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**PRESS CONTACT:**

Heaven Vasquez, Public Relations & Development Manager  
661-631-2272 ext. 878 | [hvasquez@kerncasa.org](mailto:hvasquez@kerncasa.org)

**CASA of Kern County Announces New Executive Director**

**Bakersfield, CA** - CASA of Kern County is pleased to announce the successful recruitment of Ashley Vorhees as its new Executive Director. Ashley, a Bakersfield native, was selected from a pool of highly qualified candidates by a hiring committee consisting of senior CASA staff and Board Members.

"I am both honored and humbled to be selected to serve alongside CASA volunteers, donors, Board members and staff who advocate for and support foster youth in our community," said Ashley Vorhees, new Executive Director of CASA of Kern County. "The legacy work that CASA has been doing in our community since 1994 is crucial to the health and well-being of our foster youth and I look forward to continuing that work for years to come."

Ashley comes to CASA with an impressive track record of success in the nonprofit sector. She has held positions such as Executive Director of the American Heart and Stroke Association and Site Director for Catholic Charities in Bakersfield for several years. Most recently, she was Vice President of Fundraising & Communications at Girl Scouts of Central California South. The committee was impressed by her program growth results, team approach, and her desire to help the children we serve.

"Ashley possesses extensive experience in grant writing, fundraising, and managing staff and volunteers," said Joyce Holtzclaw, President of the Board of Directors of CASA of Kern County. "We are delighted to welcome her to the organization and look forward to the energy and passion she brings to our mission of advocating for the children we serve."

The Board of Directors of CASA of Kern County are confident that Ashley will be a strong advocate for the children and volunteers of the organization. She is expected to commence her duties in mid-May and will be reaching out to the community shortly after her initial onboarding.

"We appreciate your continued support, particularly during this period of transition between executive directors," said Joyce Holtzclaw. "We believe that we have made every effort to find the most suitable candidate for our mission, volunteers, and children, and we are excited to have Ashley on board."

CASA of Kern County has been providing Court Appointed Special Advocates to abused and neglected children since 1994. CASA recruits, trains, and supports volunteers to act as advocates and mentors to children who have been removed from their homes and placed in foster care. For more information on CASA of Kern County and how you can get involved, visit [www.kerncasa.org](http://www.kerncasa.org).