOR CHILDREN

Voices for Children (VFC), founded in 1980, transforms the lives of foster children in San Diego and Riverside Counties by providing them with volunteer Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs). CASA volunteers advocate for a foster child or sibling group in Court, in school, and in the community to ensure their needs are met. Voices for Children believes that every child deserves a safe and permanent home and strives to provide a CASA volunteer to every child in the foster care system who needs one. Last year, Voices for Children provided CASAs and advocacy to more than 3,050 local foster children.

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