

# Program Report

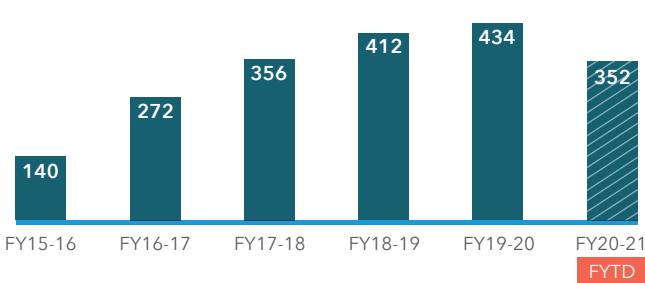
Riverside County | FY2020-2021 | Statistics through Q2



## 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 4,000 children will spend time in Riverside County's foster care system. Since July 1, 2020, VFC provided a CASA to 352 children across the county through the work of 287 CASA volunteers.

### RIVERSIDE COUNTY CHILDREN SERVED



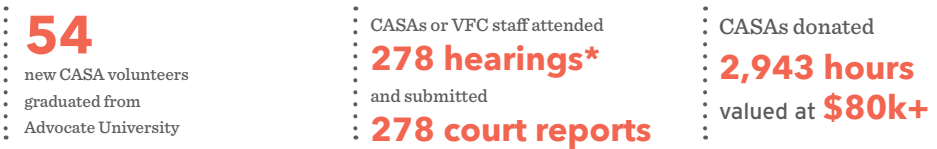
### RECRUITING & TRAINING CASA VOLUNTEERS

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.

- ▶ During FY2019-2020, VFC responded to 449 volunteer inquiries, hosted 38 Volunteer Information Sessions for prospective volunteers, and led 5 Advocate University trainings, averaging 10 graduates per class.
- ▶ VFC's Riverside County team hosted 7 drive-thru celebrations honoring our newest CASAs as they graduated from Advocate University training.

### 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.



\*Due to COVID-19, CASAs and staff currently attend court hearings remotely via telephone.

### RIVERSIDE COUNTY PROGRAM RECOGNITION

Voices for Children was honored to receive a \$25,000 Coachella Valley Spotlight grant from the H.N. and Frances C. Berger Foundation in July 2020 to fund recruitment, training, and ongoing professional support for CASA volunteers serving children in the Coachella Valley. Through a partnership between the H.N. and Frances C. Berger Foundation and Coachella Valley's News Channel 3, VFC was featured on News Channel 3 and on kesq.com. In addition, the Murrieta/Wildomar Chamber of Commerce named VFC the Nonprofit of the Year during a virtual ceremony in October in recognition of our service to children in southwest Riverside County.



July 1  
-  
Dec 31

Since July 1, 2020,  
Voices for Children staff and  
volunteers have advocated on behalf of

352

children and youth  
newborn through age 21.

During that time,

287

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.