



# News Release

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FY2018-2019

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## Focusing Philanthropy is matching donations to Voices for Children's CASA program in Riverside County

**(July 2, 2019) RIVERSIDE, CA**—Voices for Children (VFC) is seeking the community's support to secure \$100,000 in matching funds from Focusing Philanthropy, an organization dedicated to finding and supporting charities who are effectively addressing severe human challenges and root causes of unmet need. In order to meet the match, VFC must raise \$200,000 in gifts of \$500 or more from private individuals. The funds raised through the "Fostering Growth" campaign will catalyze the growth of VFC's Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program in Riverside County.

The "Fostering Growth" campaign launched on January 4, 2019, with an initial gift of \$50,000 from Diane and Paul Goldring Garrett of BetterWorld Trust. Since then, the organization has raised \$132,000 toward the campaign's goal and must raise the remaining \$68,000 by November 15, 2019.

Court Appointed Special Advocate volunteers are matched one-on-one with a child or sibling group in foster care. A CASA spends time with the child, works to understand their needs, communicates with professionals on the case including social workers and attorneys, and advocates for the child's best interest to the judge who is making decisions about the child's future.

Since beginning to serve Riverside County in 2015, VFC has grown to serve more than 400 of the region's children annually. However, thousands of children spend time in the county's child welfare system each year. As the only nonprofit organization designated by the court to operate the CASA program in Riverside County, VFC is seeking to grow its CASA program to reach more children who need an advocate.

In Riverside County, it costs just \$2,000 to recruit, train, and support a CASA volunteer for one child for an entire year. With the funds raised through the "Fostering Growth" campaign, VFC will be able to support an additional 150 children.

To qualify for the match, donations of \$500 or more must be directed to Focusing Philanthropy. Donations are fully tax deductible and 100 percent of funds contributed will go to the "Fostering Growth" Riverside County campaign. All Focusing Philanthropy costs are covered by its founders.

For more information on making a contribution, visit [www.speakupnow.org/focusing-philanthropy](http://www.speakupnow.org/focusing-philanthropy) or contact Jennifer Richard at [jenniferr@speakupnow.org](mailto:jenniferr@speakupnow.org) or 951-534-1043.

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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

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](http://www.speakupnow.org).

**ABOUT FOCUSING PHILANTHROPY**

Focusing Philanthropy is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that believes donations should be made with the same level of strategic intent, information, and confidence as other investments. The organization targets serious human challenges that individual donors can successfully address; chooses tactics that are demonstrably effective; identifies confidence-inspiring implementing partners; conducts ongoing monitoring, and assures substantive reporting. These services are provided free to both donors and partners in an effort to scale interventions that work.