



News Release

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FY2018-2019

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Voices for Children Receives \$35K Grant from Rancho Santa Fe Women's Fund

(May 30, 2019) SAN DIEGO— Voices for Children (VFC) was awarded a grant by the Rancho Santa Fe Women's Fund (RSFWF) in the amount of \$35,000 for their Transition Age Youth (TAY) program. Through TAY, VFC's trained, volunteer Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) meet the urgent and critical needs of children between the ages of 16 and 21 in San Diego County foster care.

The members of the Rancho Santa Fe Women's Fund (RSFWF) select two focus areas annually, and a Grants Committee vets grant requests before presenting them to the membership for a vote. On May 15, 2019, the RSFWF hosted its Annual Grant Awards event at the Del Mar Country Club, where a total of \$292,500 was granted to 11 nonprofit organizations in San Diego County, the largest amount ever granted in a single year by the RSFWF.

VFC's CASAs provide stability for youth in foster care by advocating to ensure their needs are being met. Specially trained TAY volunteers assist their case children with many critical life skills, including financial management, employment, housing, health care, and general self-sufficiency. While CASAs often serve as mentors and role models for youth, these advocates are additionally granted the opportunity to provide valuable information to the court to help judges make the most informed decisions for youths' futures. This unique volunteer work helps reduce the likelihood of poverty, homelessness, and a cycle of dependency.

For \$2,500, VFC is able to provide the necessary training and ongoing support for a CASA volunteer for an entire year.

TAY are at risk for a myriad of negative outcomes, including homelessness, unemployment, poor academic attainment, and commercial sexual exploitation of children. Since TAY typically lack a supportive family network, a CASA may be the only consistent and caring adult presence in their lives, helping them succeed during their transition to adulthood.

In addition to TAY, VFC is actively involved in the cases of all children, from ages 0 – 21, who enter San Diego County foster care. For more information on Voices for Children and for ways to get involved, please visit www.speakupnow.org.

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ABOUT VOICES FOR CHILDREN

Founded in 1980, Voices for Children (VFC) transforms the lives of abused, neglected, and abandoned children in foster care in San Diego and Riverside Counties by providing them with trained volunteer Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs). CASA volunteers advocate for a foster child or sibling group in Court, school, and in the community to ensure their needs are met. VFC believes that every child deserves a safe and permanent home, and strives to provide



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a CASA volunteer to every child in the foster care system who needs one. Last year, VFC CASAs and staff advocated on behalf of more than 3,200 foster children across San Diego and Riverside Counties. For more information, visit www.speakupnow.org.