



Dear Volunteers,

Nineteen years ago, I began my career with Voices for Children as the training coordinator through the CASA AmeriCorps program. I quickly learned in my first year here that I had found my passion, and I was fortunate to be offered a permanent position once my AmeriCorps term ended. After two years as training coordinator, I transitioned to advocacy supervisor, then program manager, and finally a vice president. I have always found joy daily in my work at VFC and enthusiastically embraced its mission, so it is truly bittersweet that I will be retiring from Voices for Children after 19 years on November 13, 2015.

My time at Voices for Children has been an amazing journey. I have learned so much from the dedicated staff, our committed volunteers, and, of course, our truly courageous and inspiring children. I have grown both professionally and personally from the opportunities I have had here at VFC. As a fierce advocate in seeking solutions and resources on how we can better help children and volunteers, I am happy to leave a legacy of programs and services that continue, such as establishing CASAs as prime educational advocates/rights holders, Advocate University Educational Advocacy training, San Pasqual Academy Liaison Project, Group Home Liaisons, Drop in Small Groups, and, most recently, coordinating the database conversion and overseeing the Riverside Initiative.

I have often been asked, what attracted me to Voices for Children and how I can work in a field with such tragedy day in and day out? My answer is simple: I came wanting to help vulnerable children but stayed because of our wonderful volunteers. The countless experiences of our selfless CASAs transforming the lives of our most vulnerable children have been motivating and inspiring. As Winnie the Pooh says, "How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard." I will miss this greatly, but I will always have a special place in my heart for the work of this remarkable organization.

—Cindy Charron