

Program Report

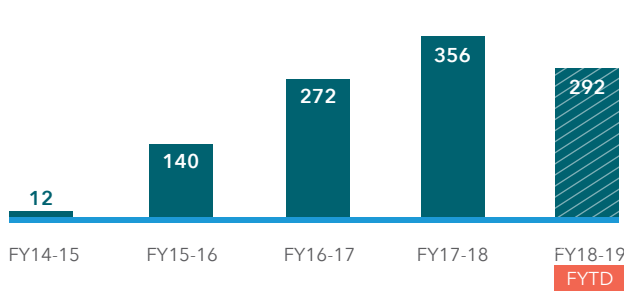
Riverside County | FY2018-2019 | Statistics through October 31, 2018



Growing to Meet the Need

Voices for Children (VFC) believes that every child deserves a safe and permanent home and, to that end, will provide trained CASA volunteers to abused, abandoned, or neglected children, and advocate to improve the lives of children in the foster care system. This year, we estimate more than 4,500 children will spend time in Riverside County's foster care system. Since July 1, 2018, VFC has provided a CASA to 292 children across the county. There are currently 128 children on our waiting list to receive a CASA.

RIVERSIDE COUNTY CHILDREN SERVED



10
CASAs have served for 3+ years



July 1 - Oct 31

RECRUITING & TRAINING CASA VOLUNTEERS

Voices for Children is dedicated to spreading awareness about the role of a CASA and the need for more volunteers to speak up for local foster children. Those interested in becoming a CASA begin by attending an Information Session, followed by a formal application, interview process, and thorough background checks. Once accepted, volunteers attend Advocate University, an online and in-person training program that prepares CASAs for their important role.

▶ *Since July 1, 2018, VFC responded to 301 volunteer inquiries, hosted 11 Info Sessions for prospective volunteers, and led 3 Advocate University trainings, averaging 11 graduates per class.*

THE CASA PROGRAM: 'EYES AND EARS' FOR THE COURT, 'VOICES' FOR CHILDREN

CASAs have two key objectives: get to know their child in order to understand his or her needs, worries, hopes, and dreams; and use that information to advocate for the child's best interest to the judge making decisions on the case.

- **34** new CASA volunteers graduated from Advocate University
- CASAs attended **95 hearings** and submitted **118 court reports**
- CASAs donated **2,764 hours** valued at **\$80k+**

CASA VOLUNTEER SATISFACTION SURVEY

The role of a CASA is a unique experience, requiring a higher level of commitment than the average volunteer role. However, it is our goal to continually increase our retention rates by providing the best volunteer experience possible and by recognizing our CASAs for their dedication. During Q1, we conducted a volunteer satisfaction survey, which provided valuable insight into our volunteer experience. Some key takeaways include:

- **90% of CASAs feel VFC is well organized and feel comfortable approaching appropriate staff when they need assistance on their case**
- **95% of CASAs report their assigned, professional staff supervisor responds to their needs in a timely manner**

From July 1 - October 31, 2018, Voices for Children staff and volunteers advocated on behalf of

292

children and youth newborn through age 21.

During that time,

226

community members served as CASA volunteers in Riverside County.

\$2,000

allows Voices for Children to recruit, train, and support a CASA for an entire year.