

**FY2020-2021  
IMPACT REPORT**





FROM THE BOARD CHAIR AND PRESIDENT & CEO

Dear Friends,

As our community emerges from the past year and looks ahead, we have many reasons to be hopeful and optimistic. Many businesses are beginning to recover, children are returning to face-to-face learning, and we are once again able to gather with loved ones. Yet the challenges faced by abused and neglected children living in foster care remain especially acute. Isolation, instability, placement changes, disrupted education, and mental health struggles are just a few of the many obstacles preventing them from experiencing a stable childhood.

Through Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteers recruited, trained, and supported by Voices for Children, children benefit from crucial advocacy and caring support so that they can overcome challenges and thrive. CASA volunteers are tireless advocates for children in court, in schools, in health care settings, and in the community. A CASA also provides a stable and consistent presence to children whose lives are riddled with uncertainty and change. A key predictor of a child's ability to overcome the negative impacts of trauma is the presence of a caring and constant adult in their life. For many children in foster care, that person is their CASA.

We are pleased to present our Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Impact Report. This year, nearly 1,400 dedicated community members served as CASA volunteers through Voices for Children. In San Diego County, we provided advocacy through our CASAs and staff to 1,985 children and assessed the cases of all 1,167 children who entered the foster care system. In Riverside County, we continued to expand our program, providing CASAs to 467 children. Our Juvenile Justice program in San Diego County continues to grow, serving more than 110 youth last year.

We know that tomorrow's children in foster care will need the advocacy and support of CASA volunteers. With that in mind, we are delighted to share that in June 2021, following a collaborative process that included extensive input from our various stakeholders, our Board of Directors approved our new Strategic Plan. The plan is grounded in our mission to provide a CASA to every child who needs one and to advance our vision to serve every child in the foster care system through our advocacy, case monitoring, and case assessment services. Over the next three years, we will invest in our community's children through a series of initiatives that will drive our commitment to providing exceptional advocacy and support to our region's most vulnerable youth.

Our work is possible thanks to the generous, caring, and thoughtful support of our community. On behalf of all of us at Voices for Children, thank you for being a champion of our mission and the children we serve!

With gratitude,

*Kelly Capen Douglas*

Kelly Capen Douglas, Esq.  
President & CEO

*Anne Elise Goetz*

AnneElise Goetz, Esq.  
Chair, Board of Directors



# LEADERSHIP

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# Our experiences in childhood shape us.

From familiar smells to relational cues, the earliest memories mold a person’s preferences, outlook, and even brain development. Children who are abused and neglected don’t just experience pain in the moment. They are forever changed by the impact of trauma.

# One caring adult can make all the difference for a child who has experienced trauma.

Voices for Children is a private, nonprofit organization that recruits, trains, and supports Court Appointed Special Advocate volunteers (CASAs) who speak up for the needs and well-being of children in foster care.

*“It just takes one stable relationship with a caring adult to help reverse the negative impacts on a child who’s experienced abuse or neglect.”*


**- Dr. Nadine Burke Harris,  
Surgeon General of California**

Recognizing the powerful impact of a CASA volunteer, Surgeon General of California Dr. Nadine Burke Harris explained, “It just takes one stable relationship with a caring adult to help reverse the negative impacts on a child who’s experienced abuse or neglect.” For many children in foster care, that relationship is with their CASA.

Voices for Children matches a child with a CASA volunteer who gets to know their situation and then advocates to ensure their needs are being met. At regular court hearings required for all children in foster care, CASAs report on the child’s progress, providing critical information to judges who are making decisions about their futures.


Founded in 1980, Voices for Children celebrated our 40th year of service to children in San Diego County this year. In 2015, we began serving children in Riverside County foster care and have grown to support more children in the region each year.

This year, we reached thousands of children across San Diego and Riverside Counties through the exceptional advocacy of specially-trained CASA volunteers.



3,729

CHILDREN SERVED BY VOICES FOR CHILDREN  
ACROSS SAN DIEGO AND RIVERSIDE COUNTIES



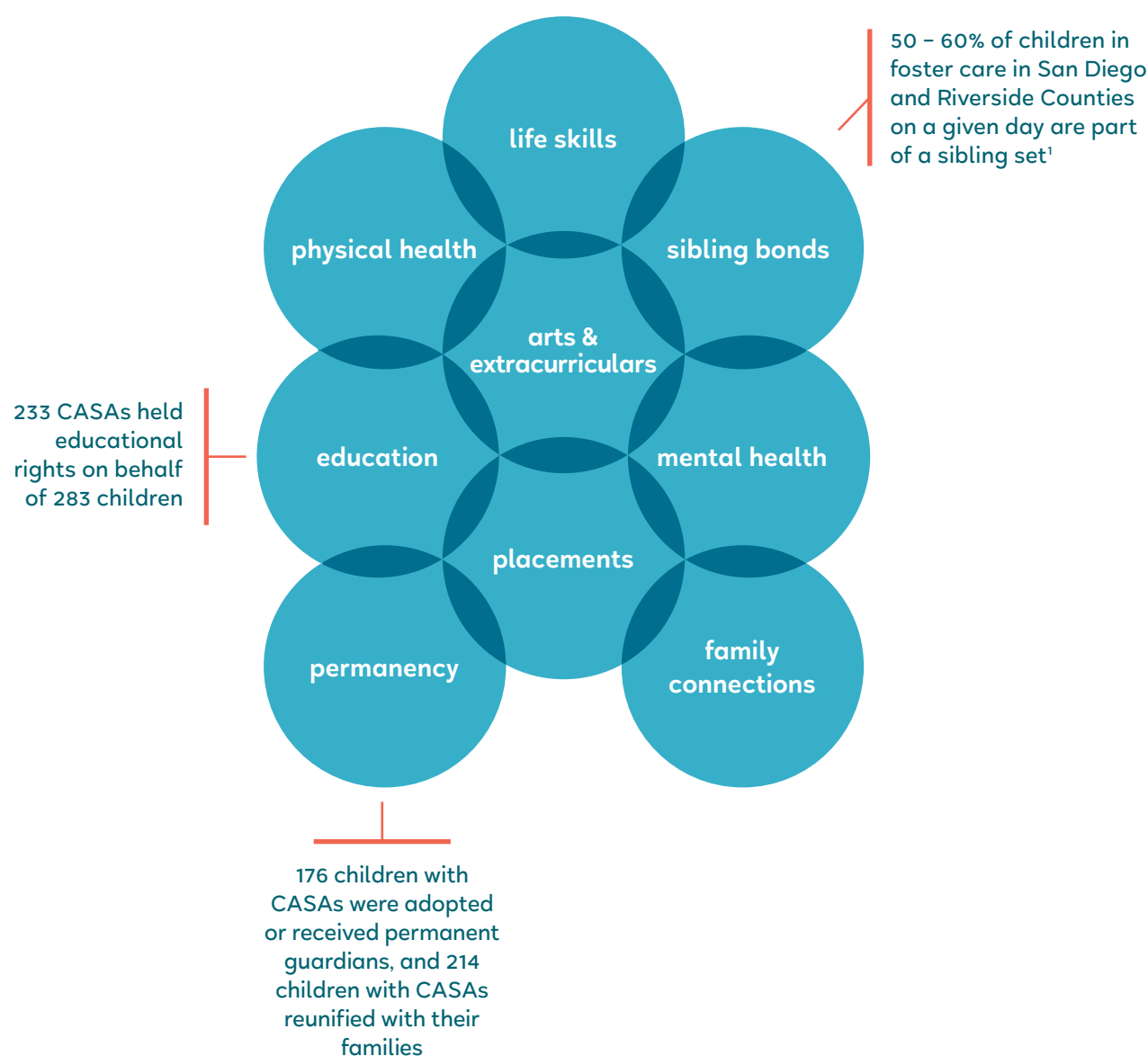
1,379

COMMUNITY MEMBERS SERVED AS  
CASA VOLUNTEERS

4

# Exceptional advocacy begins with understanding.

A CASA’s advocacy is unique because it is based on an individualized understanding of the child’s needs. A CASA spends time with the child and speaks with the child’s teachers, caregivers, therapists, social workers, and others. Equipped with critical information about the child, the CASA then identifies needed resources and advocates for them in court, schools, health care settings, and the community.



<sup>1</sup> San Diego County HHSA Child Welfare Services dashboard (July 2021)

# STABILITY DURING A PANDEMIC

When the world feels unpredictable, it is all the more important for children to have the consistent support of an adult who can advocate on their behalf. Despite court closures, virtual hearings, stay-home orders, and social distancing restrictions, CASAs continued to be tenacious advocates, creative problem-solvers, and a caring and consistent presence for their children. As an organization, Voices for Children has changed, stretched, and grown, improving our use of technology to reach prospective volunteers and serve our current CASAs, and implementing new opportunities for CASAs to connect with children and enhance their advocacy.



# COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

We believe the children we serve – a diverse population from across our region – should be safe, have a permanent home, and have an opportunity to thrive. That is only possible when inclusivity and equity are embraced across every area of our organization. Led by our Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Awareness, and Action (IDEAA) Council, teams across the organization have implemented important advances, including enhanced training for CASA volunteers and our staff on diversity, identifying bias, and how to support children with varied backgrounds and needs.

In the spring and summer of 2021, Voices for Children participated in the Human Rights Campaign Foundation’s All Children-All Families program, which aims to improve the services child welfare agencies provide to the LGBTQ+ community, including children in foster care. We were honored to earn the Innovative Inclusion Tier of Recognition, the highest level of recognition granted to organizations that go above and beyond to support LGBTQ+ youth and families.



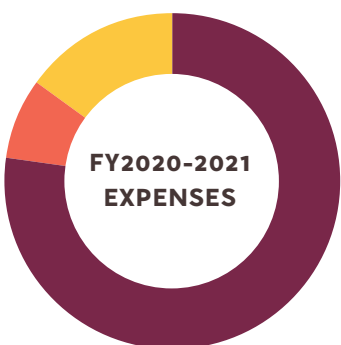
# STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

## FY2019-2020 & FY2020-2021

REVENUES	FY2019-2020	FY2020-2021
Gifts and Contributions	\$3,895,693	\$4,263,926
Special Events (less direct benefits)	\$1,415,576	\$1,422,222
Government Funding	\$1,445,753	\$1,678,204
Contributed Goods, Services, and Facilities	\$87,013	\$86,325
Net Realized/Unrealized Gain on Marketable Securities	\$6,549	\$93,139
Other Income	\$870,200	\$1,173,223
Total Revenue	\$7,720,784	\$8,717,039
EXPENSES	FY2019-2020	FY2020-2021
Program	\$4,882,452	\$4,813,154
Management and General	\$422,491	\$479,382
Fundraising	\$844,609	\$930,605
Total Expenses	\$6,149,552	\$6,223,141
Change in Net Assets	\$1,571,232	\$2,493,898
Net Assets at the Beginning of Year	\$2,058,919	\$3,630,151
Net Assets at Year End	\$3,630,151	\$6,124,049



- GIFTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS 48.91%
- SPECIAL EVENTS 16.32%
- GOVERNMENT FUNDING 19.25%
- CONTRIBUTED GOODS, SERVICES, AND FACILITIES 0.99%
- NET REALIZED/UNREALIZED GAIN ON MARKETABLE SECURITIES 1.07%
- OTHER INCOME 13.46%



- PROGRAM 77.34%
- MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL 7.70%
- FUNDRAISING 14.95%



# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

FY2019-2020 & FY2020-2021

ASSETS	FY2019-2020	FY2020-2021
Current Assets	\$3,960,103	\$8,078,910
Property and Equipment	\$147,955	\$151,794
Other Assets	\$30,225	\$30,225
Total Assets	\$4,138,283	\$8,260,929
LIABILITY AND NET ASSETS	FY2019-2020	FY2020-2021
Current Liabilities	\$508,132	\$2,136,880
Net Assets – Without Donor Restrictions	\$3,391,023	\$5,642,525
Net Assets – With Donor Restrictions	\$239,128	\$481,524
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$4,138,283	\$8,260,929



# YOUR SUPPORT IS HELPING TO GIVE CHILDREN A VOICE.

During FY2020-2021, Voices for Children received generous financial support totaling \$8,717,039. Because of you, we were able to serve 3,729 children across San Diego and Riverside Counties.

## GIFTS, GRANTS, & CONTRIBUTIONS

Voices for Children is funded primarily by support from individuals, private foundations, businesses, and service groups who believe in our mission and join us in investing in our community's children. We are grateful for their contributions, which have already impacted thousands of lives and will continue to make a difference for years to come.

In addition, we apply and compete for government grants that allow us to recruit, train, and support CASAs for children in San Diego and Riverside Counties. We are grateful to receive support from the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services through the U.S. Department of Justice, Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), along with various Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) and other community grants awarded by our county and city partners. This year, we are thankful to have received special one-time, COVID-related stimulus funds that allowed us to finish the year in a strong and stable financial position.

We invite you to review the San Diego and Riverside County supplements to this report, which include donor listings showcasing the broad community support for the advocacy of our CASAs.

**1,379** CASA VOLUNTEERS

**117,000** HOURS DONATED

**\$3.9** MILLION IN DONATED TIME\*

**\$86,325** IN-KIND DONATIONS OF MEDIA, SPECIAL ACTIVITIES  
FOR CHILDREN, DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR  
STAFF, AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

*\*According to the Independent Sector, volunteer time in California is valued at \$33.61 per hour.*





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

858-569-2019 | San Diego County  
951-472-9301 | Riverside County

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