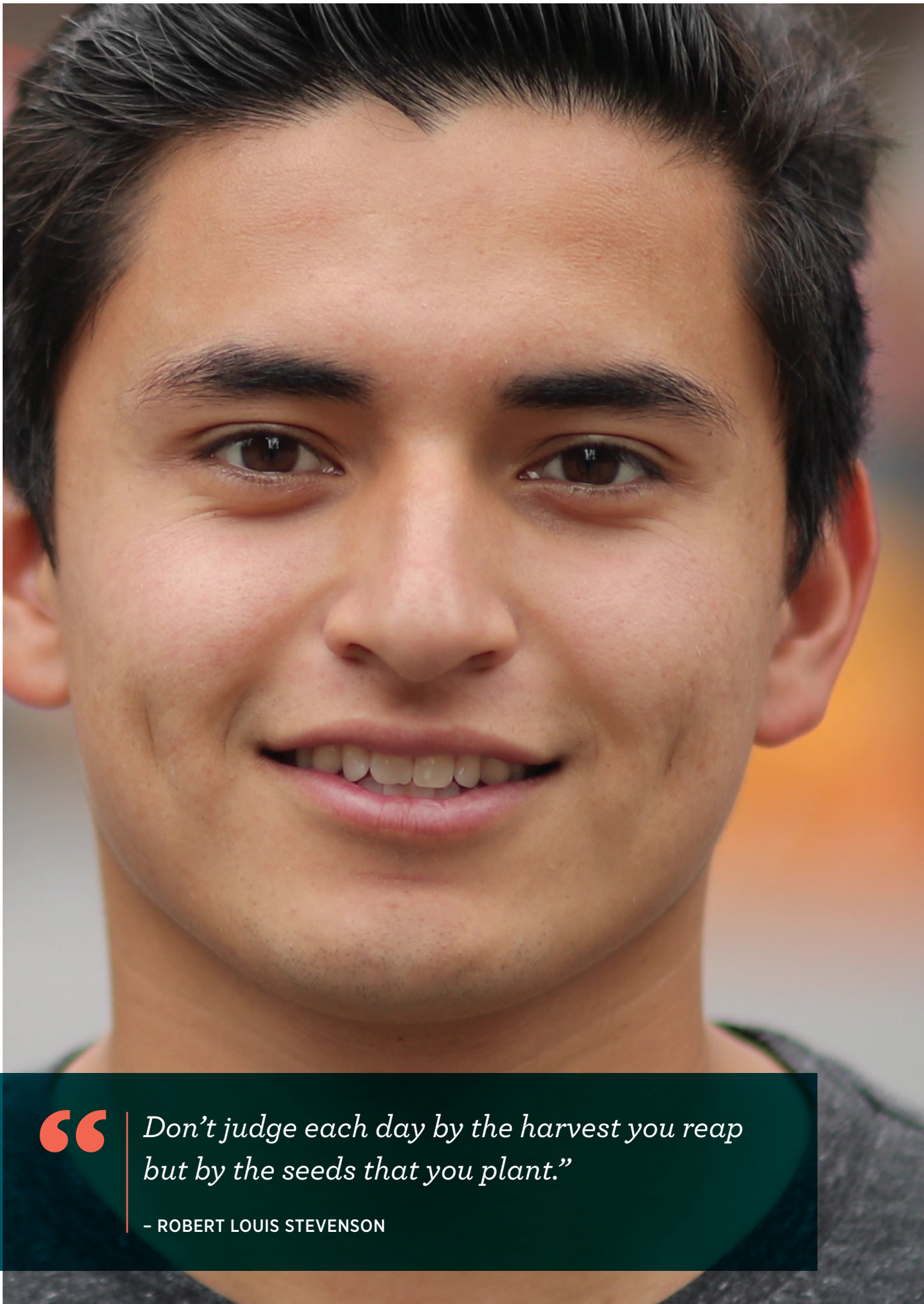




**FY2019-2020  
IMPACT REPORT**





“

*Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap  
but by the seeds that you plant.”*

— ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON

FROM THE BOARD CHAIR AND PRESIDENT & CEO

Dear Friends,

During this most extraordinary of years, we have witnessed hurt and struggle across our community. At the same time, many have stepped up in remarkable ways to make a difference in the lives of others. We at Voices for Children are grateful for the opportunity to bring our community together to transform the lives of our most vulnerable children in foster care.

Every child deserves to have someone in their corner — a consistent and caring adult who knows them and who can advocate on their behalf to ensure that they are safe and have the resources they need to thrive. For many abused, neglected, and abandoned children in foster care, that person is their volunteer Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) — recruited, trained, and supported by Voices for Children.

During the pandemic, CASA volunteers have provided a consistent presence to children during a time of social isolation. They have been fierce education advocates for their children to reduce the potential for learning loss. They have responded to children in crisis and connected them with vital resources. They have connected older youth with food, housing, and other resources to provide stability during a time of significant uncertainty. Importantly, when many things in the world came to a halt, CASA volunteers continued to provide regular reports and crucial information to our local Juvenile Court judges to assist them as they make life-altering decisions impacting children and their futures.

We are pleased to present our Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Impact Report. Even through the challenges presented by the pandemic, nearly 1,400 dedicated community members served as CASA volunteers through Voices for Children, contributing more than 114,000 hours to improving the lives of children in foster care. In San Diego, we served all 3,790 children in San Diego County’s foster care system through advocacy, case monitoring, or case assessment. In Riverside County, we continued to expand our program, providing CASAs to 434 children. Our Juvenile Justice program in San Diego County continues to grow, serving 92 youth last year.

Thank you for being a champion for our mission and the children we serve. On behalf of our Board of Directors, CASA volunteers, staff, our many stakeholders, and the children we serve, thank you for your continued support!

With gratitude,

*Kelly Capen Douglas*

Kelly Capen Douglas, Esq.  
President & CEO

*AnneElise Goetz*

AnneElise Goetz, Esq.  
Chair, Board of Directors



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# VOICES FOR CHILDREN

## *Transforming lives, one child at a time*

It is often said that children are our future. Driven by our core value to cherish children and put them first, we are inspired by the potential wrapped up in each child's life.

### MISSION

Voices for Children transforms the lives of abused, abandoned, or neglected children by providing them with trained, volunteer Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs).

Each day across San Diego and Riverside Counties, caring and compassionate volunteers are advocating on behalf of children who have experienced abuse and neglect. Although they may not see the results of their work today, or tomorrow, or even next year, these volunteers are planting seeds which will produce immeasurable fruit in the lives of children and in our society.

Voices for Children (VFC) is a private, nonprofit organization with a mission to speak up on behalf of children in foster care by providing them with Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteers. With the support and training of the team at VFC, CASAs dedicate their time to amplifying a child's voice and ensuring their needs are being met.

Last year, Voices for Children staff and nearly 1,400 CASAs together served more than 4,200 children in San Diego and Riverside Counties.

## COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE (CASA)

### *An anchor amidst chaos*

Children deserve safety, stability, and love. Yet children who find themselves in foster care have experienced abuse and neglect. On top of the trauma they have endured, children face the realities of growing up in an often-impersonal, bureaucratic system.

Voices for Children was founded in 1980 by law student Kathryn Ashworth and social worker Elizabeth Bacon with the intention of mitigating the devastating effects of child abuse and long-term foster care. They adopted an emerging volunteer model in which volunteers, called Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs), are enlisted to ensure greater stability and better life outcomes for youth.

The Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program fills a gap in the foster care system by ensuring that the needs of foster youth do not fall through the cracks. While social workers, attorneys, and judges are inundated with cases, CASAs are matched with a single child or sibling group, allowing CASAs to provide foster children with an unparalleled level of attention.

Appointed by a judge to serve on a child’s case, a CASA spends time with the child, seeks to

understand the child’s situation, and reports back to the court about the child’s needs. By building a trusting relationship with that child, a CASA is able to help the judge understand not only their situation but also what they like to do, how they are doing in their placement, or why they may be struggling in a particular school setting. This individualized advocacy helps judges make the most informed decisions for children’s futures.

# ADVOCACY THROUGH DIFFICULT TIMES

Children in foster care are disproportionately impacted by economic and social disparities, racial inequities, physical and mental health challenges, and the effects of trauma. When the outside world feels uncertain and their needs are exacerbated, it is all the more important for children to have the consistent support of an adult who can advocate on their behalf.

## COVID-19

The COVID-19 crisis has changed the world in ways beyond what we can imagine. It will have a lasting impact on our community, including the children we serve, our volunteers, and our staff at Voices for Children. In early spring, we closely monitored the situation both locally and nationally, remaining in close and regular communication with court and county officials in both San Diego and Riverside Counties. Through every twist and turn, CASAs have continued supporting their youth, including by advocating for their needs via written court reports and, now that court hearings have resumed, through

telephonic and virtual appearances at those hearings. CASAs have maintained and even strengthened bonds with children by continuing to check in, help with virtual learning, play games, send care packages, read books, cook together, and more. Their dedication has been truly inspiring, and we could not be more grateful for their perseverance and care for our children.

## RACIAL INJUSTICE

The late Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg once said, “Real change, enduring change, happens one step at a time.” Over the course of the summer, events that transpired locally and on the national stage challenged Voices for Children to evaluate ways in which we could contribute to greater diversity, equity, and inclusion within our organization and in our community for the benefit of the children we serve. With initial steps including staff training and the formation of a staff-led committee focused on diversity, equity, and inclusion, our team is eager to contribute to racial justice.

“*All the flowers of all the tomorrows are in the seeds of today.*”  
– INDIAN PROVERB

# STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

## FY2018-2019 & FY2019-2020

REVENUES	FY2018-2019	FY2019-2020
Gifts and Contributions	\$2,972,069	\$3,895,693
Special Events (less direct benefits)	\$1,842,206	\$1,415,576
Government Funding	\$1,402,264	\$1,445,753
Contributed Goods, Services, and Facilities	\$94,643	\$87,013
Net Realized/Unrealized Gain on Marketable Securities	\$3,719	(\$12,477)
Other Income	\$21,140	\$890,522
Total Revenue	\$6,336,041	\$7,722,080
EXPENSES	FY2018-2019	FY2019-2020
Program	\$5,233,101	\$4,883,748
Management and General	\$318,640	\$422,491
Fundraising	\$963,802	\$844,609
Total Expenses	\$6,515,543	\$6,150,848
Change in Net Assets	\$(179,502)	\$1,571,232
Net Assets at the Beginning of Year	\$2,238,421	\$2,058,919
Net Assets at Year End	\$2,058,919	\$3,630,151



- GIFTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS **50.45%**
- SPECIAL EVENTS **18.33%**
- GOVERNMENT FUNDING **18.72%**
- CONTRIBUTED GOODS, SERVICES, AND FACILITIES **1.13%**
- NET REALIZED/UNREALIZED GAIN ON MARKETABLE SECURITIES **(0.16%)**
- OTHER INCOME **11.53%**



- PROGRAM **79.4%**
- MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL **6.87%**
- FUNDRAISING **13.73%**

# SUPPORT

During FY2019-2020, Voices for Children received generous financial support totaling \$7,722,080. The generosity of our community allowed us to serve 4,224 children across San Diego and Riverside Counties.

## GIFTS, GRANTS, & CONTRIBUTIONS

We are grateful to the many private foundations, individuals, corporations, and service groups who believe in our mission and join us in investing in our community’s children. These contributions will change the trajectory of thousands of lives.

In addition, continued growth in public support for the CASA program has made it possible for VFC to recruit and train more advocates. Most notably, we have received increased support each year since 2016 from the California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services through the U.S. Department of Justice, Victims of Crime Act (VOCA). In total, our percentage of government funding has risen from 11.9% in FY2016-2017 to 18.7% in FY2019-2020.

The enclosed donor listings in this report (see San Diego and Riverside County supplements) represent the broad community support for the work of our CASAs on behalf of our children.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

Special events have historically represented a significant portion of Voices for Children’s funding in San Diego County and have introduced our mission to new supporters and volunteers each year. Through in-person events in 2019 and virtual events in 2020, Voices for Children raised critical funds, grossing a total of \$1,415,576, and expanded awareness of our mission.

## VALUED CONTRIBUTIONS

Voices for Children is considered among the most effective, efficient, and highly regarded children’s charities in the region. It is the largest CASA program in California and the western United States and is considered a top program amongst nearly 1,000 nationwide. We are proud of the efficient model we have built, through which 40 staff members managed the advocacy of nearly 1,400 volunteers who in turn donated more than 114,000 hours of time. Using the value of volunteer time for California calculated by the Independent Sector, their contributions are valued at more than \$3.59 million.

Through both long-term, valued partnerships and newly forged collaborations, Voices for Children received significant in-kind contributions during FY2019-2020, including donated media, special activities for children, development opportunities for staff, and various professional services. These donations totaling \$87,013 afforded us even more opportunities to advocate on behalf of our community’s children.



# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

FY2018-2019 & FY2019-2020

ASSETS	FY2018-2019	FY2019-2020
Current Assets	\$2,376,480	\$3,960,103
Property and Equipment	\$154,918	\$147,955
Other Assets	\$30,225	\$30,225
Total Assets	\$2,561,623	\$4,138,283

LIABILITY AND NET ASSETS	FY2018-2019	FY2019-2020
Current Liabilities	\$502,704	\$508,132
Net Assets – Without Donor Restrictions	\$1,816,928	\$3,391,023
Net Assets – With Donor Restrictions	\$241,991	\$239,128
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$2,561,623	\$4,138,283







“

*A hero is someone who has given his or her life  
to something bigger than oneself.”*

– JOSEPH CAMPBELL

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[CLICK TO VIEW SAN DIEGO COUNTY SUPPLEMENT](#)

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Voices for Children adheres to the “Trauma-Informed Care Code of Conduct” developed by The San Diego Foundation, Clinton Foundation, and the County of San Diego with input from San Diego foster youth.





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

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