

2020  
ANNUAL  
IMPACT REPORT

Amplify  
Their  
Voices



**CASA**

Court Appointed Special Advocates  
FOR CHILDREN

KERN COUNTY



“Having someone there for me consistently and reassuring me that everything was going to be ok, someone who was not going to give up on me, made all the difference in my life.”

– Linda, Foster Youth

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## 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,



As 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

*Julio Gonzalez*  
CASA Board President



A BEACON  
OF HOPE FOR  
A CHILD IN  
FOSTER CARE

# Why CASA Matters

## 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.

\*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

# 385 children served

16% 0-5 years  
32% 6-11 years  
43% 12-17 years  
9% 18-21 years

36% Caucasian  
32% Hispanic/Latino  
13% African-American  
17% Multi-Racial  
1% Asian  
1% American Indian

## Children we helped came to us as a result of

Neglect 60%  
Physical Abuse 25%  
Domestic Violence 13%  
Sexual Abuse 2%

Mike Abbas  
Lisa Aceves  
Sandra Acosta  
Liz Altmiller  
Savannah Andrews  
Charlina Arroyo  
Antonette Ayers  
Diane Baumruk  
Breann Belcher  
Peggy Bergman-Smith  
Chris Boyd  
Traci Boylan  
Angie Boyler  
Glenda Braun  
Erika Brooks  
Tammy Brown  
Lauren Bryant  
Kylee Carranza  
TinaMarie Chaney  
Maria Chavira  
Cheryl Collins  
Rebecca Collins  
Kristin Condie  
Mer Conner  
Phoebe Contreras-Jones  
Sarah Cooper  
Sherry Core  
Karen Covington  
Janie Cross  
Inocencia Cruz  
Sue Daniels  
Emma Dashtipour  
Ali Davenport  
Keith Davenport  
Travis Dekam  
Amanda DeLeon  
Ricardo DeLeon  
Laura Di Giacomo  
MaryAnn Dunham  
Katharine Edmonson  
Bill Elrich  
Laura Elrod  
Jeannie Enriquez  
Maria Esteban  
Linda Eviston  
Sherry Fanell  
Lauren Figueroa  
Amanda Flores  
Yolanda Flores  
Lourdes Flores  
Christine Francis  
Charis Franz  
Leann Furgerson  
Sharon Gamboa  
Timothy Garcia  
Kristin Garrett  
Jim George  
Simran Ghuman  
Elizabeth Gonzalez  
Breann Goodmon  
Joseph Greenwood  
Gordy Guillen  
Isabell Gutierrez  
Katrina Guzman

Elizabeth Haley  
Craig Haley  
Debbe Haley  
Arlene Hamilton  
Johnathan Hart  
Bob Hawkes  
Beth Heisey  
Micky Heppe  
Jo Ann Herrera  
Kristina Herrera  
Rebecca Hertan  
Gina Hertz  
Melissa Hetzel  
Tracye Hicks  
Vicky Hoffman  
Brian Holt  
Deanna Marie Hostetter  
Adriana Humphrey  
William Humphrey  
Susanne Icardo  
Kate Iwanami  
Michelle Jackson  
Justin Janssen  
Madelyn Janssen  
Margaret Jephson  
Juanita Johnson  
Laurie Johnson  
Paul Johnson  
Ian Journey  
Rachel Jung  
Brenda Keele  
Cheryl Ketchum  
Leslie Kimble  
Bobbi Kirkegaard-Jensen  
Debra Krohn  
Michelle Leigh  
Mitzi LePere  
Rhonda Litt  
Crystal Madden  
Pat Mahan  
Maribel Mancilla  
Dusty Maness  
Scott Manzer  
Gary Martin  
Audrey Martinez  
Jessica Mase  
Domingo Mata  
Carolyn McIntyre  
Lori McWilliams  
Gaylene Merz  
Christine Meyer  
Kenneth Miller  
Cyrus Moon  
Brenda Moore  
Jenny Moore  
Esmeralda Morales  
Donald Moss  
Nagi Nammour  
Kelli Neuman  
Ty Ohanneson  
Michael Pangborn  
Jane Parsons  
Sonia Patino

Wendy Perlin  
Deborah Petrini  
Lori Porterfield  
April Presa  
Robert Puente  
Christina Pulido  
Martin Pulido  
Pritika Ram  
Diana Ramirez  
Petra Ramirez  
Kristy Rapley  
Cheryl Reed  
Kevin Reilly  
Kassandra Robles  
Adelina Robles  
Angelica Rodriguez  
Richard Row  
Melissa Row  
Lela Rugnao  
Martha Ruiz  
Joe Salinas  
Michelle Salinas  
Noah L Salinas  
John Sanders  
Lauren Saso  
Tyler Saso  
Anne Schlesinger  
Janet Shaw  
Diana Shaw  
Kristine Shipman  
Vijay Siddiah  
Renee Socia  
Pamela Spitzer  
Chris Stahnke  
Jamie Swan  
Theresa Thompson  
Corinne Thompson  
Judith Todd  
Dwight Todd  
Karen Townsend  
Amy Travis  
Susan Trihey  
Heaven Vasquez  
Selena Vega  
Mariela Vega Nunez  
Kassandra Vicenec  
Rhonda Voda  
Jennifer Waguespack  
Susan E. Walker  
Stacey Wheeler  
McKenzie White  
Rachel White  
Robert White Jr.  
Katie Whittington  
Kathy Williams  
Donna Woodall  
Sylvia Ziehler  
Patricia Zloczewski

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
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$1,253,259</b>

### EXPENSES

Advocate	\$863,737
Fundraising	\$173,820
Management and general	\$229,903
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,267,460</b>

Change in net assets	\$343,740
Net assets, beginning of year	\$681,596
Net assets, end of year	\$1,025,336





**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**

Bakersfield, California  
February 9, 2021

# 2020 Board of Directors

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Julio Gonzalez, President  
Assistant Vice President, Portfolio Officer  
Citizen's Business Bank

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

Jannette Pedersen, Secretary  
Community Volunteer

Shannon Webster, Treasurer  
Partner Audit Department  
Daniells Phillips Vaughan & Bock, CPA  
Realty Advisors

Terri Collins, Board Member  
Residential Realtor  
Watson Realty ERA

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Partner  
Young Wooldridge, LLP

Jill Haley-Buntley, Board Member  
Retired  
Community Volunteer

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EB Natural Resources

Ken Keller, Board Member  
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Owner  
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Tejon Ranch

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Office Administrator  
Towery Construction

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

\*Susanne Icardo, Board Liaison  
CASA Volunteer

## Staff

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Allie Madrid, Advocate Supervisor  
Amber Dixon, Associate Program Manager  
Amy Travis, Executive Director  
Bobbie McIntosh, Email Connections Advocate Supervisor  
Carrie Garcia, Administrative Manager  
Destinee Calhoun, Senior Advocate Supervisor  
Diana Ramirez, Resource Development Manager  
Diana Shaw, Program Manager  
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

The Albert Parvin Foundation  
 AmazonSmile Foundation  
 Bakersfield East Rotary Club  
 Buttonwillow Warehouse Company  
 California Resource Corporation  
 Matching  
 Catalina Barber Corporation  
 Chevron Humankind Matching Gift Program  
 Crail-Johnson Foundation  
 Cynthia Lake Charitable Trust  
 First 5 Kern  
 The GEO Group Foundation  
 Edison International  
 Haliburton Employee Matching Gift Program  
 Harry & Ethel West Foundation  
 In & Out Burger Foundation

Jerry Slough Farming Co.  
 Jim Burke Education Foundation  
 Judicial Council of California  
 Kern Health Systems  
 Lee and Krystyna Jamieson Charitable Foundation  
 Office of Emergency Services  
 PG&E Matching Gift Program  
 Robert Grimm Foundation  
 Robert Raskind Charitable Foundation  
 Semloh Foundation  
 Trang Family Charitable Fund  
 Wells Fargo Community Grant  
 Westamerica Bank Community  
 Wonderful Employee Giving Program



501(c)(3) nonprofit organization  
 Tax I.D. 77-0344298 and all donations are  
 tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.



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[www.KERNCASA](http://www.KERNCASA).

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 [@CASAofKernCounty](https://www.facebook.com/CASAofKernCounty)

CASA program name is a member of the National CASA/GAL Association and the California CASA Association.

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