



Building a Strong Foundation for a Brighter Future

“The heart of a volunteer is not measured in size but by the depth of the commitment to make a difference in the lives of others.” – DEANN HOLLIS

In the 22–23 fiscal year, Voices for Children supported 521 local children in foster care in Riverside County through our CASA program.

This achievement is particularly significant as it represents the highest number of youth served in a single year since the Riverside County program’s inception in 2015. The Riverside County CASA program started with four staff members serving 70 children. Seven years later, the Riverside County CASA program has 13 dedicated staff members serving 521 children with the support of countless community partners who believe in our mission. Most importantly, Voices for Children has become a trusted organization with a reputation for making a positive difference in the lives of children in foster care.

The trust that has been built over the years in the community led to our groundbreaking partnership with the Pechanga Band of Indians. The Pechanga Band of Indians is a sovereign government with its own tribal court proceedings, and Voices for Children is honored to serve as the designated CASA program for any child under the jurisdiction of Pechanga’s Tribal Court.

This past year, the Riverside County CASA program also focused on creating opportunities in the Desert and Metro regions of Riverside County, addressing the different demographic profiles within the area, growing their philanthropic efforts, and surpassing their funding goals. To support the growing number of children needing a CASA, the Riverside County CASA program continues to inspire

new volunteers through its first CASA Outreach Team, which includes 25 CASAs working directly with Voices for Children to share their experiences in the community and help recruit future CASAs.

In this report, you will read about inspiring advocacy by our outstanding CASAs who make a difference for children and families of all cultures, abilities, identities, and backgrounds. We will also commend the talented, caring people and partners supporting our work. From our donors and sponsors to community-based organizations with whom we collaborate, we are changing the lives of children in foster care together.

THIS YEAR IN RIVERSIDE COUNTY July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

- **521** children in foster care received a CASA
- **320** community members served as CASA volunteers
- CASAs conducted **1,735** visits to their case youth



A CONSISTENT PRESENCE, A CARING HEART



“Sally*” and her baby sister entered foster care when she was four years old due to neglect and exposure to drug use by her parents. CASA Brenda was assigned to Sally when she was five, and they have since developed an inseparable bond.

The Court ultimately terminated Sally’s parents’ parental rights and placed Sally and her sister up for adoption. Fortunately, Sally and her sister were not separated, as some siblings are, when placed in foster care. Her grandmother became their relative caregiver and decided to adopt Sally and her sister.

CASA Brenda has gone above and beyond to consistently support and advocate for Sally. When Sally was having a hard time at school, she found comfort in knowing she could count on CASA Brenda to listen and just let her be a kid. Her grandmother informed the Court that she is thankful to have CASA Brenda in Sally’s life. She also shared Sally’s excitement whenever she knows CASA Brenda is coming for an outing: Sally eagerly waits by the door and asks her grandmother, “Is Brenda almost here?”

Sally loves learning and experiencing new things. CASA Brenda takes Sally to museums, science centers, libraries, and historical monuments, and they have a tradition of ending the day eating mozzarella sticks and drinking slushies.

Recently, they visited a park during an outing and made friendship bracelets together. Since then, Sally has not taken off the bracelet CASA Brenda made for her.

Sally has told her grandmother she considers CASA Brenda her best friend and that she wishes everyone had a CASA.

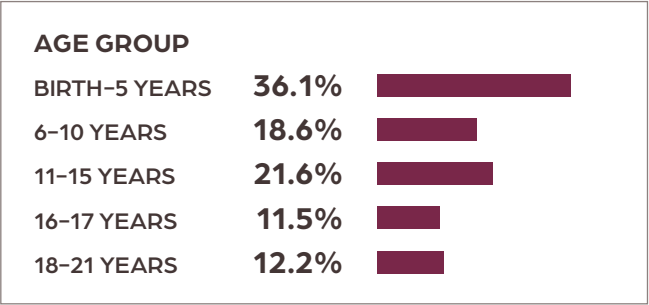
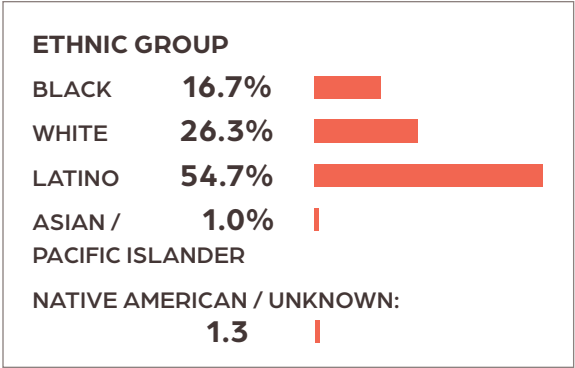
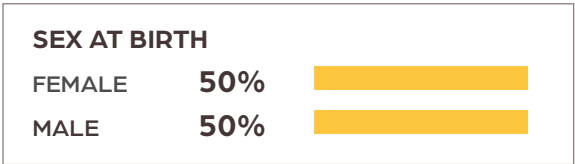
Recently, the girls were officially adopted, and their grandmother is grateful to start a new chapter together with her granddaughters.

With CASA Brenda and her grandmother by her side, Sally has a support system that makes her one step closer to growing up with her sister in a safe, stable home.

**Names and identifying details have been changed to protect confidentiality*

OUR COMMUNITY'S CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

THIS YEAR IN RIVERSIDE COUNTY July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023*



Inspirational Volunteerism

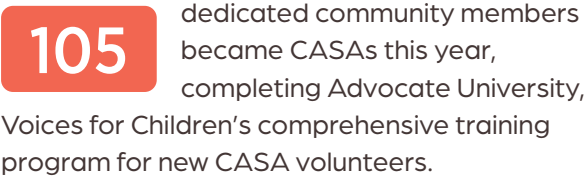


- <18 MONTHS: 179 CASAS (56%)
- 18 MONTHS-2 YEARS: 21 CASAS (6.6%)
- 2-3 YEARS: 43 CASAS (13.4%)
- 3 YEARS-7 YEARS: 77 CASAS (24%)

THE GIFT OF TIME



STEPPING UP



Source: Webster, D., Lee, S., Dawson, W., Magruder, J., Exel, M., Cuccaro-Alamin, S., Putnam-Hornstein, E., Wiegmann, W., Saika, G., Chambers, J., Hammond, I., Ayat, N., Gomez, A., Misirli, E., Hoerl, C., Yee, H., Flamson, T., Gonzalez, A., & Ensele, P. (2021). CCWIP reports. Retrieved July 27, 2023, from University of California at Berkeley California Child Welfare Indicators Project website. URL: <https://ccwip.berkeley.edu>

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 Fiscal Year 2022-2023 and have been dedicated Voices for Children CASA volunteers for three or more years.

5+ YEARS

Pushpa Ananthanarayan
Andrew Boucher
Theresa Brennan
Pamela Comings
Cherrie Cunningham
Pauline Daerr
Julie Dawson
Melanie Fitzgerald
Robert Geibert
Susan Goodsell
Robyn Harmon
Frances Harris
Shelly Henderson-Cuthbertson
Peggy Huetten
Chary Jackson
Barbara Leadholm
Rhonda Loudon
Shelley Mitchell
Stacey Morse
Gina Newton
Cathy Perring
Catherine Peterson
Ryan Poley
Barbara Ragsdale
Deborah Roberts
Dawn Rose
Melanie Royer
David Smith
Stephen Smyth
Crystal Swain
Samantha Tajalli Tehrani
Catherine Torres
Diane Valenzuela
Roberta Wesley

3+ YEARS

Deema Al-Omar
Loretta Altamirano
Cassandra Bruccheri
Lachelle Buford
Paulette Bunyapanasarn
Eunice Campos
Ellie Carrillo
Melissa Caton
Melissa Chesney
Scott Clothier
Alanda Cormier
Jennifer Cornelius
Ange-Aimee Cuffee
Clarissa De Jesus
Evalena Dean
Lisa Delgado
Kevin Dell
Tiffany Dorin
Vanessa Douty
Kristen Eichhorst
Nicole Fliear
Anna Frost
Bianka Gartner
Geri Gonzalez
Nancy Green
Nancy Gutierrez
Jacob Hernandez
Darcy Hernandez
Suzanne Hernandez
Michelle Hetzel
Sarah Hunt
DeeDee Jackson
Sharon Karpin
Christina Karrer

Julie Knighton
Alexis Lemos
Karen Lovett
Karen Macias
Julie Martel
Mel Mason
Jaime McDermott
Misty Mecham
Alberto Monge
Michaela Muir
Susan Nelson
Danielle Nicholson
Keri Ohlrich
Alexandra Orozco
Maddy Paxton
Marianne Pekala
Michael Pekala
Debra Ringo
Mariana Robles
Vivian Rudolf
Kara Shaffer
Holly Simmons
Gloria Simpson
Tami Smason
Megan Taylor
Zayna Thorpe
Lawrence Torres
Dana Torrey
Armando Valles
Nicole Vinci
Tessa Voss



CASA KEVIN | Became a CASA in 2020

"Omar" saw his life take a turn for the better when he was matched with CASA Kevin. Despite many challenges, CASA Kevin remains dedicated to being there for Omar. Every month, CASA Kevin drives a remarkable 250 miles each way just to visit him. This dedicated volunteer has seen firsthand the difference a consistent adult can make in the life of a youth in foster care.



“Even the smallest act of caring for another person is like a drop of water. It will make ripples throughout the entire pond.” – BRYAN MATTEO

Our Community Partners

COLLABORATING AGENCIES

Assistance League of Temecula Valley
Banning Chamber of Commerce
BNI Success Professionals
County of Riverside, Department of Public Social Services
County of Riverside, Probation Department and Southwest Juvenile Hall
Greater Riverside Chamber of Commerce
Palm Desert Area Chamber of Commerce
One Simple Wish
Regional Access Project Foundation
Riverside County Office of Education
Riverside Elks Lodge #643
Superior Court of California, Riverside County – Juvenile Division
TribalSTAR

‘FOSTERING CULTURE’ PARTNERS

Boomers! at Palm Springs
Coachella Valley History Museum
Glo Mini Golf
March Field Air Museum
Palm Springs Air Museum
Performance Riverside
Riverside Art Museum
The Cheech Marin Center for Chicano Art & Culture



CASA CRYSTAL | Became a CASA in 2011

Crystal became a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteer in 2011. When Voices for Children expanded to serve children in Riverside County foster care, CASA Crystal stayed on board! She has tirelessly served eight youth in local foster care, including two brothers, helping them navigate the system and preserve their cultural identity. With CASA Crystal's support, the brothers are now in the process of being adopted. On top of serving as a CASA, she has actively promoted the CASA program in the community. CASA Crystal's compassion, professionalism, and dedication have made all the difference for the children for whom she advocates.

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, 2022, and June 30, 2023.

\$100,000+

California Governor's Office of Emergency Services
David J. Dunn+
Focusing Philanthropy
Riverside County Transportation Commission

City of Perris CDBG (HUD)
City of Riverside CDBG (HUD)
County of Riverside District 1, Supervisor Kevin Jeffries
County of Riverside District 3, Supervisor Chuck Washington
County of Riverside District 5, Supervisor Yxstian Gutierrez
National CASA/GAL Association
Nancy and Michael Pfeiffer
Riverside County District Attorney's Office

\$1,000+

City of Indio CDBG (HUD)
Marty Cull
Clarissa and Frederick De Jesus
Susie Esquire
Facebook
Firstbank Holding Company
Robert Galluzzo
Goodwin Family Memorial Trust
Jane Jonkhoff
Tracey and David Kloehn
Nancy Lindsay
Jane Mills
Jessica and Rafael Muñoz
Monica Oder
Tia Quinn
Susan Rigney
Spectrum
Michael and Patricia St. Clair
James Steere
Stettenheim Foundation, Inc.

\$50,000+

County of Riverside
Desert Healthcare District
Jocelyn Bauer/The Bauer Foundation
Judicial Council of California

\$5,000+

Anonymous
California Foundation for Stronger Communities
The Champions Volunteer Foundation
City of Temecula CDBG (HUD)
Mechanics Bank
Pacific Premier Bank
Rite Aid Foundation KidCents
The Roripaugh Family Foundation
Katie and Dan Sullivan/Kathryn and Daniel Sullivan Foundation
Union Bank

\$30,000+

Anonymous
City of Corona CDBG (HUD)
City of Moreno Valley CDBG (HUD)
Houston Family Foundation
Lily Lai Foundation

\$20,000+

BetterWorld Trust
In-N-Out Burger Foundation
Regional Access Project Foundation
The Roost Foundation
San Manuel Band of Mission Indians

\$2,000+

ALDI Smart Kids
Anonymous
BigHorn Golf Charities
County of Riverside District 2, Supervisor Karen Spiegel
County of Riverside District 4, Supervisor V. Manuel Perez
Brad Horwitz
Hughes & Hughes LLP
Pechanga Resort and Casino
Yadira Rike
Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians

\$10,000+

100 Women Who Care Temecula Valley
Amazon.com Sevices LLC
Irene W. and Guy L. Anderson Children's Foundation
Bank of America Charitable Foundation
City of Hemet CDBG (HUD)

\$500+

Albright Law
Anonymous
Cindy Beach-Eix
Margo Cheney
Hon. Susanne S. Cho
CITGO
Desert Elder Law
Hon. Susan Goodsell
Catherine Kinser
Kerry U. Laster
David Lynch
Kathi McGoldrick
Lauren E. McGinley
Brian Murphy
Nancy Olsen
Roger Riel
Brittany Sanguma

Our Supporters

Diana Schneider
Erma and Donald Shanklin
Emily Shults
Sarah R. Simonds
Carrie Snuggs
Hector Zatarain

\$100+

Abbott Laboratories
Anonymous (4)
Aggreh Real Estate, LLC
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Conditioning, Inc.
ASM Cleaning Service, Inc.
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Margaret Buckley
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Anne B. Farrell
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Fresh Eddie Productions LLC

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Southern California Alumnae
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Rita Luevanos-Castro
Christine and Dennis Mahr
Martha McGowan
Brianna Miller
The Mindful Lotus
Amber Moore
Jenene Nagy
Jana Nyberg
Madeline Paxton
Melanie Perez
Shonna Perry

Christina Piranio
Earnest Pittman
Vickie Roberts
Mariana Robles
Citlalli Rojas
San Gorgonio Pass Rotary Club
SBF Payroll Coachella Valley
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Tamara K. Sorenson
Paul Stull
Crystal Swain
Mahzad Tashakori
Zoe Thompson
Thrivent Financial
Tanya Torno
Lawrence Torres
Dana Torrey and Manny Siordia
Evan D. Tucker
Nancy E. Turner
United Way California Capital
Region
Erin Yokota

IN-KIND SUPPORT

We are grateful to the following donors who made in-kind contributions between July 1, 2022, and June 30, 2023.

Coachella Valley History Museum
Crystal Swain
Desert Town Hall
Gerald Kostecka
Kappa Alpha Theta-Inland
Southern California Alumnae
Chapter
K-LOVE/Air1 Radio
Omni Resorts bluEmber
Palm Valley Country Club
Ross Stores, Inc.
Shelly Henderson-Cuthbertson
The Renaissance Esmeralda

Our Supporters

AMICUS CIRCLE

The Amicus Circle at Voices for Children is composed of law firms, law schools, legal associations, and other legal support service organizations that support our mission. We are grateful for our Fiscal Year 2022-2023 members.

Albright Law
Desert Elder Law
Hughes & Hughes
The Law Office of Julie C. De Leon

MEMORIALS & TRIBUTES

The following individuals were honored by their loved ones with gifts between July 1, 2022, and June 30, 2023.

Brianna Miller
Cyclebar Rancho Mirage
DiAnn Hampton
Dick Lane
Jessica Muñoz
John Kinser
Mahzad Tashakori

Michael A. Garrison
Nancy Green
Nancy Olsen
Ramona De La Torre
Richard Miller
Sara Galloway
Sheri Ron

Steve D. Atkins
Tribute Anonymous
Valentina Rocnik
Voices for Children
William Steiner

IN MEMORIAM

Thomas Bonnet
Linda Irwin-DeVitis
Valentina Rocnik

+ Deceased



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