



AT A GLANCE



CHILD ADVOCATES OF SILICON VALLEY MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Child Advocates is a member of the National CASA Association, a network of nearly 950 community programs supporting children in the foster care system. Because our volunteers are court-appointed, they can thoroughly research every aspect of a child's case,

including meeting teachers, social workers and foster parents. Advocates provide reports to the court so judges can make decisions with clear and accurate information. In addition to representing children in court, CASAs serve as friends and mentors.

NUMBER of CHILDREN SERVED: Over the last 31 years, Child Advocates' has served more than 16,000 of the county's most vulnerable children. In FY 2017, Child Advocates supported 810 children in the Santa Clara County foster care system. Our five-year strategic plan is to offer every child in the Santa Clara County dependency system the consistency, stability and hope that a CASA provides by year-end 2021. That's about 1,200 children.

2017 AGENCY STATISTICS:

- 80% of Child Advocates' children ages 3 to 5 were enrolled in pre-school, compared to 23% of all 3-5 year olds in the Santa Clara County dependency system.
- 95% of Child Advocate youth completed their high school requirements compared to 58% of foster children in CA.
- When a CASA is assigned to a foster child, more educational, therapeutic and medical services are ordered for children and families.
- CASAs are highly effective in getting their recommendations accepted in court. In four out of five cases, all or almost all CASA recommendations are accepted by the judge.



Who We Are

MISSION: Child Advocates of Silicon Valley's mission is to provide stability and hope to children who have experienced abuse and neglect by being a powerful voice in their lives.

VISION: Our vision is that every child has a positive view of the future and the opportunity to become a productive, healthy adult.

PURPOSE: Child Advocates' purpose is to recruit, train and support volunteer Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) to work one-on-one with foster children, ensuring that each child's critical emotional and educational needs are met and their voices heard while navigating the court dependency system.



VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT:

Child Advocates' CASAs work on behalf of foster youth in Santa Clara County. In FY 2017, we worked with 641 active CASA volunteers. In April 2017, we asked our volunteers to complete a survey about the effectiveness of the CASA program. CASAs self-reported the following results:

- 91% felt they have made a positive difference in their child's life
- 76% provided educational support to their child over the last year
- 66% saw an improvement in their child's success at school
- 81% engaged in healthy eating and physical activities with their child that encouraged a healthy life style
- 86% felt their court recommendations were fully considered by the judge presiding over their child's case
- 98% would recommend the CASA experience to others

8 KEY AREAS OF SUPPORT: Our agency is known for its innovative methods of achieving positive outcomes for foster youth. We incorporate the renowned "Developmental Assets" approach into the training and supervision of CASA volunteers. Our "8 Key Areas of Support " system guides CASAs by categorizing their work with foster youth into areas of support that are directly related to Developmental Assets, a long standing evidence-based approach to supporting healthy youth development.

Our "8 Key Areas of Support" are:

- Education Support
- Trust and Relationship Building
- Self-Esteem Building
- Healthy Choices and Behaviors
- Developmental Milestones/Independent Living Skills
- New Experiences
- Cultural and Community Events
- Extracurricular Activities

The 8 Key Areas of Support and our trauma-informed, strength based, child centered, asset-building approach have been shared with the California and National CASA networks as best practice and was published in the New Social Worker online magazine in October 2014.



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