



#### **OUR HISTORY**

CASA of Kern County began operation in 1993-1994, funded by Junior League of Bakersfield.

Our mission is to recruit, screen and train volunteers from communities throughout Kern County to serve as Advocates for children in foster care. We also support and closely supervise the advocacy work of our volunteers throughout the duration of their assignments.

#### **OUR MISSION**

The Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Kern County speak for abused and neglected children in the juvenile dependency process. Through the use of highly trained volunteers, the CASA program seeks to provide every child who needs an advocate with a voice in the court process.

Dear Friends of CASA.



A s we reflect on the importance of our work and all we have accomplished in 2020, we are proud of the resilience exemplified in the CASA leadership, staff, our CASA volunteers, and in the children we serve. Our CASA volunteers have continued to provide unparalleled advocacy, especially during COVID. Time and again, we are seeing how CASAs are the crucial link between our youth and the various professionals and resources that make up our children's support networks. The full impact of COVID-19 on children has still yet to be seen, but CASA will continue to be the stable and consistent presence in the lives of already vulnerable children in foster care.



Below are just a few highlights of our accomplishments that could not have been achieved without the support of our community, our donors, and our diligent board of directors:

- > CASA provided consistent connection, hope, and advocacy to 385 abused and neglected children in 2020.
- > By adapting and delivering our CASA volunteer training online, we had record breaking numbers of new CASA graduates. In 2020, we graduated 82 new CASA Volunteers!
- > In an effort to reduce the gap in abused and neglected children unrepresented by a CASA Volunteer, CASA of Kern County created and updated our Growth Plan, 3-year Strategic Plan, and a robust Diversity Plan.

Last, but not least, we end the year with the hope and expectation of new beginnings with our very own dedicated Child and Advocate Visiting Center, affectionately named, The CASA Clubhouse. CASA children and their Advocates now have access to a beautiful 2000 sq ft Clubhouse with amenities such as a full kitchen, a playhouse and dress-up area, a dedicated tutoring area, and more. The Clubhouse is a tribute to the thousands of children who have had a CASA Volunteer walk by their side, and the thousands more that will see a community-wide effort to assist in their darkest of times.

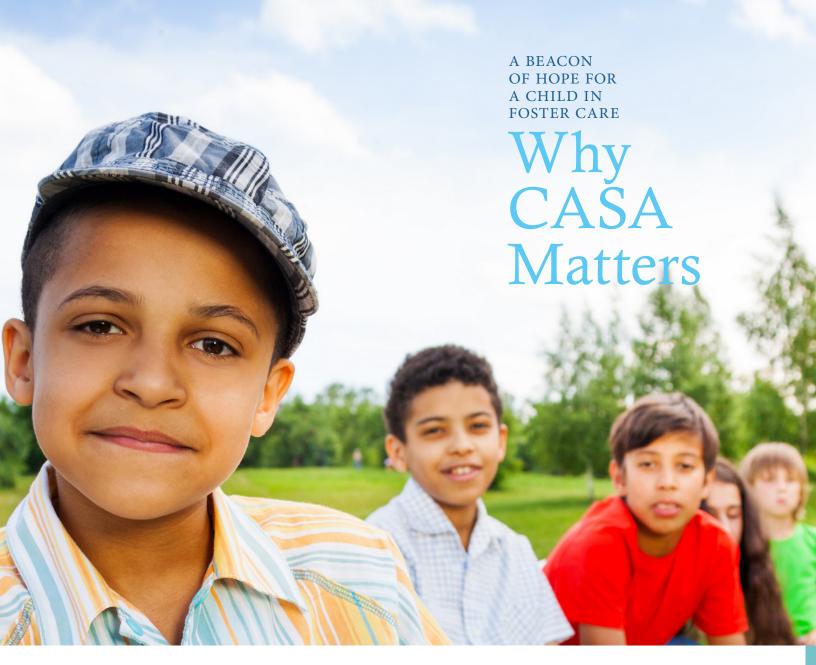
Thank you for working alongside us to accomplish these amazing outcomes and support the reason why we exist, the children. Your resilience shown this year brings us a sense of hope for good things to come.

Yours in Advocacy

Amy Travis

CASA of Kern County Executive Director

CASA Board President



#### Building consistency and trust through a pandemic

It can be tough to be a CASA when the child you're assigned to won't talk to you, not because they don't want a CASA, but because they are just not talkative. It becomes even harder to bond when you aren't visiting in person. This was the case for Richard, who was on a family maintenance case for five children. After the initial few visits, the COVID-19 pandemic limited in person visits for months. Richard did all he could to maintain a connection over the phone, but without a history and strong relationship prior to that it was difficult to get the children to talk. He would tell his Advocate Supervisor that his conversations were five minutes or ten minutes and he could barely squeeze out one new piece of information a call. Yet, he was consistent and made sure that they knew he would maintain his schedule of calling until he could visit.

Once the county's restrictions lessened a little, and Richard could visit safely, he started going out to the house. It was a slow start at first, but not as slow as the phone calls had been, because he had planted the seed of consistency. After a while the kids started opening up to him, and he would continue to visit and build that relationship. They would play games, sports, or just hang out in the open spaces next to the kids' home. Richard would find out what the family needed in order to thrive, and worked with the Social Worker to ensure that they received what they needed, such as school supplies, a bunk bed for the older boys, and even some food. He built a strong relationship with them that allowed them to trust him and ask for help. All because he persisted during the lean months. The case went so well after the initial hearing that it closed three months early, due to the family being in such good shape. The web of support for this case went beyond just the CASA but it would not have been as smooth if Richard hadn't been a consistent caring adult at the start.

<sup>\*</sup>Names changed due to strict confidentiality

## Amplifying Voices!

COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL
ADVOCATES HELP CHILDREN NAVIGATE
THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM:



ADVOCATE
Speak up for the best interest of a child



SUPPORT Provide a stable and caring relationship



INVESTIGATE
Gather important information



REPORT
Organize and present details



RECOMMEND
Offer ideas that will improve
the situation



Wendy Perlin Elizabeth Haley Craig Haley Debbe Haley Arlene Hamilton Deborah Petrini Sandra Acosta Liz Altmiller Lori Porterfield Charlina Arroyo Christina Pulido Beth Heisey Micky Heppe Jo Ann Herrera Martin Pulido Pritika Ram Peggy Bergman-Smith Chris Boyd Traci Boylan Angie Boyler Glenda Braun Diana Ramirez Kristina Herrera Petra Ramirez Kristy Rapley Cheryl Reed Kevin Reilly Kassandra Robles Brian Holt Deanna Marie Hostetter Adriana Humphrey Adelina Robles Angelica Rodriguez Joe Salinas Michelle Salinas Noah L Salinas John Sanders Madelyn Janssen Margaret Jephson Juanita Johnson Laurie Johnson Mer Conner Janet Shaw
Diana Shaw
Kristine Shipman
Vijay Siddiah
Renee Socia Cheryl Ketchum Emma Dashtipour Leslie Kimble Bobbi Kirkegaard-Jensen Debra Krohn Ali Davenport Pamela Spitzer Chris Stahnke Amanda DeLeon Ricardo DeLeon Rhonda Litt Crystal Madden MaryAnn Dunham Katharine Edmonson Pat Mahan Maribel Mancilla Judith Todd Dwight Todd Karen Townsend Jessica Mase Domingo Mata Carolyn McIntyre Lori McWilliams Jennifer Waguespack Susan E. Walker Stacey Wheeler
McKenzie White
Rachel White
Robert White Jr.
Katie Whittington Brénda Moore Jenny Moore Esmeralda Morales Donald Moss Kelli Neuman Kathy Williams Donna Woodall Joseph Greenwood Gordy Guillen Isabell Gutierrez Patrićia Zloczewski Katrina Guzman

ACCORDING TO CHILDREN'S
ATTORNEYS AND SOCIAL WORKERS,
CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH A CASA
VOLUNTEER ARE MORE LIKELY TO:



Receive needed services in a timely manner



Be enrolled in an appropriate educational setting



Participate in extracurricular activities



Have long-term connections to siblings, relatives or other support people



Be on track to graduate high school on time



Enroll in post-secondary education

# CASA by the Numbers

NUMBER OF ACTIVE CASA VOLUNTEERS

184

NEWLY TRAINED VOLUNTEERS

82

HOURS GIVEN TO ADVOCACY

6,095

MILES DRIVEN BY CASA

50,306

**COURT REPORTS SUBMITTED** 

**700** 

# Financial Summary Fiscal year 2019/20



#### **REVENUES**

Contributions from public	\$319,899
Foundations and Groups	\$86,935
Special Events	\$142,666
Net realized/unrealized gain on marketable securities	\$4,055
Contributed goods and services (in-kind)	\$280,911
Other income (Misc. and interest income)	\$4,645
Increase in net assets with donor restrictions	\$414,148
Total Income	\$1,253,259
EXPENSES	
Advocate	\$863,737
Fundraising	\$173,820
Management and general	\$229,903
Total Expenses	\$1,267,460
Change in net assets	\$343,740
Net assets, beginning of year	\$681,596
Net assets, end of year	\$1,025,336

CASA of Kern County states that an indemnification under section 9.02 did not take place during the 2019-20 fiscal year.



#### Independent Auditors' Report

Board of Directors Court Appointed Special Advocates of Kern County (CASA) Bakersfield, California

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Court Appointed Special Advocates of Kern County (CASA), which comprise the statements of financial position as of June 30, 2020 and 2019, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses, and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

#### Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

#### **Auditors' Responsibility**

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

#### Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of CASA as of June 30, 2020 and 2019, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America.

BARBICH HOOPER KING DILL HOFFMAN Accountancy Corporation

Surlick Hooper King

Bakersfield, California February 9, 2021

#### 2020 Board of Directors

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Mike Martinez, Vice President
Driver Supervisor of Field Operations
Pro Tool Services

Jannette Pedersen, Secretary Community Volunteer

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Jefferson Eberhardt, Board Member Partner Young Wooldridge, LLP

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Jeff Warren, Board Member Attorney Klein, DeNatale, Rosenlieb & Kimball, LLP

\*Susanne Icardo, Board Liasion CASA Volunteer

#### Staff

Allie Madrid, Advocate Supervisor

Amber Dixon, Associate Program Manage

Amy Travis, Executive Directo

Bobbie McIntosh, Fmaily Connections Advocate Supervisor

Carrie Garcia. Administrative Manager

Destinee Calhoun, Senior Advocate Supervisor

Diana Ramirez, Resource Development Manager

Diana Shaw, Program Manage

Edgar Annua, Administrative Assistant

Gladis Gonzalez, Community Outreach Coordinator

James Humphrey, Advocate Supervisor

Jessica Kaff, Office Coordinator

Laura Alford, Advocate Supervisor

Marlene Morales, Events and Marketing Manager

Sarah Owens, Advocate Supervisor

#### 2020 Program

#### **Partners**



















































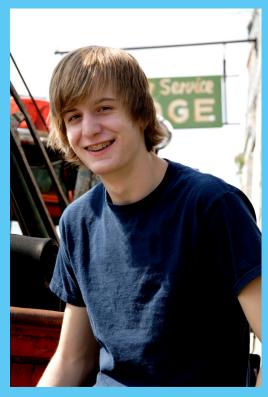




### Grant and Foundation Supporters

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