

# CASA OF FRESNO & MADERA COUNTIES

2020/2021 Impact Report


# The Future is Bright.



**CASA**

COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES  
The Voice that Matters for Foster Youth

FRESNO & MADERA COUNTIES



“There can be no keener revelation  
of a society’s soul than the way in  
which it treats its children.”

Nelson Mandela



Dear Friends of CASA,

*The creation of our 2021-22 Impact Report provides the opportunity to reflect on the past with gratitude and look towards the future with hope. I wish to thank each of our donors, partners, Board members, staff, and especially our dedicated advocates for their support to our mission to advocate on behalf of youth in the foster care system. As a community, you provided the support to accomplish so much under the most challenging of circumstances. You may have advocated for foster youth to the school or dependency court, raised the awareness of CASA by sharing about our mission, attended one of our events, and/or financially supported CASA.*

*Our advocates continued to donate over 10,000 volunteer hours this past year to be the constant adult to their assigned youth so that together they could navigate the unknowns of COVID for the second consecutive year. We remained true to our mission to be there for the foster youth through advocacy, compassion, and concern for their healing from childhood trauma as they transitioned to a new resource home, grade level, school, and faced challenges together. We celebrated birthdays, reunification, graduations, and adoptions.*

*As the 2022-23 fiscal year commences, we remain focused on our critical work to positively change the trajectory of our most neglected and abused foster youth. We have an ambitious agenda, but with your support, we know it can be done. We will be launching additional efforts to recruit, train, and support additional volunteers to serve more youth, and we will provide additional training in mental wellness in order for our volunteers to better advocate for their youth. We will continue to build our partnership with the Juvenile Justice System, prevent Human Trafficking (More than 80% of the children who have been human trafficked have spent time in the foster care system) and provide additional Trauma Informed Awareness to staff and advocates to help mitigate the effects of childhood trauma.*

*Although the future holds some uncertainty, we as an organization and as a community are ready to assist and advocate for youth so they may also have a healthy and successful adult life. We are CASA: The Voice that Matters for Foster Youth.*

*In partnership for children,  
Wilma Tom Hashimoto - Executive Director*



#### OUR MISSION

To recruit, train and support volunteers to advocate and speak for the best interest of abused and neglected children in the foster care system

#### OUR VISION

Fresno and Madera Counties will become a safe haven for children and their families thus enhancing the community as a whole.



# Why CASA Matters

Fresno and Madera Counties currently have more than 2,900 children in the foster care system. CASA volunteers are appointed to the highest risk foster youth from ages 0 to 21 years old. The foster care system is a known pipeline to prison, homelessness, human trafficking and mental health issues due to the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and trauma that foster children have suffered at the hands of the people that were supposed to care for them the most.

With the help of our community, CASA is changing the trajectory of each foster child's life so that they are not just another statistic. We are CASA: The Voice that Matters for Foster Youth.



# 5 Key Actions of a CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates help children navigate the foster care system:



## Speak up

for the best interest of a child



## Build Resiliency

and reduce the impact of ACEs, or Adverse Childhood Experiences, by providing support and stability



## Listen

to what a child says about their education, mental and physical health, and home environment



## Share

the needs of the child with other caregivers and the court



## Take Action

to ensure the safety and well-being of the child, now and in the future



THREE KEY OUTCOMES

# Safety A Forever Home Well-Being





# Case Study

Vickie, one of our amazing CASAs, was called to think outside the box while working with “Christina”, a fifteen-year-old freshman in high school.

This CASA youth was frequently unable to wake up for school and missed classes which caused her to fall behind in her education. Vickie knew Christina would not have missed school by choice; thus, she began to investigate any medical issues that impacted attendance. Vickie discovered, Christina was over-sleeping because of a diagnosed sleep disorder which affected her ability to engage in normal daily activities. Complicating matters further, she refused to be assessed by school staff.

Due to Christina’s traumatic experiences, she was placed in foster care and did not trust adults and would not communicate with them. To find a solution, this CASA worked directly with the school district and discovered the issue with testing was the length of time the student was required to spend with a person she didn’t know. The advocate suggested to offer the assessment in several shortened segments of time. This small accommodation allowed Christina to feel more comfortable and participate fully in the assessments. As a result, the educational team was able to understand her history, its impact on her life, and was able to better accommodate her specific needs.

Because of Vickie’s effort as a CASA, Christina’s academic needs were met, allowing her to continue in school, increasing her trust of adults and strengthening her confidence. Truly, Vickie was the voice that mattered for Christina.

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

NO. CHILDREN SERVED  
IN FRESNO & MADERA COUNTIES:

326

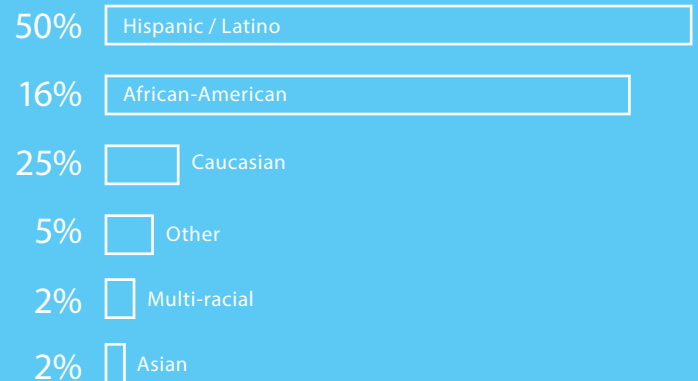
ACTIVE CASA VOLUNTEERS  
IN FRESNO & MADERA COUNTIES:

258

HOURS OF ADVOCACY EFFORTS

12,121

RACE AND ETHNICITY





# The Need

Foster youth in Fresno and Madera counties desperately need a voice as they navigate the court system and life in foster care. That's where CASA comes in. Our Advocates give hope to each child we serve, paving their way to a better future.

Fresno and Madera Counties currently have more than 2,500 children in the foster care system. CASA volunteers are appointed to the highest risk foster youth from ages 0 to 21 years old. The foster care system is a known pipeline to prison, homelessness, human trafficking and mental health issues due to the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's) and trauma that foster children have suffered at the hands of the people that were supposed to care for them the most.

With the help of our community, CASA is changing the trajectory of each foster child's life so that they are not just another statistic.



CASA OF FRESNO & MADERA  
COUNTIES HAS OPERATED SINCE

# 1996

CASA of Fresno and Madera Counties is a voice for abused and neglected children in our community who have been placed in foster care.

These children are currently facing loneliness, health issues, a lack of stability, and a great risk of falling behind educationally and developmentally. As adults they are at greater risk of homelessness, substance abuse, imprisonment and more.

Today we have 258 volunteer advocates assisting 225 children. However, there are currently nearly 2,500 foster youth in Fresno and Madera Counties. It is our dream to be able to serve each and every one of these children.

We are CASA: The Voice that Matters for Foster Youth!



## How you can help

Court-appointed special advocates make a life-changing difference for those they serve. Foster children with these incredible volunteers at their side typically have improved outcomes to those who must navigate the system on their own. Children and youth with a CASA volunteer are more likely to...

- Find a permanent, loving home
- Be connected with supportive services while in the foster care system
- Perform better academically
- Form a stronger sense of acceptance, positivity, and achievement.

# Financial Summary

FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021

## Statement of Audited Financials

FY2019-2020 & FY2020-2021

REVENUES	FY2021-2020	FY2019-2020
Individuals	\$81,147	\$90,037
Foundations	\$71,549	\$82,826
Government	\$903,453	\$892,794
Corporate Giving	\$142,084	\$53,920
Fundraising (Events & Initiatives)	\$142,084	\$53,920
Contributed Goods & Services	\$223,618	\$138,634
Interest/Other Revenue	\$29,333.00	\$4,737
Total Revenue:	\$1,857,978	\$1,675,553
EXPENSES		
Program Expenses	\$1,433,132	\$1,247,358
Management & General	\$245,681	\$317,684
Fundraising	\$78,704	\$130,053
Total Expenses:	\$1,757,517	\$1,695,095
Change in Net Assets:		
Net Assets at Beginning of Year:	\$658,474	\$762,039
Net Assets at Year End:	\$783,241	\$658,474

## Statement of Financial Position

FY2019-2020 & FY2020-2021

ASSETS	FY2021-2020	FY2019-2020
Current Assets	\$972,390	\$920,955
Property and Equipment	\$30,635	\$27,817
Other Assets	\$136,733	\$108,973
Total Assets	\$1,139,758	\$1,057,745
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Current Liabilities	\$235,140	\$253,588
Net Assets	\$904,618	\$804,157
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$1,139,758	\$1,057,745

# With Thanks

CASA of Fresno and Madera Counties relies on the generosity of our sponsors and donors to continue to change lives in our foster system. Every donation, large and small, makes a difference.

## Gifts \$10,000+

City Of Fresno  
CPT Group  
DB Coffee Fresno  
Donna Rosenstein  
Educational Employees Credit Union  
Edward & Jeanne Kashian Family Foundation  
Fresno Equipment Company  
Granville Homes  
Janell Boldt Fund  
JD Food/Certified Meat Products  
Kappa Alpha Theta  
Mike McGaughy's Classic Chevy Parts  
Producers Dairy  
Rebecca Castro  
Rotary Club Of Fresno  
Smittcamp Family Foundation

## Gifts \$5,000+

Core Business Interiors  
In-N-Out Burger Foundation  
Moss Adams  
Trinity Health  
Valley Children's Hospital

## Gifts \$2,500+

Arron Judge ALL RISE Foundation  
Ben and Kara Torchia  
Caglia Environmental  
Civic Center Square  
Hal Kissler and Maureen Lewis  
Jonathan & Mandy Kotman  
Lynn Bailey  
Network For Good  
Richard and Nancy Aaron  
River Ministries & River Church of Fresno  
Robert and Linda Glassman  
Suncrest Bank  
The Zenith

## Board of Directors

FY2021-2022

IVONNE DER TOROSIAN, PRESIDENT  
BEN TORCHIA, VICE PRESIDENT  
PAULO A. SOARES, TREASURER  
JEFF DAL CERRO, SECRETARY  
ANDREA BENSON  
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MAUREEN LEWIS  
GREG MISKULIN  
ROB POYTHRESS  
DONNA ROSENSTEIN  
DANIEL SCROGGINS

## Staff

FY2021-2022

Wilma Tom Hashimoto - Executive Director  
Renee Dayton, Associate Director  
Francisco Pelayo - Senior Advocate Supervisor  
Angi Martinez - Senior Advocate Supervisor  
Dulce Arredondo - Advocate Supervisor  
Paul Braswell - Resource Development Coordinator  
Raquel Garcia - ASQ Facilitator, Madera  
Christopher Harris - Advocate Supervisor  
Rebecca Johnson - Resource Development Coordinator  
Kerry McGuire - Accounting Specialist  
Carmina Ramos - Lead Advocate Supervisor and Outreach Specialist  
Karen Rhoades - Program Administrative Assistant  
Lisa RochaDanks - Marketing, Outreach Coordinator  
Angelica Romero - Finance and Operations Manager  
Jennifer Scales - Advocate Supervisor  
Jeffrey Stanley - Advocate Supervisor  
Elena Vasquez-Sidhu - Advocate Supervisor  
Hayley Vuola - Program Administrative Assistant

Tax statement/info to go here is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization (IRS Tax I.D. #00-0000000) and all donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.



# CASA DONORS

All money raised by our organization goes directly toward recruitment, training and support of compassionate volunteer advocates. These advocates speak on behalf of abused and neglected children in our community every day, giving voice to their needs. Their efforts provide hundreds of foster children each year with the best opportunity for a healthy and successful future.

## Gifts \$1,000+

Ashwood Construction, Inc  
Austin Childers  
Bitwise Industries  
Chukchansi Gold Resort & Casino  
Dan and Ivonne Der Torosian  
David and Carolyn Johnson Family Fund  
Eye Q Vision Center  
Gerald & Tammy Chooljian  
James & Terri Walls  
Jana Todd  
Jay and Amy Varney  
Jim and Jeannette Martin  
Kirk Poochigian  
LauraBeth Grubb  
Manco Abbott Inc  
Michelle McGaughy  
Nancy Richardson  
Ramneek Bhullar  
Rancho Market  
Rhiannon Maloney  
Stephanie Copner  
Steve and Marie Edwards

The Bertha and John Garabedian Foundation  
The Word Community Church  
United Way California Capital Region

## Gifts \$100+

Allan Braswell  
Andrew Escamilla  
Andy Seeto  
Ashley Newell  
Barbara Cardoza  
Benevity Community Impact Fund  
Best Market  
Beverly Hovsepian  
Bill and Alicia Hinton  
Bobbie Leigh Duncanson  
Carole Kasarjian  
Catalano Fenske & Associates  
Chapter TT PEO  
Christy Nottingham  
Crafty Cousins DIY  
Craig Hitechew  
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Daniel and Leslie Griffin  
David Giglio  
Deborah Martinez  
Dennis & Nancy Ralston  
Don & Jeanne Coyne  
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Dusty Gaither  
Eileen Snidman  
Frank & Alice Saviez  
Fresno Area Construction Team  
Fresno Board Of Realtors Inc.  
Frontstream  
Gail and John Beyer  
Goldberg & Ibarra  
Greg and Woon Inouye  
Harlan Awbrey & Heather Glosier  
Harold and Deanna Householder  
Harry and Georgann Cline  
Jaime C Dirksen  
James & Melinda Franklin  
James and Stacey Beggs  
Jan and Ellen Williams  
Jennifer Schuh



## Gifts \$100+ (Cont.)

Jeremy Strauss  
John and Eugenia Waugh, Jr.  
John and Jennifer McDougal  
John Farrell  
John Kashian  
Katherine Burt-Jones  
Kenneth & Michele Sartain  
Kylene Hashimoto  
Laurel Maxwell  
Lee Takikawa  
Lester and Judy Leas  
Margaret Bryan  
Marge Mittelman  
Maria Del Valle  
Marilyn Osganian  
Marisela Vallejo  
Matt and Serina Garza  
Michael & Susan Gary Woods  
Michael and Linda Rogers  
Michael Jones  
Michelle Dresick Cardot

Mike and Cheryl Jerkovich  
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Nicholas Don Paladino  
Nicole Aranaz  
Norman Sigel  
Oscar Olguin  
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Paul and Roxanne Braswell  
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Rachel Van Noy  
Reedley Properties  
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Robert & Holly Longatti  
Robert & Stephanie Oliver  
Robert Henry  
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Rod Avedikian  
Rohit Mahajan  
Ron Sheppard  
Ronald McLallin  
Rudy and Teresa Cerda

Ryan and Andrea Benson  
Scott Wilhite  
Sheryl Ireland  
Stephanie Marriott  
Steven and Patricia Covey  
Steven Humphry  
Stiltz-Maxon Family  
Susan Goodstadt-Levin  
The Carol Reba Family Trust  
The Meat Market Northeast  
Theodore and Marcia Falk, DDS  
Thomas and Connie Beauregard  
Tiffany Friesen Ylarregui  
Trudi Thom  
Valley Document Solutions  
Vincent & Sheena Harris  
W and Sue Olson  
Western Mobile Glass Co.  
William and Kellie and Esmay  
Wilma Hashimoto  
Wonderful Giving








COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES  
The Voice that Matters for Foster Youth  
FRESNO & MADERA COUNTIES

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[www.CASaprogram.com](http://www.CASaprogram.com)

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CASA Of Fresno and Madera Counties is a member of the National CASA/GAL Association  
and the California CASA Association.

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