



# News Release

Board of Directors  
FY2017-2018

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Starry Starry Night Gala Raises \$1.16 Million in Support of Voices for Children 2017 Event Chaired by Lany and Alex Zikakis**

**(September 20, 2017) San Diego, CA** — Starry Starry Night, the signature event of [Voices for Children](#) (VFC), was held on Saturday, September 9, 2017, and raised net proceeds of more than \$1.16 million in support of Voices for Children and its volunteer Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program. With the funds raised, Voices for Children will be able to provide a CASA volunteer to more than 450 abused, abandoned, or neglected children in San Diego County for an entire year.

**DETAILS:** Guests enjoyed an elegant cocktail hour in the Sahm Estate's pool house featuring signature creations by Snake Oil Cocktail Co. Sophisticated décor by event producer Janice Dodge incorporated the beauty of the orange groves and Rancho Santa Fe hills, and Chef Andrew Spurgin teamed up with Culinary Concepts to serve a gourmet dinner under the stars. Guests bid on a competitive Live Auction, including a week at the coveted Esperanza resort in Cabo San Lucas and a 1923 Model T. Donors raised their paddles to directly Fund-a-CASA, generously giving more than \$875,000 to provide caring advocates for local foster children. The evening concluded with celebratory dancing, drinks, and desserts.

A highlight of the event was the premiere of "[The Best Gift](#)," by filmmaker Alex Juutilainen, telling the story of Rosie Burton, a former foster youth whose life was transformed by the dedication of her CASA, Dawna Marshall. Rosie's story showcases the simple yet profound ways a CASA can break the cycle of pain and abuse suffered by children in the foster care system.

Reflecting on the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Starry Starry Night, Voices for Children President/CEO, Sharon M. Lawrence, Esq., thanked all of the evening's supporters for their generosity, "This year's Starry Starry Night was a milestone in so many ways. In its 15<sup>th</sup> year, the event raised record support for our CASA program. These funds will ensure that more than 450 foster children in San Diego County will have their own CASA volunteer for an entire year. We are so grateful to our Starry Starry Night chairs, Lany and Alex Zikakis, and to all the donors whose generosity will make it possible for Voices for Children to reach its goal of serving 3,200 children in San Diego County this year."

**WHO:** Event chairs Lany and Alex Zikakis welcomed more than 430 Voices for Children friends and supporters, including many members of the Voices for Children [Board of Directors](#) and the Gala Honorary Committee: Sally and Bill Anderson, Kathryn Ashworth, Esq. and the Hon. Thomas Ashworth III (Ret.), Lisa Bartkowski, Mary and Rolf Benirschke, Stephanie Bergsma and Dwight Hare, Rochelle and Bill Bold, Annette and Dan Bradbury, Karen and Dr. James Brailean, Jessica Cline, Nancy and David Doyle, Ann Parode Dynes and Dr. Robert C. Dynes, Mary Ann and Derek Eisele, Gina and Ray Ellis, Lisette and Mick Farrell, Cambra and Randy Finch, Audrey Geisel, Hanna and Mark Gleiberman, AnneElise and Andy Goetz, Lynn Gorguze and Congressman Scott Peters, The Hon. Susan Huguenor (Ret.) and Thomas Huguenor, Yolanda and Jimmy Janacek, Julie and Tom Karlo, Melissa and Erbin Keith, Nancy Kidder and Bob Stefanko, Linda and Richard Kintz, George Lai, Kristen Livingston, Devon and William Logan, Patsy and David Marino, Marina Marrelli and Robert

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The evenings sponsors included Gold Sponsors Capstone Advisors, Farrell Family Foundation, Hughes Marino, George Lai, Qualcomm, RPR Partners, LLP, and Silvergate Bank; Silver Sponsor MG Properties Group; Bronze Sponsors Finch Thornton Baird LLP, Genentech, KPBS, Mitchell International, The San Diego Foundation, SDG&E, and Katie and Dan Sullivan. Visit [www.SSN2017.org](http://www.SSN2017.org) to view the full list of sponsors and underwriters.

**WHERE:** Sahm Estate at Del Dios Ranch, home of the late Ramona and Roland Sahm

**WHEN:** Saturday, September 9, 5:30 – 11:00 p.m.

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**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 CASAs and staff advocated on behalf of more than 3,400 foster children across San Diego and Riverside Counties. For more information, visit [www.speakupnow.org](http://www.speakupnow.org).