when a child’s future hangs in the balance

we are there
we are the CASA movement

We are ordinary people. We come from all walks of life, all areas of Santa Barbara County. We are trained volunteers who step up to assist judges and serve our county’s most vulnerable children as court appointed special advocates – CASA volunteers.

We work in our community with a common set of values. We believe in the rights and dignity of children. We are committed to putting that belief to work for children who have been abused or neglected. And we hold ourselves to the highest standards of excellence in service.

This is the CASA story.

As you read this Impact Report for our fiscal year that ended June 30, 2017, please know that you are an important part of the story. Thank you for being someone who said YES – I can do that! As a volunteer, donor, committee or board member, you are an important part of the story that made a huge impact in our 24th year in service.

Kim Colby Davis
Executive Director

Patty Santiago
President, Board of Directors
fiscal year 2017

achievement highlights

- 303 volunteers advocated for 509 abused and neglected children – the most vulnerable members of our society
- 28,000 hours of service were donated by CASA volunteers providing $768,278 in value to the community.
- 91 new volunteers completed 30 hours of pre-service training to join our team of advocates
- We launched a specialized training program called “Fostering Futures” to give our volunteers who work with teens extra tools to help our youth create strong plans for living independently.
we are there for the child

Whatever their age, children removed from home because of abuse or neglect face a frightening, profound unknown.

We make sure they don’t face it alone.

We stand by them. We are there whenever they need us, for as long as it takes to reach a safe, permanent home. We are strong, compassionate adults who are a consistent presence, who care, who listen, and who put the child’s interest before all others. We give children a say in what is happening to them. We speak for them when they cannot speak for themselves.

We help them heal and thrive. We give them the support they need to become happy, successful adults.

We help them find the road home, wherever it lies.
our children
demographics of the children we served this year
we are there for the judge

To make decisions that affect the rest of a child’s life, judges need to know the child. We help them do that.

We take the time to get to know the child at the heart of each case. We go where they go. We talk to the people who touch their lives – parents and foster parents, family members, teachers, doctors, neighbors, friends, social workers, attorneys, therapists, coaches.

We gather the details only a dedicated volunteer with a caseload of ONE can deliver.

Every visit, call, and report we make gives judges what they need to act in the best interest of the child. Every detail helps judges move the child out of the system and into a permanent home.
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(volunteers who served July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017)
we are there to change lives

And we do. Children who have an advocate receive more services that are critical to their well-being. They are more likely to succeed in school.

And while their cases are among the most difficult and heartbreaking, children with CASA volunteers spend less time in foster care.

What’s that worth to a child? To a community? To a nation? The answer in dollars is impressive: $540 million a year in savings on foster care alone.

The answer in everything else we value as a society — health, happiness, resilience, hope, strength, human potential, faith in ourselves and in our neighbors — is beyond measure.
we are not there alone

Our work with children is one-on-one, but we do not work alone. We are a movement, a group of people who have come together to advance a shared goal. Our movement includes nearly 1,000 state and local CASA programs that currently support more than 77,000 volunteers and serve more than 250,000 children nationwide. In Santa Barbara County, we served 509 children in FY17. And this year we will do more.

Our movement includes the National CASA Association, which delivers state-of-the-art, rigorous training programs and tools and provides quality assurance support, and it includes judges, attorneys, donors, social workers, and many friends.
together, we are a powerful voice for children
we are CASA supporters

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thank you!

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leave a legacy

The Legacy League has been established to recognize and honor those who have provided for CASA of Santa Barbara County in their estate plans.

By joining the Legacy League, your foresight and planning help ensure that generations to come will benefit from the values that are most important to you.

When you create this wonderful legacy, you may also reduce your current or future tax burden, increase your income and meet your or your family’s own personal and financial objectives.

Legacy League founding members:

Pat Aptaker  George Majoue  Tom Parker
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You are making a conscious choice to do something on behalf of the human rights of our most vulnerable children.

When you sponsor a child you will receive these benefits:

- Placement of your logo on our website along with recognition of your generous gift.
- Initial summary of your children’s cases, including age, interests, and the goals for the resolution of the children’s case (i.e.: reunification, adoption, etc.).
- Quarterly updates on your CASA children with information on how their cases are progressing, how they are coping and the outcome of each case when it closes. We can present to your group on the progress.
- Annual lunch or breakfast with the CASA Executive Director and/or Development Director, along with the CASA volunteers serving your children. Ask them questions about their CASA experience (will not include identifying information about the children due to confidentiality restraints).
- Option to be the one to provide the children’s birthday and/or Christmas gift (wish lists provided).
- Placement of CASA plaque – child sponsor recognition, at your location, showing your support.
- Most importantly, you will have a positive impact and change a children’s lives for the better.
Fight Child Abuse without ever writing another check by joining our Circle of Hope monthly giving program.

When you become a Circle of Hope member, your tax-deductible gift makes a tremendous difference in our ability to match Santa Barbara County’s most at-risk foster youth with volunteer advocates. At the same time, consistent monthly donations help us better manage our program while decreasing administrative costs. All funds stay local and help children in the Santa Barbara County Foster System.

As a monthly donor, you will receive less mail, but you will get an annual statement in January with all of your donations for the previous year. In addition, we will keep you informed about our programs with our newsletters and annual report.

Every gift to CASA of Santa Barbara County makes a difference in our ability to provide advocacy to victims of abuse and neglect. Circle of Hope members give $20 or more per month, and you can change, suspend, or cancel your giving at any time.

Becoming a monthly Circle of Hope donor is an easy way for you to provide financial support and show your ongoing dedication toward helping CASA of Santa Barbara County continue to deliver quality programs and services.
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