“Whoever saves one life, saves the entire world.”

— The Talmud
DEAR FRIENDS,

In 1980, two young women—Kathryn Ashworth and Elizabeth Bacon—were inspired by the plight of children in foster care, and decided to take action. They began reviewing case files and a few years later began using the Court Appointed Special Advocate (or “CASA”) model established in Seattle in 1977. From that humble beginning, Voices for Children was born. In the decades since, it has grown to be one of the largest and most successful CASA programs in the country.

Over the fiscal year covered by this Impact Report, 1,193 CASA volunteers served 2,025 foster children; the budget was $5,113,000. In this current 2014–15 fiscal year, as we celebrate our 35th anniversary, 1,501 CASAs will serve 2,402 children; the operating budget is $5,430,000. Our trajectory has only been possible thanks to the generosity of our donors and volunteers. Without them—without you—thousands of abused, neglected children would still be languishing in foster care situations that put them at risk for terrible outcomes later.

Each day, we see CASAs transform young lives. But how do we measure this impact? What does “success” look like?

It looks like 11-year-old Brandon, who was permanently removed from his parents—a drug addict and a convicted felon. CASA Elise worked hard for two years to help Brandon find his “forever family.” After a few false starts, adoptive parents stepped forward and the boy celebrated the start of his new family in December. Success also looks like little Olivia, age three, whose mother Laura is struggling to overcome alcohol abuse and depression. CASA Alice worked with the Court to place Olivia temporarily with her grandmother while her mother entered rehab. Alice helped Laura get the services she desperately needed to become a more responsible parent. After much hard work and dedication, inspired by her love for her daughter, Laura is now clean, sober, and employed. Next month, Olivia will reunite with her, supported along the way by her CASA.

In this Impact Report, we will share many facts and statistics. But true success cannot be found in numbers alone. It is found in the daily lives of thousands of foster children that have been positively changed forever because of the dedication and commitment of their CASAs.

It is thanks to you that we have sufficient resources to recruit, train, and supervise so many CASAs this year. They are giving our foster children the most important gift of all—a chance for a better future. At Voices for Children, this is how we truly measure success: one child at a time.

With our gratitude,

Rochelle Bold, Esq.
Chair, Board of Directors
FY2013-2014

Sharon M. Lawrence, Esq.
President/CEO
Voices for Children
More than 400,000 children are currently in foster care in the United States, 64,000 children are in foster care in California, and 5,100 youth are in “the system” in San Diego County over the course of a year.
At times, we are left speechless.

We cannot fathom why a parent or guardian would abuse or neglect a beautiful, innocent child. We cannot understand why the foster care system is fraught with inefficiencies and overly complex bureaucracies. And we cannot believe that foster children suffer so much hardship.

At times, we have no words to explain these tragic occurrences. But thankfully, our CASAs do have words and they can be the “voice” for a foster child. They use their words to speak up on behalf of these precious children. And their words have power—the power to initiate change and the power to make a difference.

In FY2013–2014, Voices for Children had a profound impact in San Diego County: 1,193 dedicated CASA volunteers used their written and spoken words to advocate for 2,025 foster children, and their warm and caring hearts to mentor and inspire them. And every one of the 5,100 children who passed through San Diego’s foster care system over 12 months were touched in some way by VFC’s advocacy.

Each of these children has a unique, and often tragic, story. They have suffered horrific abuse or neglect at the hands of their parents or caregivers, and, for this reason, law enforcement or social services have removed them from their homes and placed them into San Diego County’s foster care system. Each of these children needs a caring adult volunteer—a CASA—who will help them write a new and happier ending to their story. This significant work will have a lasting and meaningful influence on the lives of many, many foster children.
WHAT DRIVES US

The Board of Directors, staff, and volunteers share a commitment to the mission, vision, purposes, and values of Voices for Children which form the basis for everything that we do.

MISSION

Voices for Children transforms the lives of abused children in San Diego County by providing them with Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs).

VISION

Voices for Children believes that every child deserves a safe and permanent home and, to that end, will provide a CASA to every child in foster care who needs one, monitor every court file in the system, and advocate to improve the lives of San Diego County’s foster children.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

• We provide the highest level of training, supervision, and continuing education for volunteers to advocate for the best interests of foster children and to provide vital information to judges;
• We annually review and monitor the case files of every child in foster care in San Diego County;
• We increase public awareness about the foster care system; and
• We advocate for legal policies and practices that enhance the quality of life for foster children.

CORE VALUES

• We cherish children and put them first, always.
• We are grateful for our selfless and dedicated volunteers.
• We work hard and stay humble.
• We believe in the difference we make by doing our job well.
• We set high standards for ourselves and constantly strive to improve.
Last fiscal year, Voices for Children served 26% more foster children than during the prior year, assigning 882 new cases to CASAs and reassigning 144 foster children to CASAs.
CASAs change foster children’s lives, and they volunteer because they can directly impact a child’s life. Last year, our CASAs volunteered a total of 64,455 hours, and their combined efforts had the equivalent value of $1,697,744.
A LASTING DIFFERENCE

CASAs matter

Court Appointed Special Advocates matter to their case children and to the effectiveness of our justice system. CASAs have the ability and the power to transform children’s life stories for the better—and that is precisely what they do.

Through diligent investigation and detailed research, CASAs write thorough court reports and make critical recommendations that give Juvenile Court judges an inside, balanced look at their case child’s situation. Many of the decisions judges make concerning a child’s welfare, placement, therapies, or services are based on these CASA reports.

CASAs also act as mentors and friends to their case children—supporting them in school, taking them to medical appointments, and bringing them on fun excursions, such as trips to a museum, the beach, or local landmarks. As one former foster child said, “Before my CASA, no one had ever told me I was pretty or smart.” CASAs imbue their case children with confidence and self-esteem—they attend milestone occasions like birthdays and graduations, and cheer them on at sporting events. CASAs offer themselves as positive adult role models.

Our CASAs truly make a lasting difference in the lives of foster children, helping change their bleak stories into stories of hope and resilience.
WE CHANGE LIVES

The positive results

Over the twelve months ending June 30, 2014, Voices for Children:

- Served **2,025** foster children with **1,193** CASAs
- Reviewed and monitored the case files of **4,041** foster children
- Assigned **882** new children to CASAs
- Reassigned **144** foster children with CASAs
- Graduated **455** new CASAs
- Saw **60** children with CASAs become adopted, and **180** become reunified with their family

We are incredibly grateful for the support of our dedicated volunteers and our many loyal donors who have made these program accomplishments possible.
Last year, 60 children with CASAs became adopted, and 180 were reunified with their family.
Children age 0–5 are the fastest growing population entering foster care. Advocacy for infants and toddlers is particularly needed, as these little ones suffer a wide range of developmental delays and permanent damage if they do not receive proper intervention at a young age.
Our foster children and CASAs

CHILDREN SERVED WITH CASAS

Ages

- AGE 18+ 15%
- AGE 16-17 11%
- AGE 12-15 17%
- AGE 6-11 29%
- AGE 0-5 28%

Gender

- FEMALE 51%
- MALE 49%

Race/Ethnicity

- HISPANIC-LATINO 32%
- AFRICAN-AMERICAN 19%
- CAUCASIAN 18%
- ETHNICITY UNSTATED 17%
- BIRACIAL 10%
- ASIAN-AMERICAN 2%
- NATIVE AMERICAN 2%

CASA VOLUNTEERS

Ages

- AGE 60+ 28%
- AGE 50-59 25%
- AGE 40-49 16%
- AGE 30-39 18%
- AGE 21-29 13%

Gender

- FEMALE 86%
- MALE 14%

Employment Status

- FULL TIME 42%
- RETIRED 20%
- PART TIME 15%
- NOT EMPLOYED 13%
- NOT STATED 6%
- STUDENT 4%

CASA Volunteers between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014 = 1,193

Children served with advocacy between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014 = 2,025
THE CASA PROGRAM

How we help foster children

Voices for Children’s CASA program has a profound impact on the foster children of San Diego County. The CASA program is comprehensive and multifaceted, and crosses the age and gender range of children living in foster care. CASAs are recruited from all over San Diego County through a comprehensive marketing and outreach effort.

Those who want to learn more about becoming a CASA attend an Information Session; 32 sessions were held last fiscal year. If they are interested, individuals submit an application and then are interviewed in depth. If they are accepted as trainees, they enter our free “Advocate University”—a 35-hour training program (in classrooms, in court, and online) that was developed by Voices for Children (VFC) to prepare citizens for their role as court advocates. After completing training, CASAs are sworn in as Officers of the Court by one of the San Diego County Dependency Judges, and are then matched with a foster child or sibling group in need of help.

Every CASA is assigned his or her own Advocacy Supervisor, a VFC staff member—to give support and guidance throughout their work as an advocate. The Supervisors help CASAs gather resources and develop case plans for their assigned foster child. After getting to know their case child, CASAs write court reports and appear in Court to give judges more information regarding what is best for the child. The ultimate goal is to help the child either reunify with their biological family, get placed into a loving, new “forever family”, or at least establish stability in long-term foster care.

In addition, VFC has an active Case Assessment Program (CAP). Staff and volunteers review and triage the case files of every foster child in the system (at least once a year and sometimes more often). Through this process, CAP staff determine the most urgent cases, assign CASAs when necessary, and monitor the CASA waiting list.

Augmenting and expanding upon this basic program are a number of specialty programs that have been developed over the past five years to address specific needs and to positively impact the children that we serve.
**Early Assignment Program (EAP)**
Through this innovative program, Voices for Children assigns CASAs to foster children as soon as possible after entering dependency (often within two weeks). Early assignment of CASAs helps mitigate some of the turmoil that children experience in the system, and often enables these children to get secure home placements sooner.

**Infants & Toddlers Program (ITP)**
Through ITP, Voices for Children assigns CASAs to infants and toddlers, ages zero to five, in order to help ensure that “forever homes” are found. Here, children can heal from the devastating impact of abuse if they cannot be reunited successfully with their biological families. Advocacy for infants and toddlers is particularly needed, as these little ones suffer a wide range of developmental delays and permanent damage if they do not receive proper intervention at a young age.

**Transitional Age Youth (TAY)**
This program caters to the needs of older youth, ages 16-21, to help prepare them for adulthood after they “age out” of the foster care system at age 18-21. CASAs help transitional age youth with graduation requirements, college and job applications, budgeting, and numerous other independent living skills needed to avoid homelessness, unemployment, and other negative outcomes. CASAs also teach these young adults how to problem-solve and advocate for themselves.

**Education**
The emotional and psychological scars from abuse and the upheaval from frequent moves in foster care can easily hinder a child’s education. CASAs help ensure that students receive proper educational services. Often our CASAs hold the educational rights for our children, giving them the authority to interact and make critical decisions in this area. CASAs meet with teachers and counselors to help reduce skill gaps, lost credits, and school failure. This specialized advocacy sets foster children on the path to a better education, and, in turn, a better future.

**Case Liaison Program (CLP)**
VFC staff recognize that there are some dependent children who don’t need the intense advocacy of a CASA volunteer but could benefit from a lower level of service. Thus, VFC created CLP, through which a VFC staff member is assigned to a specific courtroom, and provides staff representation to a caseload of children not already assigned to, or identified as in need of, a CASA. In this manner, VFC staff are triaging, in real time, the needs of every dependent child in that courtroom. By specific court order of appointment, the staff Case Liaison will have the ability to speak with professionals, gather key information about each child, and provide written reports to the Court. The goal of the CLP is to provide oversight and advocacy on dependency cases that may not require the assignment of a CASA.
THE CHALLENGE

A broken system

Every month, approximately 140 children enter the San Diego County foster care system, and over the course of a year, more than 5,100 pass through the system. The numbers tell the tale of the challenges faced by these children. Sadly, when living in the foster care system, children must deal with frequently changing home placements and unstable living conditions. Some of them even experience unsafe foster homes where they suffer more abuse. These injurious experiences often lead children to engage in hostile or risky behaviors and ultimately some experience negative outcomes later in life—becoming school dropouts, drug or alcohol abusers, unemployed, homeless, or incarcerated.

Judges carry an average caseload of more than 700 children per year.

County Social Workers carry an average caseload of 16–25 cases.

Lawyers for foster children carry an average caseload of 150 children.
These are the difficult facts:

50% of all foster children will never receive a high school diploma or GED.

25% will be incarcerated within a few years of “aging out” of foster care.

50% will be unemployed by age 24.

25% of children entering and remaining in the foster care system suffer from PTSD—a rate comparable to that of military veterans.

75% of children in foster care are working below their age-appropriate grade level in school.

15% will begin college.

33% will be on public assistance after “aging out” of foster care.

Fewer than 3% will earn a college degree.

25% will become homeless after “aging out” of the system.

60% – 80% of prison inmates lived in foster care at one time in their youth.

50% of all foster children will never receive a high school diploma or GED.

Sources include: County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency, Dependency Legal Group of San Diego, Child Welfare League, Dave Thomas Foundation, Children’s Law Center of Los Angeles, National CASA, Casey Family Programs, Foster Care Alumni of America, and League of Women Voters.
Voices for Children is heading into the final stretch of our Serve Every Child vision—our long-term goal to serve every foster child in San Diego County in need of a CASA volunteer (an estimated 3,400 children) by 2017. We anticipate reaching this goal, but we cannot do it without the help of our many, many loyal supporters.

**FY2006-FY2017**

**FOSTER CHILDREN SERVED**

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**PROJECTION OF FOSTER CHILDREN TO BE SERVED**

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<tr>
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</tr>
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<td>FY2017</td>
<td>3,459</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Possible outcomes for foster children

Children who are removed from their parents or caregivers and become dependents of the Court can have different outcomes. These are based on the particulars of each case, each child, each family.

Reunification
Laws favor the reunification of families, and dependency judges can order parents to undergo therapies and programs to change their behavior and make their homes safe for their children. In many cases, the child’s biological parents make the necessary life improvements. If they have reached certain benchmarks, the child may be able to return to their family. CASAs work with the child and monitor their case until it is closed by the Court. Some CASAs continue to have an informal relationship afterwards but their legal authority ends when the case closes. Children may return to foster care if problems re-emerge.

Adoption
Foster children can be adopted by a relative, friend, or by a new family identified by the Court. CASAs can be helpful in moving the adoption process forward and keeping it on track. Once adopted, these children become a legal member of this new family, and live with them on a permanent basis. CASAs end their formal, legal relationship with the child, although they can maintain contact, at the new family’s discretion.

Guardianship
Another option for a child is to be placed with a close friend or relative in a “guardianship.” Guardianship differs from adoption in that the parents of the child still hold parental rights and can sometimes maintain contact with the child. The Court may continue to supervise the guardians, which is not the case with adoption. In some situations, children in guardianship can continue to have CASAs.

Long-term Foster Care
For some children, it may not be possible to return to their original family, and they may not have any friend or relative who will assume guardianship or adopt them. For these children, long-term foster care is their future, until they “age out” of the system at age 18-21. CASAs are essential for these children; they provide consistency and support, and ensure that their needs are being met.

Extended Foster Care
Beginning in 2012, the California Fostering Connections to Success Act (AB 12) has extended foster care services to young adults beyond age 18, as long as they meet certain education and work requirements. The option of extended foster care allows foster youth to stay with their CASAs and have access to valuable resources until they “age out” of the system at age 21.
“If it weren’t for his CASA, Lazane and his mother would not be together today,” according to VFC’s Assistant Program Manager Kristen Balelo. “CASA Victoria persuaded the social worker that Lazane and his young mother should be reunified.”

CASA Victoria Ross was matched with then nine-month-old Lazane when he was living in a foster placement, having been removed from the home when he was a newborn. His mother admittedly made some unfortunate choices but was intent on turning her life around. “She was determined to prove herself as a good parent and took this very seriously,” said Victoria. With four children of her own, Victoria called on her personal experience when she observed the supervised visits between Lazane and his mother at the foster home. She saw the natural bond between them, but it was clear that his mother needed more time and role modeling to acquire additional parenting skills.

“In my CASA training, I heard about Parent-Child Attunement Therapy,” recalled Victoria, “so I looked into it further and recommended this therapy approach to the social worker.” The social worker took her suggestion, and as the sessions progressed, CASA Victoria saw positive results when the two interacted. “I remember being with them on a visit. Mom was playing with Lazane, applying the things that she’d learned. He was just totally focused on her, and it was so clear that he was meant to be with her. When she left that day, he was very upset.”

Contemplating the role she had in their reunification, CASA Victoria said that it was a judge who pointed out that she’d become an advocate for his mother, too. “At a court hearing, the judge said from the bench that he really appreciated all the work I’d done to help bring the family back together, and it was clear from my court report that I was ‘Mom’s cheerleader and her biggest fan’. I’m so glad that I could make a difference and help reunify Lazane and his mother. I know that their bonds will continue to grow.”
EXTENDED FOSTER CARE

Awakening potential

When she was told that she would be CASA to a teenage boy, Jane Ross expected it would take some time to have a rapport with him. “I was really surprised by his openness. Anthony wears his heart on his sleeve and is very comfortable letting you into his world.”

Anthony’s directness was the impetus for his entry into foster care. After years of turmoil in his family home, Anthony himself called CPS at age 13 to report what was happening around him. He has since been in several foster placements but has lived with his grandmother in Chula Vista for the last few years. Though living in South Bay, Anthony wanted to remain at his East County high school, requiring that each day he start his public transit commute to El Cajon at 5:30am.

CASA Jane said, “Anthony is so intelligent and has a strong vocabulary because he’s a big reader. He’s also a gamer and, like many kids, wants to design video games. I want to help channel his potential.” Now a student at Grossmont College, Anthony has a full class schedule, with courses including chemistry, German, and English. Jane, an attorney, helps Anthony get the resources and support he needs to continue with his studies. Every six months, she attends his court hearings with him, at which time they share with the Juvenile Court judge Anthony’s academic progress.

Before he turned 18, Anthony was eager to move out on his own and have his independence. But as he approached and passed his 18th birthday, he realized both the importance of having support and providing support to others. On the eve of Senior Prom, sitting in the barber’s chair, Anthony asked CASA Jane, “Will you still be my CASA after I’m 18?” to which Jane assured him she would gladly oblige.

For CASA Jane and Anthony, music has been an interest they share; in fact, Jane has an Anthony playlist on her iPod and they listen to it when they’re out and about. “He loves violin and instrumental music, but also mainstream music. Recently, he asked me if I’d ever heard this great song called “Stairway to Heaven” or of a guy named Jimi Hendrix.”
LONG-TERM FOSTER CARE

Building a future

As a result of neglect in his home, Olan was placed in the foster care system when he was 14 years old. He has lived in “the system” since then and, at age 18, decided to continue on in Extended Foster Care to take advantage of the support and services offered by the State until he turns 21 years of age, provided he is working or going to school.

Three years ago, Voices for Children paired Olan (pictured on left) with CASA Dale Page, who has been an inspirational source of support and stability for the young man. “I became a CASA because I wanted to invest my time in the life of a child,” explains Dale, who works for the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command (SPAWAR). The two like to explore the outdoors and attend sporting events such as San Diego Padres and SDSU Aztec games. Dale attends all of Olan’s court hearings and Individualized Education Program (IEP) meetings. He also shows his support by cheering on Olan at his football, basketball, and track events.

Most importantly, Dale strongly advocated to find a secure living environment where Olan could thrive. Thanks to Dale’s efforts, Olan found just that at San Pasqual Academy (SPA), a residential education program for foster youth. At SPA, Olan earned a certificate of completion from the on-site high school in June 2014. Olan was recognized at graduation with a citizenship award for being a responsible student leader on campus. As part of the award, he received a car to further support his self-sufficiency.

Dale has watched Olan transform from a shy teenager into a confident young man. According to Dale, “Olan is a kind, generous, and always well-meaning.” Olan now participates in a program where he is learning important life skills. He also got a job working at SPA’s Cyber Café, and Dale recently taught him how to open his first savings account. Olan continues to reside at SPA as he prepares to transition to his own living situation. This stable placement has been a significant factor in Olan’s growth and success. Olan reports, “I’m doing great. I like what my school and my CASA, Dale, have done for me. I’ve come a long way.”
EXTENDED FOSTER CARE

Guiding a path

“Marissa is very tuned in to people and what’s going on around her,” said CASA Carol Zampell of her case child. “Once we were out and she told me that she heard someone crying for help. I didn’t hear anything, but did when I listened hard. Everything was fine, but the fact that she heard that faint voice amazed me.”

Marissa didn’t come into the system until she was a teen, having been raised by her late mother’s boyfriend after her mother died in a car accident when Marissa was only four. When Children’s Protective Services (CPS) was alerted, they went to the home and discovered that the adults had hidden drugs everywhere, even in the children’s rooms. Since then, Marissa has lived in eight foster placements and is now in a stable living situation.

In preparation for her senior year of high school, Carol took Marissa back-to-school shopping, purchasing her clothes with funds provided by a generous local donor. “It’s something that I’ve done with my own children countless times,” said Carol, who managed a software development team at HP before retiring, “but for Marissa, I felt like this was the first time she had ever experienced an adult giving her their total and undivided attention, doing something special just for her. Later that day, she told me that the experience gave her a taste of what life must be like for kids who have a stable family life.”

Marissa’s empathic nature has led to her decision to work in a field that helps children, and she’s planning to attend community college in the fall. Carol helped Marissa with her college applications and financial aid documents. “As we were working through her college planning process, Marissa told me, ‘What would I do without you? I wouldn’t survive!’” In addition to navigating college applications, Carol has helped Marissa as she transitions to Extended Foster Care and receives the resources available to her until age 21. “She feels safe with me, and has no parents watching out for her. I’ll stay with her and be her CASA until she feels she doesn’t need me anymore.”
ADOPTION

Providing support

Allison and Jenny had far from a normal childhood. Their past was marked by traumatic experiences. Their mother died when they were very young, and their father is estranged from the sisters. They missed out on simple childhood experiences and never received the consistent care of a loving adult—that is, until they met their CASA, Amanda.

“Being a CASA was something I always wanted to do,” explains Amanda Perriera-Skawski, a 31-year-old Campus Relations Manager for Vector Marketing. From a young age, Amanda watched her parents struggle to navigate the legal system when they decided to adopt Amanda’s siblings. Amanda wished there was something she could do to help. She later discovered the solution when her college sorority, Kappa Alpha Theta, introduced her to the CASA model.

When Amanda officially became a CASA with Voices for Children and was paired with sisters Allison and Jenny, she tried to create some “normalcy” for the girls. She saw them nearly every week and planned fun activities that allowed her to get to know them better and have new experiences. When Amanda found out that the girls had never had a Christmas tree growing up, she took them to get their very first one. Yet Amanda’s role has been far more significant than just taking the girls on outings. Amanda explains, “It matters to them that I am there. It’s not so much what you do, but it’s the consistency that matters.” Amanda was a powerful advocate for the girls in court, helping to find them a safe and stable placement.

Thankfully, the girls’ grandmother took the sisters into her home. Amanda recognized this positive living arrangement, and helped their grandmother move the case along when she decided to adopt her granddaughters. Allison and Jenny were officially adopted in October 2014. Happy tears were shed knowing that these girls will finally have a stable, loving home that will help them heal and flourish.
“If I go home, will you still be my CASA?” 15-year-old James asked of his CASA volunteer Al Yockelson—a question to which Al answered an enthusiastic “yes!” Since James’ removal from the home due to a cycle of abuse, CASA Al has diligently advocated for James and his family to receive the therapies and support needed for all of them to heal.

Through his work as an appellate attorney working mostly on criminal cases, Al Yockelson has insight into the depressing, dark underbelly of our society, working “…with a population that often represents the failures of the dependency system.” Al’s courtroom experience as a CASA is quite different than his time in court with his clients. “The Juvenile Court judges are compassionate, caring people, and work really hard not to make the courtroom a scary place. They are appreciative of what we CASAs do and always thank me for my service and my court report.” Al’s wife, Suzanne, is also a CASA and with her case children, she employs her expertise in early childhood development. The couple attended VFC’s Advocate University together.

CASA Al has worked intensely for James to receive the assistance needed to overcome his academic challenges. Al has experienced the spectrum of support offered at the teen’s schools, and is pleased to report that James is finally at a school that not only creates educational goals, but also outlines a plan that will help the young man to achieve them.

Al has provided support to James, but also to his mother, letting her know that she held the keys that would enable her son to return home. Al helped bridge relations between the mother and the professionals working on James’ case, and they were able to come to agreement on issues that impeded progress. James is now back at home and in “family maintenance” for six months, during which time the Court—and Al—continue to monitor the case. CASA Al is upbeat about the teen’s future, “My hope for James is that he continues to have a desire to learn. He’s starting to talk about the college application process…I take this as a very good sign!”
75% of children in foster care are working below their grade level in school, but CASA volunteers often hold their case child’s educational rights, helping to ensure the child receives the academic support they need.
THE IMPACT OF SUCCESS

Serving more children in need

FY2013-2014 was a financially successful year for Voices for Children, with an army of more than 2,000 donors contributing to our success. But behind the financial achievement was a deeper, more profound success. The funds raised allowed us to serve 2,025 foster children with crucial advocacy services, providing them hope for a better future. As we head toward our final goal to Serve Every Child, the parallel monetary goals become a steeper challenge. To serve more foster children requires even greater amounts of volunteer recruitment, intensive training, and supervision and, in turn, more funds are needed. To that end, we are extremely pleased to report significant growth in our donor support in FY2013-2014.

Because of the generosity of a variety of individuals, foundations, corporations, service groups, and government agencies, VFC completed the fiscal year with total revenues of more than $4.9 million. In FY2013-2014, Voices for Children was 97% privately funded, with only 3% coming from government. This is an unusual ratio for social services organizations like ours, and emphasizes the need for the private sector to step up and help San Diego’s foster children.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

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<tr>
<td>Government Funding</td>
<td>143,173</td>
<td>132,015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributed Goods, Services, and Facilities</td>
<td>58,276</td>
<td>78,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
<td>24,873</td>
<td>53,143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue:</strong></td>
<td><strong>$4,199,999</strong></td>
<td><strong>$4,952,858</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENSES</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program</td>
<td>2,976,098</td>
<td>3,630,706</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management and General</td>
<td>162,366</td>
<td>213,593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>665,174</td>
<td>1,007,384</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses:</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,803,638</strong></td>
<td><strong>$4,851,683</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Change in Net Assets:</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Net Assets at Beginning of Year:</td>
<td>1,382,536</td>
<td>1,778,897</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Assets at Year End:</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,778,897</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,880,072</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AUDIT AND IRS FORM 990 – Considine & Considine, independent auditors, review our financial statements each year and prepare our audited financials and our tax returns. The Audit Committee of the Board of Directors approves the audit and 990 and recommends it for Board ratification. Access to VFC’s audits and tax filings can be found online at www.speakupnow.org.
FY2013–2014

REVENUES

Voices for Children’s revenues grew by 18% this year, allowing us to serve a record number of San Diego County foster children. This funding propelled VFC closer to its Serve Every Child goal. We are grateful to our thousands of generous donors for the extraordinary financial support that resulted in this success.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REVENUES</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GIFTS, GRANTS &amp; CONTRIBUTIONS</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPECIAL EVENTS</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOVERNMENT FUNDING</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTHER</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**GIFTS, GRANTS & CONTRIBUTIONS**

In FY2013–2014, donations from individuals, corporations, foundations, and service organizations comprised the largest category, accounting for 61% of VFC’s total revenues. Continued support from foundations such as the Price Family Charitable Fund, Qualcomm Foundation, Lily Lai Foundation, Rose Foundation, and Galinson Family Foundation provided a stable financial base for VFC’s ongoing operations. By far, the most exciting fundraising news was the surprise $1 Million Challenge made by an anonymous donor. This generous individual pledged to match any gift, dollar for dollar, up to a total of $1 million, but only from brand-new donors, or gifts above and beyond the highest previous gift total of existing donors. This challenge was successfully met thanks to 813 donors. Fittingly, the final gift that took us over the top was $2,500 from one of VFC’s dedicated CASAs. This Challenge Campaign not only helped to raise much-needed revenues, but also introduced new donors to VFC and inspired donors at all levels to give more.

**GOVERNMENT FUNDING**

Government funding comprises only 3% from local and State sources. However, the County of San Diego Board of Supervisors remains a loyal supporter of VFC and made Community Enhancement and Neighborhood Reinvestment grants for both marketing and operational purposes.

**SPECIAL EVENTS**

Net of expenses, Voices for Children’s combined special events income increased by over 15% and contributed 34% of the total revenues for FY2013–2014. Starry Starry Night raised more than ever before, grossing $1.25 million in September 2013 (netting more than $1 million). The 22nd Annual Golf Tournament, held at the Del Mar Country Club, netted $142,000. Wine Women & Shoes drew a record crowd and netted $119,000, and Makua’s annual event netted $75,000.
Voices for Children reached a milestone in terms of the number of CASAs recruited, trained, and supervised during the past fiscal year. By June 30, 2014, our organization managed a network of 1,193 volunteers, who were busy advocating for foster children throughout our County. While we are proud of this accomplishment, we are also very aware that in order to increase the number of children served, we must recruit and train even more volunteer CASAs and make a further investment in highly-trained staff to supervise them. In FY2013-2014, VFC’s staff grew from 55 to 65. Services and expenses virtually grew in tandem. Total expenses increased over the previous year but, in turn, this investment allowed VFC to recruit 455 CASAs and serve 26% more vulnerable children. This financial investment is moving us closer and closer to our ultimate goal: to Serve Every Child.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENSES</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PROGRAM</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FUNDRAISING</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MANAGEMENT &amp; GENERAL</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASSETS</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Assets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property and Equipment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Assets</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</th>
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<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current Liabilities</td>
<td>489,636</td>
<td>568,747</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted Net Assets</td>
<td>1,760,591</td>
<td>1,626,010</td>
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<tr>
<td>Temporarily Restricted Net Assets</td>
<td>18,306</td>
<td>254,062</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,268,533</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,448,819</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Voices for Children is grateful for our dedicated, generous Board of Directors, recognized in January 2014 with the “Kaleidoscope Award for Board Excellence,” a highly selective recognition by the University of San Diego’s Governance Institute.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

FY2013–2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chair</th>
<th>Vice Chair</th>
<th>Treasurer</th>
<th>Secretary</th>
<th>Past Chair</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rochelle Bold, Esq.</td>
<td>David Bialis, Vice Chair</td>
<td>Ann Parode Dynes, Esq., Treasurer</td>
<td>Jonni Bailey</td>
<td>Rochelle Bold, Esq.</td>
</tr>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Governance</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Haeyoung Kong Tang, Ph. D.</td>
<td>Lise Wilson, Esq., Vice Chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ann Parode Dynes, Esq.</td>
<td>Katie Sullivan, Secretary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lise N. Wilson, Esq., Secretary</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jonni Bailey</td>
<td>Jonni Bailey</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stephanie Bergsma</td>
<td>Stephanie Bergsma</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mark Cafferty</td>
<td>Ann Parode Dynes, Esq.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gina Ellis</td>
<td>Gina Ellis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Holly Ellison</td>
<td>Holly Ellison</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roi Ewell</td>
<td>Roi Ewell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lisette Farrell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anthony Farwell</td>
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<tr>
<td>P. Randolph Finch Jr., Esq.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jennifer Greenfield</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kevin Harris</td>
<td>Richard Kintz, Esq.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maria Herman</td>
<td>George Lai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Kintz, Esq.</td>
<td>Jennifer O’Connell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marina Marreli</td>
<td>Omar Passons, Esq.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julian Parra</td>
<td>Dick Pfister, CAIA®</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dick Pfister, CAIA®</td>
<td>William Sailer, Esq.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jori Potiker</td>
<td>Jill Skrezyyna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jill Skrezyyna</td>
<td>Haeyoung Kong Tang, Ph.D.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katie Sullivan</td>
<td>Dale E. Yahnke, CFA, CFP®</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lany Zikakis</td>
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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

FY2014–2015

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<th>Secretary</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Julian Parra, Treasurer</td>
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<td>Lany Zikakis</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
COMMUNITY AMBASSADORS COUNCIL (CAC)
Voices for Children’s CAC includes former Board members as well as supporters and community leaders. These individuals serve as community liaisons and are committed to the mission of Voices for Children and to improving foster children’s lives in San Diego County.

MEMBERS, FY2013–2014
David Archambault, Chair
Doug Arthur; Kathryn F. Ashworth, Esq.; Joye D. Blount; Annette Bradbury; Janice P. Brown, Esq.; Vicky Carlson; Ilia Terrazas Dickey; Mindy Fletcher; Nathan Fletcher; Dick Freeman; Craig A. Irving; Richard Kelley; David Marino; Patsy Marino; Susan McClellan; Dr. John Mendlein; Hon. James Milliken; Tom Murphy; Eleanor Navarra; Lauree Sahba; Sheryl Scarano; Cecil H. Steppe; Joan Waitt; Pamela S. Wygod; Dale E. Yahnke, CFA, CFP.

MEMBERS, FY2014–2015
Lauree Sahba, Chair
David E. Archambault; Doug Arthur; Kathryn F. Ashworth, Esq.; Joye D. Blount; Annette Bradbury; Janice P. Brown, Esq.; Vicky Carlson; Ilia Terrazas Dickey; Mindy Fletcher; Nathan Fletcher; Pat Hughes; Craig A. Irving; Richard Kelley; David Marino; Patsy Marino; Susan McClellan; Dr. John Mendlein; Hon. James Milliken; Eleanor Navarra; Sheryl Scarano; Cecil H. Steppe; Pamela S. Wygod.
Each of our CASA volunteers is matched with an Advocacy Supervisor—a Voices for Children staff member who works closely with CASAs on their assigned case, providing information on resources and offering guidance and support.
VOICES FOR CHILDREN STAFF

Sharon M. Lawrence, Esq.
President/CEO

Anne Farrell
Chief Philanthropy Officer

James Scoffin, CPA
Chief Financial Officer

STAFF
Sarah Adams
Director of Volunteer Recruitment

Shanda Arredondo, MA Ed.
Advocacy Supervisor

Kristen Baley, Esq.
Assistant Program Manager

Gina Baker
Administrator & Development Manager, Riverside

Andrea Bliven
Case Liaison

Kira Bounds
Advocacy Supervisor

Vichithra Chaleune
AmeriCorps VIP Fellow

Cindy Charron
Vice President of Special Projects

Barbara Chevalier, Esq.
Advocacy Supervisor

Judah Crossland
Special Events Manager

Victor Cuevas, MHD
Advocacy Supervisor

Linda DiMele
Program Associate

Laura Elwood
Advocacy Supervisor

Maria Espejo-Nguyen
Program Assistant

Kristina Estes
Advocacy Supervisor

Allen Fox, MIA
Advocacy Supervisor

Cailin Freeman
Vice President of Programs

Brittany Friedenreich, Esq.
Advocacy Supervisor

Kate Gibson
Training Clerk

Kylee Gibson
Advocacy Supervisor

Jennifer Gilstrap
Advocacy Supervisor

Sabrina Goosby
Vice President of Training & Volunteers

Freyja Gordon, J.D.
Advocacy Supervisor & Training Coordinator

Krystle Hart
Events & Development Associate

Brian Hutchins
Court Report Editor

Brande Hutchinson
Senior EAP Case Coordinator

Sasha Jay, MSW
Assistant Program Manager

Stephanie Killion
Development Assistant

Maggie Kipper
Advocacy Supervisor

Melissa Kohts
Advocacy Supervisor

Megan Koran
Advocacy Supervisor

Noemi Lavoie, Esq.
Advocacy Supervisor

Nicole LoCoco
Advocacy Supervisor

Kathleen Matkowski
Advocacy Supervisor

Anna Maria Maybury
Program & Training Coordinator

Jaime McLendon
Volunteer Recruitment Assistant

Molly Mesnard
Advocacy Supervisor

Kimberly Mettler, Esq.
Advocacy Supervisor

Cindi Middleton
Operations Supervisor

Brianna Miller
Senior Advocacy Supervisor, Riverside

Christie Missig
Assistant Program Manager

Stephen Moore
Senior Program Manager

Jennifer Morrissey
Vice President of Marketing & Communications

Ellen Noyes, MA
Grant Writer

Matthew Olson
Program Manager

Sheila Owens, MA
Marketing & Communications Assistant

Eric Pitarresi
Stewardship Manager

Jenna Price, Esq.
Assistant Program Manager

Rebecca Rader
Vice President of Grants, Events, & Corporate Relations

Diana Rangel
Program Associate

Megan Ray
Senior Volunteer Training Coordinator

Kelly Recker
Advocacy Supervisor

Camille Rodrigues
Advocacy Supervisor

Kristin Rolts
Advocacy Supervisor

Karen Ryle
Training Associate

Susan Salvia
Assistant Program Manager

Andrea Self
Assistant Program Manager

Erin Shaner, MBA
Advocacy Supervisor

Jennifer Smith, MSW
Volunteer Recruitment Associate

Bianca Snead, Esq., MA
Case Liaison

Nikita Stange, MA
Volunteer Recruitment Coordinator

Nick Stenson
Assistant Program Manager

Brenda Wauson
Staff Accountant

Jane Wehrmeister
Senior Advocacy Supervisor

Laura Whiteman, PHR-CA, SHRM-CP
Director of Human Resources & Training

Cynthia Williams
Advocacy Supervisor

Jarilyn Wilson
Advocacy Supervisor

Kirsten Wisneski
Executive Assistant

Diana Woldt-Gorsich
Advocacy Supervisor

AS OF MARCH 2015
OUR VOLUNTEERS

The list below recognizes CASAs who have generously served for five years or more. We are deeply appreciative of their commitment.

30+ years
Kathryn Ashworth, Esq.

20+ years
Carmela Caldera
Pat Cunningham
Cheryl Greaves
Beverly Haines
Judith Pruyne
Irene Wells

15+ years
Mary Ann Beattie
Ruth Ely
Elizabeth Leonard
Mary Limoges
Nan Lutes
Marta McCarty
Sharon Province
Nancy Rosenberger
Bertha Schultz
Connie Unger
Kathy Velasquez
Bobbie Young

10+ years
Marilyn Adams
Joan Ames
Linda Austin
Laura Barton
Eleanor Bluestein
Elyse Boozer
Carmina Caballes
Kay Childs
Leslie Constantini
Kristen Dalessio
Holly Elwell
Araceli Engbrecht
Linda Fawkes
Christina Garcia
Joan Gausepohl
Meredythe Glass
Dee Glynn
Dale Goldman
Robert Gordon
Melissa Hall
Carolyn Huffman
Wendy Koen
Genevieve Knych-Rohan
Kim Lazar
Connie Leigh
Carole Martin
Mary Jo Mathis
Stacy McDaniel
Betty McDonald
Kimberly Neilson
David Paa
Erin Pavelko
Madeline Penner
Constance Pinkus

Jenna Price
Christie Ranney
Carol Sands
Patricia Santoro
Isobel Shapiro
Eleanor Sherrell
Sandra Sloan
Joan Slote
Stacey Smith-Bacon
Suzanne Snyder
Dennis Sullivan
Carol Tapert
Virginia White
Barbara Witzell
Bridget Wright
Jorge Valerdi

5+ years
Christine Abdelnour
Varin Acevedo
Nadine Allen
Claire Altman
David Amaya
Kristin Andreassen
Louise Andres
Cynthia Atkinson
Cindy Augst
Cynthia Avery
Harold Baker
Jocelyn Bauer
Elizabeth Blust
Sharon Bowes
Margaret Bradley
Karen Brainard
Mary Brown
Janet Buetnner
Pat Burrascano
Joe Butler
Greg Byrum
Diane Campion
Denise Capozzi
Asta Carwin
Dianne Chatfield
Laura Clemons
Marguerite Cliver
Laurel Conly
Cindy Condon
Stephen Condon
Cynthia Craigh
Debra Crespin
Mayra Christiansen
Brandi Cropper
Susan Cross
Lisa Danaher
Terri Denning
Beth Dickinson
Joyce Dockery
Tatiana Dupuy
Mary Fipp
Sheri Fisher

Clarence Flowers
Joan Forney
Samuel Francisco
Darlene Fujimoto
Dorothy Gesick
Gail Granewich
Alma Hadash Geiger
Jay Goodwin
Caitlin Raphael Griffin
Kathy Hailey
Jeanne Hancock
Vicki Haney
Harriet Hartl
Bobbi Herdes
Michael Herron
Daniel Hildbrand
Diane Hobbensiefken
Palma Holland
Patrick Hook
Janet Horn
Charlotte Howatt
Mary Hughes
Carol Irwin
Tania Javoor
Ellen Jennings
Karen Jernigan
Linda Joliff
Rodney Jones
Lyle Kalish
Ellen Kane
Peggy Keigher
Helane Kelman
Colleen Kennedy
Jeri Koltun
Nadene Landa
Deborah Larkin
Mickey Lester
Charissa Lewis
Charmin Lindholm
Mel Lopez
Diane Ludwig
Karen Lurie
Cheryl MacDonald
Anita Mahaffey
Victoria Maffel
Marin Marcus
Carole Martin
Melina Martinez
Sara McGAughey
Martha McGowan
Marta Meester
Diane Merlos
Kelly Metz-Matthews
Kris Moberly
Tonia Moore
Heather McCauley
Morarity
Betty Morse
Sue Munz
Kathy Myers
Jennifer Negre
Barbara Nelson
David Nelson
June Oicott
Deborah Olstad
Catherine Ott
Diane Otto
Sandi Patterson
Bette Paynter-Foster
Jane Petering
Patricia Picha
Beth Plavan
Sally Pollack
Pat Preston
Theron Preston
Denise Prince
Judith Radke
Robert Randall
Mary Reynolds
Deborah Rivera
Sherry Robins
Barbara Rolando
Ed Rubenstein
Thomas Ryan
Lucinda Scalco
Denise Serino
Mike Shannon
Jenny Sharratt
Sherry Singer
Jill Skreynza
Beverly Smith
Cory Smith
Margaret Smiddy
Kate So
Elaine Stewart
Donna Sucov
Carolyn Sullivan
Brooke Swane
Mary Ann Tanner
Joan Thomas
Toni Tschann
David Tuffy
Marlee Valderhaug
Melinda Vazquez
Jodi Visosky
Adelle West
John P. Weinstein
Sharon Whitehurst-Payne
Judy Wieden
Matthew P. Wiedlin
Marwilda Wilson
Nancy Wilks
Barbara Winicki
Ti Wolpov
Joan Wright
Jessie Wright
Natasha Yeakey
Diane Zeiger
“I became a CASA because I wanted to invest my time in the life of a child.”

Dale has watched Olan transform from a shy teenager into a confident young man who is “kind, generous, and always well-meaning.”
Our work with San Diego’s foster children would not be possible without the generosity and support of many individuals, companies, and foundations. We are grateful to these donors who had cumulative contributions of $25,000 or more through December 31, 2014, excluding in-kind donations.

$1,000,000+
Anonymous (2)
Leichtag Foundation
Makua, Friends of Voices for Children
Qualcomm Incorporated

$500,000+
Anonymous
Judicial Council of California
National CASA Association
Price Philanthropies Foundation
Haeyoung Kong Tang
United Way of San Diego County
Voices for Children Auxiliary
Charles E. White and Amy Gibbs

$250,000+
Bank of America Charitable Foundation
Rochelle and William Bold
Farrell Family Foundation
Gertrude Anderson Trust*
In-N-Out Burger Foundation
Lily Lai Foundation
Patsy and David Marino/Hughes Marino
Diane M. Martin and Jim Martin*
Maurice J. Masserini Charitable Trust
Qualcomm Incorporated
The San Diego Foundation
San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program
Joan Waitt

$100,000+
Alliance Healthcare Foundation
Jocelyn Bauer/The Bauer Foundation
Annette and Daniel Bradbury
Sally and Jeff Busby
C.J. & Dot Stafford Memorial Trust
Charles and Ruth Billingsley Foundation
Child Abuse Prevention Foundation
Cox Communications

$75,000+
American Contractors Indemnity Co.
Association of Legal Administrators San Diego
Sharon M. Lawrence and Darin Boles
Patricia and Marc Brutten
Century Club of San Diego
The Country Friends, Inc.
Holly Ellison
The Estate of Abel De Brito, Jr.*
Caroline and Anthony Farwell
The Fieldstone Foundation
Debby and Wain Fishburn
Stephanie Bergsma and Dwight Hare
Dr. Stacy Jacobs
Junior Seau Foundation
Nikki St. Germain Memorial Golf Tournament
Phillip Mackler Trust*
Lee and Stuart Posnock
Price-Lynn Collaborative Fund
Jill Skrezyna and Alex Sun
Stuart Foundations
Ticket To Dream Foundation
Union Bank
Walter J. and Betty C. Zable Foundation

$50,000+
AIMLoan.com
Anonymous (4)
Kathryn F. Ashworth, Esq. and The Honorable
Thomas Ashworth III
David Bialis
Boys and Girls Foundation
Julie and Noah Bretz
Holly McGrath Bruce and David Bruce
Greg Byrum
Callaway Golf Company Foundation
The Charles H. Stout Foundation
Mary Kelly Clifton
Community Children’s Foundation
Becca and Jason Craig
Carol and Dr. Pedro Cuatrecasas
Katayoun and Roque De La Fuente
Cambra and Randy Finch
Goodrich Foundation
HD Supply
Hervey Family Non-endowment Fund
IDANTA Partners Ltd.
Irving Hughes
The Kevin C. Tang Foundation
Jennifer and Matt Landa
Livingston Family Foundation
Nicole and Todd Mikles
Morrison & Foerster Foundation
Matthew Osborne
Kristi and Dick Pfister
Michael C. Brown* and Jori Potiker
Kalpana and James Rhodes
Sage Foundation
Lauree and Monte Sahba
Sahm Family Foundation
Tecate Industries, Inc.
The Thomas C. Ackerman Foundation

Connie and Dr. Richard Unger
Lise Wilson and Steven Strauss
Lany and Alex Zikakis

$25,000+
Anonymous
Sepi and Peter Arrowsmith
Ashford University
B.I.A. Cares for Kids
Jonni and Steve Bailey
Bank of the West
Barney & Barney
Patricia and Bruce Bartlett
Bloomingdale’s
Laura and Ethan Boyer
Marie Tuthill and Dennis Bradstreet
Karen and Jim Brailean
Lorena Bricker
Barbara Iversen and Shaun Burnett
Carmela Caldera
California Bank & Trust
California CASA Association
Debra and Edward Capozzoli
Covington & Burling LLP
Gigi Cramer and Ed Cramer*
Karen and John Creelman
Cubic Corporation
CW Cares for Kids Fund
Sara and Dr. Larry Dodge
Lynne and Steve Doyle
Ann Parode Dynes and Dr. Robert C. Dynes
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VFC is only the second organization in San Diego County to be certified as a “Service Enterprise” by the national and statewide organizations OneOC, Points of Light, and CaliforniaVolunteers.
A VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY
Climbing out of his boat and onto shore in 1542, Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo stepped into history as the first European to set foot on what is now the West Coast of the U.S. In addition to telling the story of 16th-c. exploration, Cabrillo National Monument is home to many natural and cultural resources, including the Old Point Loma Lighthouse. From 1855–1891, it stood watch over the entrance to San Diego Bay. It remains a sentinel to a vanished past, with its refurbished historic 1880s interior. The area is a favorite for CASAs and their case children to explore, including the tide pools where starfish abound.

THINK! PLAY! CREATE!
The New Children’s Museum is a new model of children’s museum whose mission is to stimulate imagination, creativity, and critical thinking in children and families through inventive and engaging experiences with contemporary art. Children of all ages can experience the arts in ways that are meaningful to them, whether it’s an energetic romp through a climbing structure or a thoughtful sculpting of a clay figure. Through VFC’s “Fostering Culture” program, this museum and many others in San Diego offer free admission to CASAs and their case children, giving them a chance to be creative, to learn, and to spend time together.

HELPING MINDS GROW
In 2013, the new Central Library of San Diego opened its doors—a magnificent signature building for San Diego, topped with an iconic steel-and-mesh dome, designed by Rob Wellington Quigley, FAIA. The library has also become a highly desirable gathering place with a vast collection of books and special collections, including the second largest collection of baseball memorabilia in the United States. It also has an exceptional and imaginative art collection. The Central Library is a favorite place for CASAs to bring their children. It has a wonderful Dr. Seuss-themed Children’s Library, and CASAs can help inspire their case children to embrace the magic of books and all the library has to offer.

THE PHOTOS OF THE CHILDREN AND CASAS WERE TAKEN ON LOCATION AT CABRILLO NATIONAL MONUMENT, THE NEW CHILDREN’S MUSEUM, AND THE CENTRAL LIBRARY DOWNTOWN. WE THANK EACH OF THESE ORGANIZATIONS FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THIS PUBLICATION.