

# PROGRAM IMPACT: FROM ADVERSITY TO ACHIEVEMENT

When a child enters foster care, their world can feel uncertain and out of their control. But when a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) steps in, new possibilities take shape. CASA Will became that advocate for “Jack”, and together, they turned a vision for the future into a life-changing reality.

Jack was placed in foster care as a teenager, carrying with him not just the weight of past trauma, but also an extraordinary drive to succeed. From their first meeting in early 2022, CASA Will connected with Jack over art, Boba tea, and a shared love of movies. CASA Will quickly became a trusted adult in Jack’s life and an essential source of educational support and stability. After Jack moved to a residential and educational campus for youth in foster care, he began to thrive socially and academically. By the end of the year, CASA Will was appointed as Jack’s co-educational rights holder, allowing him to play an even more active role in supporting Jack’s learning goals and academic progress.

In the spring of 2023, Jack shared his desire to transfer to a more rigorous academic environment. He expressed that he was not feeling challenged in his current coursework and dreamed of attending a school that offered advanced learning opportunities, ideally with a performing arts program. Jack had big aspirations, including graduating from high school, attending college, continuing his education abroad, and one day moving to South Korea. CASA Will took his aspirations seriously. He researched alternative high schools, asked questions, attended meetings, and explored every option to support Jack’s vision. Together, they identified a local arts and sciences high school with a rigorous academic program focused on college readiness and creative expression.



Jack was accepted, but they faced a new obstacle: getting permission to attend an off-site school and coordinating daily transportation. When the request for transportation was denied less than two weeks before the start of the new school year, Jack was crushed but not defeated. CASA Will immediately took action, informing Jack’s attorney, and with the support of the San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program (SDVLP), a special court hearing was held. The Court ruled in Jack’s favor, recognizing that this educational path was in his best interest.

**Since that pivotal moment, Jack’s achievements have been remarkable. He graduated in June 2025 with a 4.06 GPA and was accepted to several universities, including his top choice, the University of Southern California. He enrolled in the fall and is currently participating in extended foster care as he transitions to college life with the continued support of his CASA, Will.**

Jack’s journey demonstrates the powerful impact a CASA can have, not just as a supportive adult but as a relentless advocate for a young person’s voice, goals, and future. When a CASA listens, believes, and does everything in their power to help a child reach their potential, dreams once thought impossible can become true.