



**FY2021-2022
IMPACT REPORT**

MISSION

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

VISION

Voices for Children believes that every child deserves a safe and permanent home and, to that end, will provide a trained CASA volunteer to every abused, abandoned, or neglected child who needs one and advocate to improve the lives of children in the foster care system.

FROM THE BOARD CHAIR AND PRESIDENT & CEO

Dear Friends,

As we reflect on the last year, we are incredibly grateful for the many members of our community who stepped up to make a difference in the lives of youth in foster care. For children who have experienced abuse and neglect and been removed from their homes, a consistent and caring adult who can advocate on their behalf can make all the difference. For many children in foster care, that adult is their Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) recruited, trained, and supported by Voices for Children.

With extraordinary dedication, our CASAs are serving vulnerable youth across San Diego and Riverside Counties. CASAs advocate for their children in Juvenile Court, submitting written reports and appearing at court hearings to ensure judges have the individualized information they need to make decisions about the child's future. CASAs speak up for their children in schools, health care settings, and elsewhere to ensure they have the resources they need to thrive as they navigate the foster care system. CASAs listen to their children to make sure their voices are heard and their needs are met.

All kids deserve to be safe, to feel supported, and the freedom to just be kids. Through regular visits and fun outings, our CASAs do just that by exposing children to new experiences, building trust, developing resiliency, and providing much-needed consistency. This year, 1,310 dedicated community members served as CASA volunteers through Voices for Children. We advocated on behalf of nearly 2,400 youth across San Diego and Riverside Counties and assessed the cases of all 983 children who entered foster care in San Diego County.

As we deliver our CASA program to children currently living in foster care, we also are planning for the future. In June 2021, following a collaborative process that included input from our many stakeholder groups, our Board of Directors approved a new Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan provides a holistic and concise framework for Voices for Children's strength and success in the years to come, addressing programmatic excellence, our visibility in the region, our commitment to recruiting and retaining outstanding CASAs and staff, and our organizational sustainability. During Fiscal Year 2021-2022, our team at Voices for Children commenced the exciting work to put the Strategic Plan into action through a series of 15 ongoing strategic initiatives, all of which support our commitment to provide exceptional advocacy and support to the children we serve.

We are pleased to share with you our Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Impact Report. The service and results reflected in the report are made possible thanks to the generous and caring support of our community. On behalf of all of us at Voices for Children, thank you for your unwavering commitment to the children we serve.

With gratitude,



Kelly Capen Douglas

Kelly Capen Douglas, Esq.
President & CEO



A. Bradbury

Annette Bradbury
Chair, Board of Directors





“My favorite thing about being a CASA is the feeling you get when you improve a child’s life and the knowledge that they feel less alone knowing there is someone in their corner, rooting them on.”

CASA STACY

CASAs are Connectors

Voices for Children (VFC) is the only nonprofit organization authorized by the courts in San Diego and Riverside Counties to match youth in foster care with volunteer Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs). VFC recruits, trains, and supports CASAs to advocate for a child or sibling group in court, in school, and in the community to ensure their needs are met. Simply put, CASAs are connectors.

CASA volunteers connect youth in foster care to vital resources they may not have access to otherwise, such as play therapy for a child experiencing outbursts or temporary housing for a teen on the brink of homelessness. CASAs connect with other members of a child’s care team – including parents, caregivers, teachers, therapists, social workers, attorneys, and more – to find the best ways to support them. CASAs provide human connection, whether taking a child to see live theater for the first time or attending a soccer game so the child knows they have someone cheering for them in the stands. Finally, CASAs write detailed court reports about all aspects of the child’s life. They connect the dots so judges can see the full picture of the child and make the best decisions about their future.

This year, VFC supported **1,310 CASAs** as they advocated for youth in foster care across San Diego and Riverside Counties. However,

hundreds of children throughout the region enter foster care every year. **Each child is counting on VFC to train and support a CASA volunteer who will advocate for them.**

CASA Engagement & Retention and Expanded Community Awareness & Outreach are pillars of our three-year Strategic Plan. We made great strides to advance these objectives this fiscal year. Our Program and Operations teams developed a system where CASAs can access and update their court and case files online, also providing a more efficient way for volunteers to give feedback. Our Recruitment, Philanthropy, and Marketing teams focused on forging strong relationships in the community, securing the necessary financial underpinnings, and finding new opportunities to spread the word about our mission. As a result, CASA retention reached its highest level in years, and we saw a significant increase in community members signing up to learn more about the CASA experience. (Read about all the pillars of our Strategic Plan on page 6.)

In this report, we hope you will see how all facets of our organization connect to achieve our special mission: providing a CASA to every child in foster care who needs one.

2,390

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

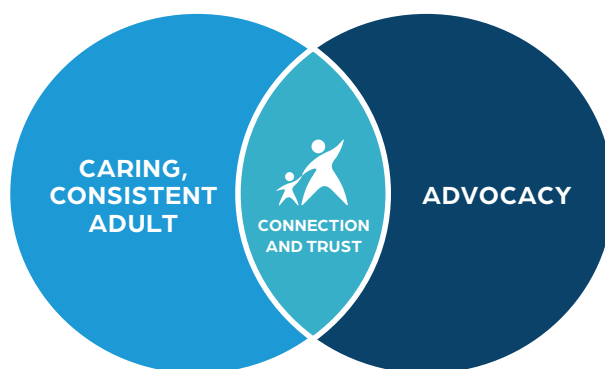
1,310

COMMUNITY MEMBERS SERVED AS CASA VOLUNTEERS

Where Consistency and Advocacy Meet

Upon first meeting their CASA, a child may be hesitant to open up. But when their CASA continues to visit week after week and month after month, the child begins to trust them, sharing their thoughts, concerns, hopes, and dreams. Meanwhile, the CASA has done extensive research on the child's case, knows what resources are available to youth in foster care, and is supported by their Advocacy Supervisor at Voices for Children. Using the tools and resources available to them, the CASA ensures the child's needs – physical, emotional, medical, educational, and more – are met. **When the consistent presence of a CASA connects with advocacy, the result is life-changing.**

THE CASA / YOUTH MODEL: Where consistency meets advocacy



ADVOCACY:

- **2,038** court reports were completed during the last fiscal year
- **224** Voices for Children CASAs held educational rights on behalf of their case youth
- **371** cases served by a Voices for Children CASA ended in reunification, adoption, or guardianship

When a CASA/GAL volunteer is assigned, a higher number of services are ordered for children and families.

CONSISTENCY:

- **200,694+** the number of miles our Voices for Children CASAs and staff drove this year in service to our children
- A child with a CASA/GAL volunteer is **less likely** to reenter the child welfare system. The proportion of reentries is consistently reduced by half.

Source: National CASA, <https://nationalcasagal.org/our-impact/research-and-effectiveness/>



CASA ALYX

Became a CASA in 2020

"My favorite thing about being a CASA is getting the opportunity to show a child that they are important, they are loved, and that their voice matters. It is immeasurably rewarding and I am fortunate to get to be a positive part of a child's life."

STRATEGIC PLAN

In June 2021, our Board of Directors approved a new Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan creates a solid foundation for Voices for Children's continued progress, innovation, and success now and in the years to come. The plan and its pillars serve as our guide, all leading back to our core mission to provide transformational advocacy to youth in foster care.

STRATEGIC PLAN Focus Areas & Priorities

Invest in Children through Exceptional Advocacy

Value and
Invest in
Our CASAs
and Staff

Inspire
and Mobilize
Communities
Across our
Region

Align
Resources to
Drive Impact and
Sustainability

Live Our Values

Our service is grounded in integrity, gratitude, and a commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion

Approved by Board of Directors (June 2021)

When 12-year-old "Kyra" entered foster care, she lost touch with her culture and started experiencing behavioral problems. CASA Alyx found ways to support Kyra's cultural identity, such as bringing meal kits to cook together and helping the girl's caregiver understand hair care differences. Working closely with Kyra's social worker, CASA Alyx helped find a supportive living situation where Kyra could thrive.

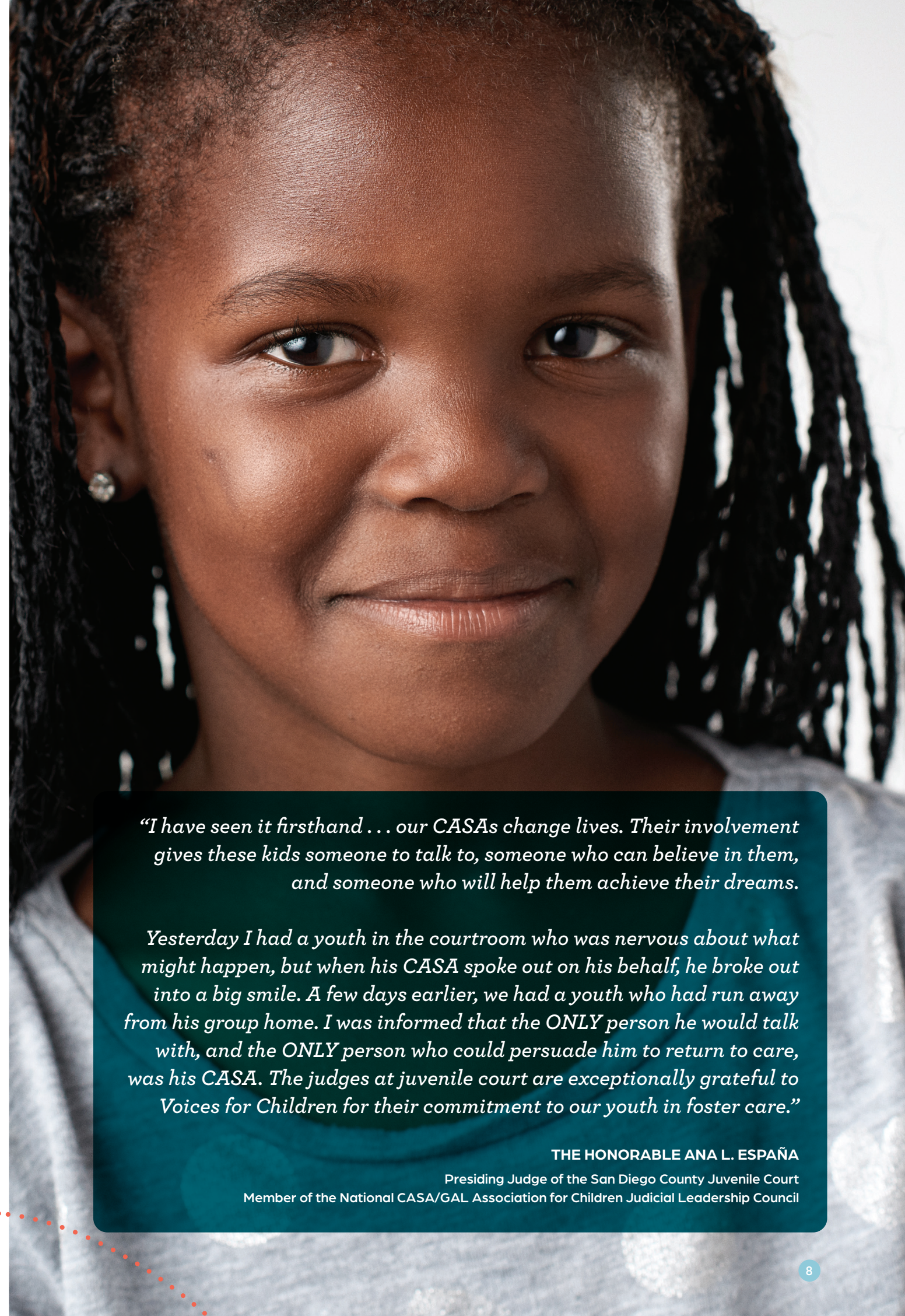


OUR COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

We continue to embrace inclusivity and equity across our organization. Our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) is a cornerstone of our Strategic Plan. Now in its third year, our staff-led Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Awareness, and Action (IDEAA) Council continues to implement important advances in our DEI efforts. During the 2021–2022 Fiscal Year, Voices for Children incorporated a foundational DEI training into our new hire onboarding process and presented it to all current staff; explored new ways to recruit CASAs from diverse communities; made

strides toward ensuring all our internal and external communications use inclusive and affirming language; and continued to hold bi-monthly staff DEI trainings that incorporated key topics such as: LGBTQ+ intersectionality, autism awareness, and navigating difficult conversations regarding DEI issues.

In the spring and summer of 2022, 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 yet again 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.



“I have seen it firsthand . . . our CASAs change lives. Their involvement gives these kids someone to talk to, someone who can believe in them, and someone who will help them achieve their dreams.

Yesterday I had a youth in the courtroom who was nervous about what might happen, but when his CASA spoke out on his behalf, he broke out into a big smile. A few days earlier, we had a youth who had run away from his group home. I was informed that the ONLY person he would talk with, and the ONLY person who could persuade him to return to care, was his CASA. The judges at juvenile court are exceptionally grateful to Voices for Children for their commitment to our youth in foster care.”

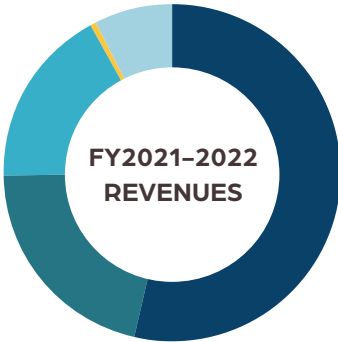
THE HONORABLE ANA L. ESPAÑA

Presiding Judge of the San Diego County Juvenile Court
Member of the National CASA/GAL Association for Children Judicial Leadership Council

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

FY2020-2021 & FY2021-2022

REVENUES	FY2020-2021	FY2021-2022
Gifts and Contributions	\$4,263,926	\$6,454,893
Special Events (less direct benefits)	\$1,422,222	\$2,519,664
Government Funding	\$1,678,204	\$2,063,562
Contributed Goods, Services, and Facilities	\$86,325	\$57,837
Investment Return	\$93,139	\$(46,641)
Other Income	\$1,173,223	\$889,848
Total Revenue	\$8,717,039	\$11,939,163
EXPENSES	FY2020-2021	FY2021-2022
Program	\$4,813,154	\$5,213,098
Management and General	\$479,382	\$533,050
Fundraising	\$930,605	\$1,171,708
Total Expenses	\$6,223,141	\$6,917,856
Change in Net Assets	\$2,493,898	\$5,021,307
Net Assets at the Beginning of Year	\$3,630,151	\$6,124,049
Net Assets at Year End	\$6,124,049	\$11,145,356



- GIFTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS **54.07%**
- SPECIAL EVENTS **21.10%**
- GOVERNMENT FUNDING **17.29%**
- CONTRIBUTED GOODS, SERVICES, AND FACILITIES **0.48%**
- INVESTMENT RETURN **(0.39%)**
- OTHER INCOME **7.45%**



- PROGRAM **75.36%**
- MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL **7.71%**
- FUNDRAISING **16.93%**

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

FY2020-2021 & FY2021-2022

ASSETS	FY2020-2021	FY2021-2022
Current Assets	\$8,078,910	\$9,878,195
Property and Equipment	\$151,794	\$225,989
Other Assets	\$30,225	\$1,971,588
Total Assets	\$8,260,929	\$12,075,772
LIABILITY AND NET ASSETS	FY2020-2021	FY2021-2022
Current Liabilities	\$2,136,880	\$930,416
Net Assets – Without Donor Restrictions	\$5,642,525	\$8,138,288
Net Assets – With Donor Restrictions	\$481,524	\$3,007,068
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$8,260,929	\$12,075,772



YOUR SUPPORT GIVES CHILDREN A VOICE.

During Fiscal Year 2021–2022, Voices for Children received generous financial support totaling **\$11,939,163**. Because of you, we were able to advocate on behalf of nearly **2,400** youth across San Diego and Riverside Counties, as well as assess the cases of all **983** children who entered foster care in San Diego County.

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 impacted thousands

of lives and will continue to make a difference for years to come.

We also 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 helped 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.

1,310 CASA VOLUNTEERS

117,000+ HOURS DONATED

\$4.1 million+ IN DONATED TIME*

\$57,837 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 \$35.56 per hour.



CASA PUSHPA | Became a CASA in 2017

“Never give up. Sometimes you feel like you are not making a difference, but I found that CASAs do make a difference in our case children’s lives by being consistent.”

LEADERSHIP

BOARD OF DIRECTORS FY2021–2022

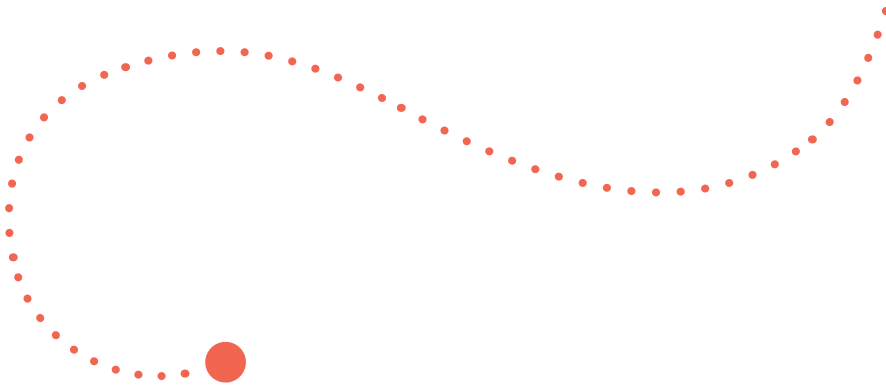
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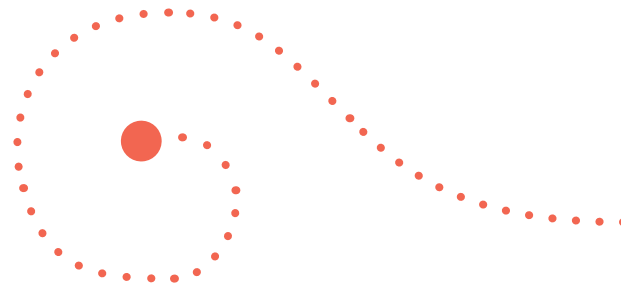
Kelly Capen Douglas, Esq., *President & CEO*

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FY2021–2022

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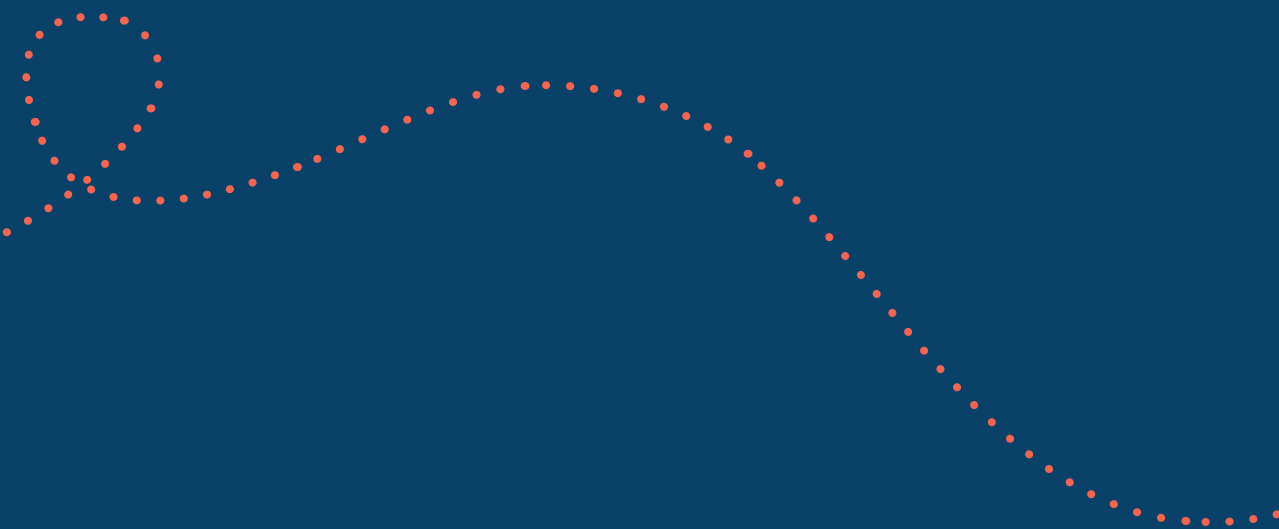




“Being a CASA is one of the most meaningful things that I’ve ever done. It’s one of the best things that I’ve done to give back to my community, and it made a difference.”

CASA ART

Art Direction and Design by Studio M Visual Design
Printing by Crossover Print Management



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.



www.speakupnow.org

858-569-2019 | San Diego County

951-472-9301 | Riverside County

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