Together, we continue to give children a voice.

This year marked six years of service to children in foster care in Riverside County. We are proud to have grown to serve even more children in our sixth year and are grateful for the community that has come alongside us to continue providing exceptional advocacy to children.

Through their care, consistency, and creativity, our CASAs show children that they matter. Through their persistence and advocacy, our CASAs help inform the decisions that will make a tangible difference for children’s futures.

A CASA’S CONSISTENCY MEANS THEY WILL BE THERE WHEN IT MATTERS MOST.

The day-to-day activities of a CASA may involve sending a birthday card, taking a walk at the Temecula Duck Pond, and making phone calls on the child’s behalf. It is through this work that a CASA gains a child’s trust and builds a greater understanding of a child’s needs, equipping them to advocate for the child’s best interest. That birthday may be a child’s first away from the home they’ve always known. Those walks are where a teenager feels stable, learns to trust, and may share how they’re feeling about their current placement. Those phone calls are where a CASA connects with social workers, caregivers, attorneys, or teachers to find just the right resource to improve a child’s education. These are just a few examples of the ordinary and extraordinary ways that a CASA advocates for children and provides them with a sense of normalcy.

THIS YEAR IN RIVERSIDE COUNTY
JULY 1, 2020 - JUNE 30, 2021

- 467 CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE RECEIVED A CASA
- 359 COMMUNITY MEMBERS SERVED AS CASA VOLUNTEERS
A FOREVER HOME

All Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) support youth on their journey to find a safe and permanent home. In some cases, it’s the CASA volunteer who actually makes it happen.

When CASA Carol first met “Ava” and “Aiden,” the siblings were living in a foster home with foster parents who adored them. However, the decision was made to move the children to live with a relative more than 100 miles away. Although Carol was here in Riverside County, this dedicated CASA stayed on the case.

Once in their new living situation, Ava and Aiden started experiencing behavior issues and struggling in school. Through her regular communication with school personnel, other professionals, and the children themselves, CASA Carol learned that the children were being emotionally abused in the home. She also discovered that law enforcement had been called to the house multiple times following reports from concerned neighbors. Carol immediately began advocating for the children to be removed from the relative and returned to the care of their original foster parents. After a year of persistent advocacy, the court approved the move.

Ava and Aiden were finally back in the foster home where they had thrived, but CASA Carol’s work was far from done. She advocated for the children to receive the appropriate services to get them back on track. When their foster parents shared that they wanted to adopt the siblings, Carol was in full support.

Despite obstacles, Carol advocated persistently for this permanent placement. In September 2021, after more than four years on the case, it happened. CASA Carol was in the courtroom when a judge finalized Ava and Aiden’s adoption. The children, now 10 and 9, were relieved and elated to finally have their forever family. Both the children’s attorney and their foster mom who adopted them said that the adoption would not have happened without the CASA. Thanks to CASA Carol’s caring heart and unyielding persistence, two children get to have the loving home and childhood they deserve.
OUR COMMUNITY’S CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE IN RIVERSIDE COUNTY ON JULY 1, 2020*

SEX AT BIRTH
- MALE: 51%
- FEMALE: 49%

ETHNIC GROUP
- BLACK: 17%
- WHITE: 26%
- LATINO: 54%
- ASIAN: 1%
- NATIVE AMERICAN: DATA NOT AVAILABLE
- MULTI: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

AGE GROUP
- 0-5 YEARS: 35%
- 6-10 YEARS: 20%
- 11-15 YEARS: 22%
- 16-17: 11%
- 18-21: 12%

Inspirational Volunteerism

THE GIFT OF TIME
19,000 HOURS VOLUNTEERED

STEPPING UP
127 individuals became CASAs this year, completing Advocate University, Voices for Children’s comprehensive training program for new CASA volunteers.


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- 11-15 YEARS: 22%
- 16-17: 11%
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Our Volunteers

Our CASA volunteers are the heart and soul of our mission. Coming from many backgrounds and walks of life, they share a commitment to speaking up for our community’s most vulnerable children. The following individuals served during FY2020-2021 and have been dedicated Voices for Children CASA volunteers for three or more years.

5+ YEARS
Melanie Fitzgerald
DiAnn Hampton
Lynn Harris
Rhonda Louden
Cathy Perring
Catherine Peterson
Nanette Pratini
Barbara Ragansdale
Deborah Roberts
Melanie Royer
Crystal Swain
Susan Taylor
Kristin Torres
Andrew Boucher
Theresa Brennan
Kara Cannon
Barbara Card
Deborah Cohen
Lisa Curiel
Pauline Daerr
Julie Dawson
Kristine Dorch
Kristina Druhe
Elizabeth Ernst
Cheryl Friesen
Robert Geibert
Robyn Harmon
Shelly Henderson-Cuthbertson
Andree Jessup
Tracey Kloehn
Amber Kolpin
Barbara Lefler
Kelly Lopez
Donna Lucas
Shelley Mitchell
Stacey Morse
Gina Newton
Carmen Ortiz
John Page
Carol Quance
Christina Ramirez
Anahi Reynoso
Wendy Richey
Dawn Rose
Diana Seeb
Jamie Serrano
Armando Servin
Stephen Smyth
Tania Starkey
Norman St. Hilaire
Curene Stoltz
Christian Tafoya
Samantha Tajalli Tehrani
Jasmine Valdez
Diane Valenzuela
Sara Wolpert

3+ YEARS
Pushpa Ananthanarayan
Rhonda Andrus
Jessica Baldwin Bookland
Michael Beauchart
Stacey Morse
Gina Newton
Carmen Ortiz
John Page
Carol Quance
Christina Ramirez
Anahi Reynoso
Wendy Richey
Dawn Rose
Diana Seeb
Jamie Serrano
Armando Servin
Stephen Smyth
Tania Starkey
Norman St. Hilaire
Curene Stoltz
Christian Tafoya
Samantha Tajalli Tehrani
Jasmine Valdez
Diane Valenzuela
Sara Wolpert

Our Community Partners

COLLABORATING AGENCIES
Assistance League of Temecula Valley
BNI of Riverside and San Bernardino Counties
California School of the Deaf – Riverside
County of Riverside, Department of Public Social Services
County of Riverside, Probation Department and Southwest Juvenile Hall
E. Hale Curran Elementary School
Greater Riverside Chamber of Commerce
Hearts and Hands – Assistance League of Riverside
Murrieta/Wildomar Chamber of Commerce
Palm Desert Area Chamber of Commerce
One Simple Wish
Regional Access Project Foundation
Riverside County Office of Education
Superior Court of California, Riverside County – Juvenile Division
TEAM Referral Network Riverside Lunch Chapter
TribalSTAR

'FOSTERING CULTURE’ PARTNERS
March Field Air Museum
Palm Springs Air Museum
Palm Springs Art Museum
Riverside Art Museum
Our Supporters

Our work is made possible thanks to the generosity and support of many individuals, companies, foundations, government agencies, and other community partners. We are grateful to the following donors who made financial gifts of $100 or more between July 1, 2020, and June 30, 2021.

$400,000+
David J. Dunn

$100,000+
California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services
Riverside County Transportation Commission

$50,000+
Jocelyn Bauer/The Bauer Foundation
County of Riverside EDA CDBG Program (HUD)
Focusing Philanthropy
Judicial Council of California

$20,000+
Anonymous (2)
City of Moreno Valley CDBG (HUD)
Desert Healthcare District
God’s Gift
Inland Southern California United Way
In-N-Out Burger Foundation
Susan Rigney

$15,000+
Regional Access Project Foundation

$10,000+
Irene W. and Guy L. Anderson Children’s Foundation
Bank of America Charitable Foundation
City of Hemet CDBG (HUD)
City of Riverside CDBG (HUD)
National CASA/GAL Association
Nordstrom Charitable Giving
Riverside County District Attorney’s Office
San Manuel Band of Mission Indians
U.S. Bank Foundation
Western Wind Foundation

$5,000+
100 Women Who Care Riverside-Corona
B.P.O.E. Lodge #643
City of Temecula CDBG (HUD)
Desert Community Foundation
Mechanics Bank
Pacific Premier Bank
Pacific Western Bank
Rite Aid Foundation KidCents
Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians
Trilogy La Quinta

$1,000+
Anonymous (3)
Assistance League Of Temecula Valley
BigHorn Golf Club Charities
City of Indio
Pamela Dawber
Clarissa and Frederick De Jesus
Kelly and Jeffrey Douglas
Facebook
Foresters Financial
Phil Googe
Brad Horwitz
Jersey Mike’s
Deborah L. Johnson
Liz Jones
Jane Jonkhoff
LSC Performance, Inc.
Nancy Lindsay
Provident Savings Bank Charitable Foundation
Yadira Rike
Dorian and William Sailer
Schwab Charitable Fund
Stephen Smyth and Jeff Tonjes
The Office of Supervisor Jeff Hewitt, Riverside County
Board of Supervisors District 5, Community Improvement Designation (CID) Fund
The Office of Supervisor V. Manuel Perez, Riverside County
Board of Supervisors District 4, Community Improvement Designation (CID) Fund
The Office of Supervisor Karen Spiegel, Riverside County
Board of Supervisors District 2, Community Improvement Designation (CID) Fund
MEMORIALS & TRIBUTES

The following individuals were honored by their loved ones with gifts between July 1, 2020, and June 30, 2021.

Steve D. Atkins†
Jana Carlson
Ramona De La Torre†
Steven Elliott
Peggy Huetten
Liz Jones

Robert Galluzzo
Susan Goodsell
Carmen and Jerry Herrera
Lucy and Frank Heyming
Tracey and David Kloehn
Lauren E. McGinley
Martha McGowan
Jane Mills
Cathy Perring
Ross Stores, Inc.
Michelle and Gregory Swartz
Kristin Torres

Kappa Alpha Theta-Inland Southern California Alumnae Chapter
Sarah Kattus
Barbara Lefler
Jason Loftis
Rhonda Louden
Sophia Lukas
Rita Luevanos-Castro
Christine and Dennis Mahr
Thomas Miles
Stan Morrison
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Sally and Kit Narodick
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Sharon and Leopold Seelig
Sarah R. Simonds
Joshua Smith
Aadila and Brian St. Clair
Morgan Timberlake
Nancy E. Turner
United Way California Capital Region
Richard E. Wells
Katherine O. Wider
Shannon Williams
Kathy and Harry Wing
Yourcause.com

† Deceased