



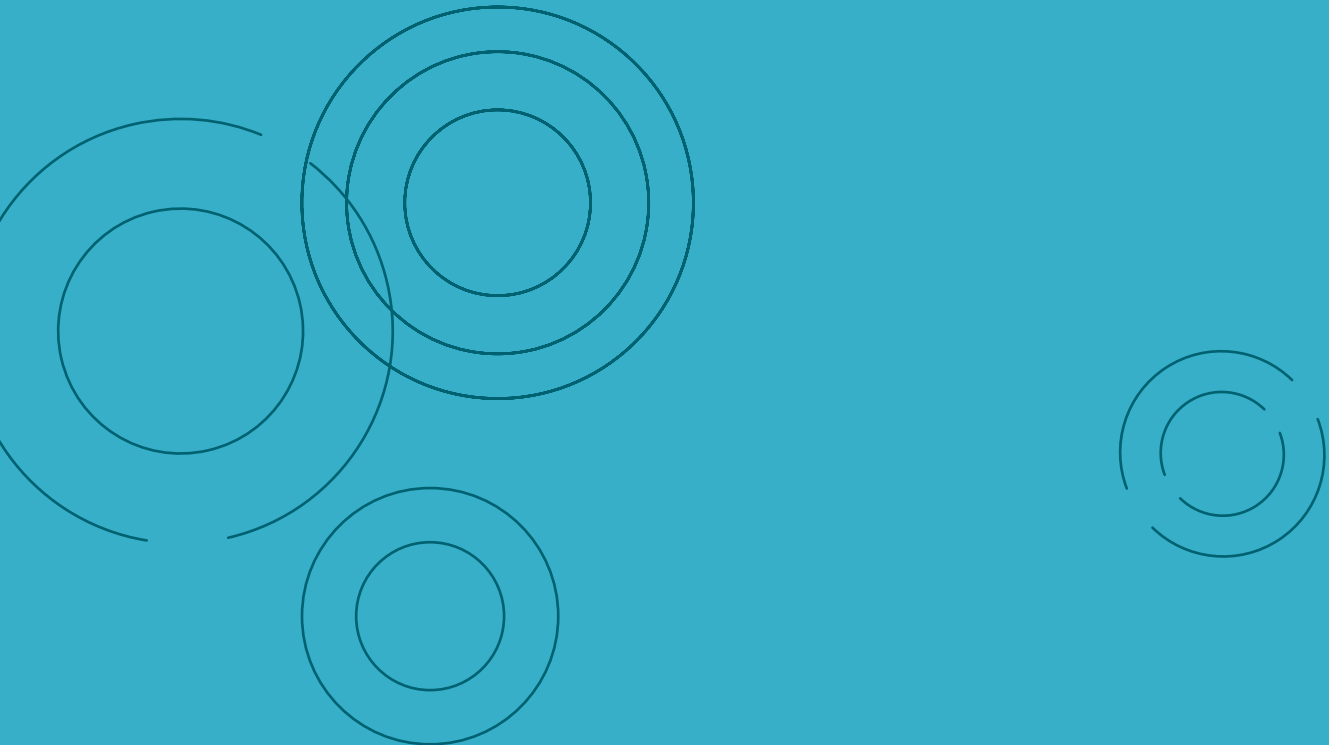


MISSION

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 PRESIDENT & CEO AND BOARD CHAIR

Dear Friends,

Every year, our Impact Report is our opportunity to illustrate how you have enriched the lives of vulnerable children in our community by supporting Voices for Children. It is how we showcase the "ripple effect" you create by giving your time, sharing your heart, investing in our mission, and spreading the word about the need for volunteers.

When children experience abuse or neglect and it is unsafe for them to remain in their homes, they enter foster care. Each child and family is assigned to a juvenile court judge who makes all of the decisions about what happens next. In California and around the country, judges appoint exceptional community volunteers to advocate for the child's best interests and to get to know the child in a holistic way. These dedicated volunteers are called Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs).

In San Diego and Riverside Counties, Voices for Children is the only organization authorized by the local courts to recruit, train, and support CASA volunteers. From the Pacific Coast to Palm Springs and everywhere in between, children experiencing foster care depend on Voices for Children daily to ensure they will have their very own CASA volunteer when they need one.

This year, 1,236 dedicated community members served as CASA volunteers. Thanks to their service and our multidisciplinary professional staff, Voices for Children provided direct advocacy to nearly 2,300 youth in foster care across San Diego and Riverside Counties as well as case monitoring services to hundreds of other children in foster care who might need an advocate in the future. We were also honored and humbled by the invitation to launch a CASA program for the Pechanga Band of Indians Tribal Court.

Although we imagine a future where families are healthy and strong, we know that the communities we serve will need a robust CASA program for years to come. To that end, we are committed to nurturing our partnerships with the courts and community stakeholders, to ensuring our long-term financial stability, and to finding fresh and innovative ways to inspire more people to learn about the importance of CASA volunteers.

So, please turn the page. We can't wait for you to learn more about all you have made possible this year.

With appreciation, always,



Jessica Muñoz

Jessica Muñoz, Esq., MFS
President & CEO



A. Bradbury

Annette Bradbury
Chair, Board of Directors



“I tell my family and friends that being a CASA is one of the most important and rewarding things that I have ever done in my life.”

- CASA ELLIE, RIVERSIDE COUNTY

Creating Ripples of Hope, One Child at a Time

Voices for Children (VFC) is the only nonprofit organization designated by the Superior 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 children or sibling groups in court, in school, and in the community to ensure their needs are met and their voices are heard. CASAs create a powerful ripple effect that positively influences a child's chances of thriving in school, work, and relationships. CASAs not only impact the children's lives but also the lives of those they will influence as they grow throughout their lives. CASAs create ripples that last for generations.

The vital support of a CASA in cultivating a child's interests and goals for the future makes all the difference. It has a ripple effect that can make a child the first in their family to graduate, an advocate for other youth, a happy adult with financial security, and even a parent who breaks the cycle of abuse in their family by providing a safe home for their own family. This transformational impact all starts with the transformational advocacy of a CASA.

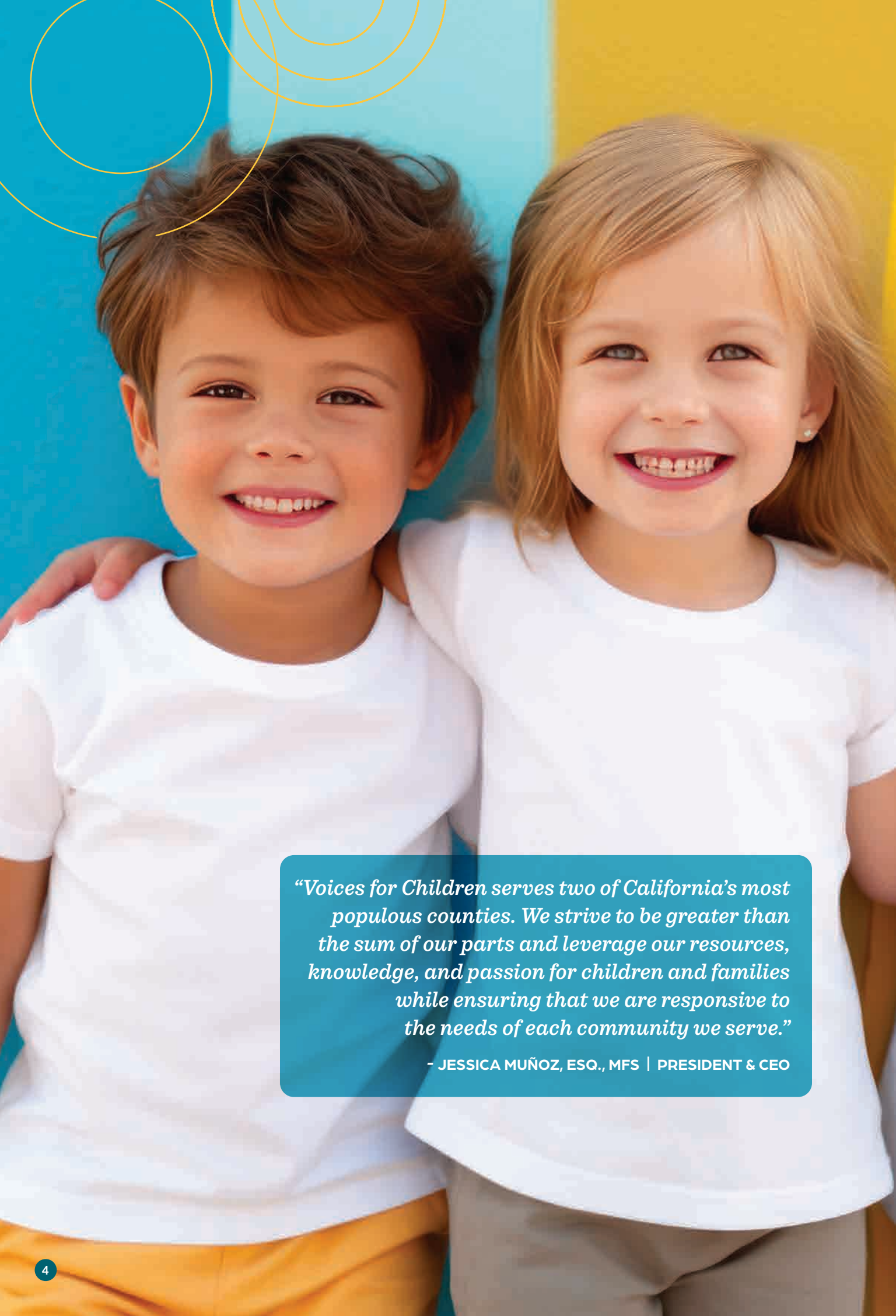
This year, VFC supported 1,236 dedicated CASA volunteers as they advocated for youth in foster care across San Diego and Riverside Counties. FY22-23 was a year of continuity and innovation. We made great strides to advance the priorities and objectives of our Strategic Plan. In both San Diego and Riverside Counties:

- VFC's recruitment and outreach team made concerted efforts to engage with diverse CASA volunteers, including direct outreach to male, Spanish-speaking, BIPOC, LGBTQ+, and faith-based communities to increase awareness of the needs of children in foster care and the essential services we provide.
- In our efforts to further value and invest in our CASAs, our program teams in both counties continue to identify and create resources that are meaningful to CASAs in their cases – whether through book clubs, tailored small group discussions, continuing education opportunities with new local partners, or our independent study resource library.
- At the same time, our advocacy teams and senior leadership have kept their finger on the pulse of the changing child welfare landscape. They actively participate in high-level discussions as both San Diego and Riverside Counties reimagine what serving children and families can look like. Through our work, we are viewed as thought leaders on how CASAs can be part of the solution to challenges we currently face within the child welfare system.

In this report, we will share the far-reaching ripple effect that occurs when a CASA is an advocate for a child in foster care and how our CASA model continues to innovate and build relationships to achieve our special mission: providing a CASA to every child who needs one.

BY THE NUMBERS:

- **2,295** children served with advocacy by VFC across San Diego and Riverside Counties
- **1,236** community members served as CASA volunteers
- **1,961** court reports were completed during the last FY
- **222** Voices for Children CASAs held educational rights on behalf of their case youth
- **337** cases closed while served by Voices for Children CASA ended in reunification, adoption, or guardianship



“Voices for Children serves two of California’s most populous counties. We strive to be greater than the sum of our parts and leverage our resources, knowledge, and passion for children and families while ensuring that we are responsive to the needs of each community we serve.”

- JESSICA MUÑOZ, ESQ., MFS | PRESIDENT & CEO

AN ADVOCATE'S IMPACT

WHAT DOES A CASA DO?

When a family is in crisis and becomes involved in the child welfare system, a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteer may be appointed by a judge to advocate for the child.

CASA volunteers receive extensive training and support from Voices for Children. Their key role is to advocate for the child's safety, permanency and well-being while they are in foster care.

This is just one example of the ripple effect a CASA volunteer can make in a child's life.



NATE

1 David has been placed in a foster home.

Nate, a CASA volunteer, is appointed by the judge.

DAVID

2 CASA Nate meets with all parties working on the case while providing a consistent presence in David's life.



3 CASA Nate also attends an initial family meeting alongside David's parents, grandparents, foster parents, and social worker.

4 Together, they identify David's physical, emotional, and educational needs + resources to help him and his parents heal.

With CASA Nate's support, the family begins to take the steps to re-build their lives.



7 CASA Nate continues to stay by David's side throughout the case. As David's parents have taken the necessary steps to regain physical custody and provide a safe home environment for their child, CASA Nate makes the recommendation to the judge for David to be reunited with his parents.

In the circumstance where reunification is not safe or possible, CASA Nate will advocate for David to be adopted by, or live with, other relatives or family friends. If that is also not possible, CASA Nate will work towards adoption by a non-relative.

5 Each month, CASA Nate meets with David—then shares information with the judge along with everyone on the case.

6 At the next family meeting, David's team focuses on building + strengthening a network of support around David and his parents.

8 Regardless of the outcome, CASA Nate will keep in contact with the support network until the case closes so that everyone continues to put David's best interests first.

OUR COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION



At the heart of our Strategic Plan lies a strong commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). Our dedicated IDEAA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Awareness, and Action) Council, composed of VFC staff, has continued to make strides in advancing our DEI efforts.

During the 2022–2023 Fiscal Year, Voices for Children took concrete steps to enhance Spanish bilingual service and advocacy. Additionally, we invested in staff development by sending five team members to an educational conference on racial disparities and implicit bias in social services. We also recognize the importance of connecting

youth to their cultures and communities, so we created a comprehensive online database and guide for our Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs), highlighting places to visit, upcoming events, local restaurants, and other resources.

We're committed to continuously learning and bringing fresh perspectives to our advocacy work. That's why we hold bi-monthly staff DEI trainings covering a range of important topics, including:

- Hispanic/Latinx Heritage & The Power of Storytelling
- Resilience in the Black Community
- Amplifying Women's Voices
- Interfaith Inclusion
- Native American Heritage and Allyship

In the spring of 2023, Voices for Children once again 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* for the third year in a row.** This is the highest level of recognition granted to organizations that go above and beyond to support LGBTQ+ youth and families.





“My CASA Daniel recognized my potential years before I could even dream of going to college and graduating from somewhere as prestigious as UCLA. He supported me and advocated for me when I didn’t see my window of opportunity. My CASA is one of the reasons I’m here today. He showed me that I was capable of meeting my goals and my voice was powerful enough to be heard. Daniel proved to me that my experiences in the foster care system will not limit me.”

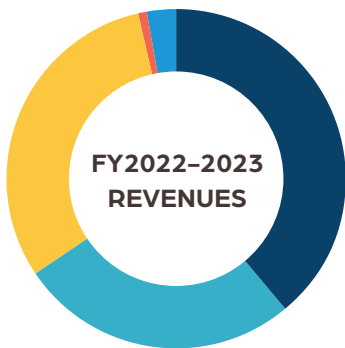
– ANTHONY

UCLA CLASS OF 2023, SOCIOLOGY & COMMUNICATION
REAL WORD PANELIST

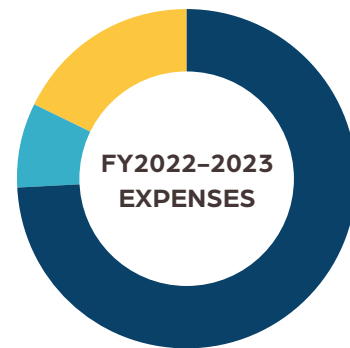
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

FY2021-2022 & FY2022-2023

REVENUES	FY2021-2022	FY2022-2023
Gifts and Contributions	\$6,454,893	\$3,220,756
Special Events (less direct benefits)	\$2,519,664	\$2,212,402
Government Funding	\$2,063,562	\$2,562,488
Contributed Goods, Services, and Facilities	\$57,837	\$62,607
Investment Return	\$(46,641)	\$220,606
Other Income	\$889,848	-
Total Revenue	\$11,939,163	\$8,278,859
EXPENSES	FY2021-2022	FY2022-2023
Program	\$5,213,098	\$5,783,261
Management and General	\$533,050	\$625,292
Fundraising	\$1,171,708	\$1,370,658
Total Expenses	\$6,917,856	\$7,779,211
Change in Net Assets	\$5,021,307	\$499,648
Net Assets at the Beginning of Year	\$6,124,049	\$11,145,356
Net Assets at Year End	\$11,145,356	\$11,645,004



- GIFTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS **38.90%**
- SPECIAL EVENTS **26.72%**
- GOVERNMENT FUNDING **30.95%**
- CONTRIBUTED GOODS, SERVICES, AND FACILITIES **0.76%**
- INVESTMENT RETURN **2.67%**



- PROGRAM **74.34%**
- MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL **8.04%**
- FUNDRAISING **17.62%**

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

FY2021-2022 & FY2022-2023

ASSETS	FY2021-2022	FY2022-2023
Current Assets	\$9,878,195	\$11,579,990
Property and Equipment	\$225,989	\$197,471
Other Assets	\$1,971,588	\$3,169,054
Total Assets	\$12,075,772	\$14,946,515
LIABILITY AND NET ASSETS	FY2021-2022	FY2022-2023
Current Liabilities	\$930,416	\$1,728,661
Long-term Liabilities	-	\$1,572,850
Net Assets – Without Donor Restrictions	\$8,138,288	\$9,329,741
Net Assets – With Donor Restrictions	\$3,007,068	\$2,315,263
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$12,075,772	\$14,946,515



Your support gives children a voice

During Fiscal Year 2022–2023, Voices for Children received generous financial support totaling **\$8,278,859**. Because of you, we were able to provide one-on-one advocacy to nearly **2,300** children living in foster care 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 impacts thousands of lives and will continue to make a difference for years to come.

Additionally, 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 grants awarded by our state, county, and city jurisdictions.

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 local children in foster care through the transformational advocacy of our CASAs.

BY THE NUMBERS:

- **1,236** CASA volunteers
- **120,000** hours donated
- **\$4.5 Million** in donated time*
- **\$62,607** 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 \$37.32 per hour.*



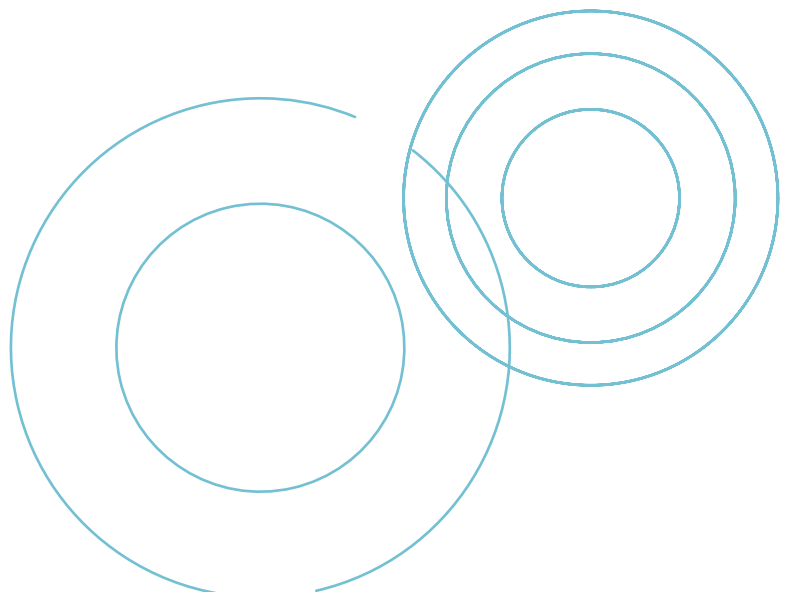
Proud recipient of the 2023 GuideStar Platinum Seal of Transparency and a four-star Charity Navigator rating.

IMPACT REPORT

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LEADERSHIP

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FY2022-2023

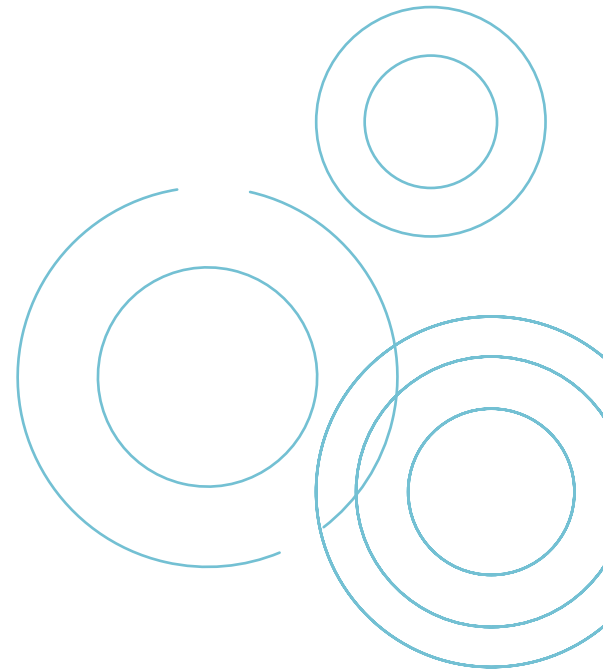
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FY2022-2023

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Yxstian Gutierrez, Ed.D.
Liz Jones
Jim Steere
Hector Zatarain





“A professor of mine and I have talked about how working with this population of little humans (and some older) is soul work. Soul work requires being patient, kind, and free of judgment. Like pouring into a cup, working with this population is a reciprocal relationship that feeds the soul or pours back into your cup.” - CASA TRAVIANA
SAN DIEGO COUNTY



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