



Organization Information

Legal Name

Voices for Children

DBA (if Applicable)

NA

Program Name/Title

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program

Describe the impact of the program to date. Briefly explain how the service/intervention has worked - include cumulative metrics from approved application.

During Q4, Voices for Children (VFC) provided Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteers to 943 San Diego County children in foster care, including at least 17 from the Fallbrook Regional Healthcare District (FRHD). Additionally, our Case Liaison staff provided direct issue-specific advocacy to at least 261 more children, including at least one from the Fallbrook region. For the year, VFC provided advocacy to 1,631 children in foster care. Of these, 1,207 were served by CASA volunteers. This grant supported ongoing and comprehensive CASA advocacy for six of the 21 FRHD children provided advocacy this year.

To illustrate a CASA volunteer's impact, we share the following story.

Annie and Alex were placed into foster care after their father abandoned them after relapsing on methamphetamine. The children's school attendance was poor and they had untreated vision problems. Annie and Alex were placed in the care of their relative caregiver. VFC assigned CASA Jill to their case in November 2024. By visiting the family regularly, CASA Jill established a trusting relationship with Alex, Annie, and their caregiver, who had five other children. The caregiver was struggling financially, and enrichment activities for Annie and Alex were not economically possible. CASA Jill connected the family to a nonprofit in their area that provides extracurricular activities for children and also to a food and clothing drive near their home. CASA Jill was able to expedite free prescription glasses for Annie and Alex. They are both attending school regularly now and are thriving at school and home.

Number of residents that directly benefitted (participant/client) from this program. 21

Target Population - Age

	Percent of program participants	Estimated number of participants
Children (infants to 12)	67	14
Young Adults (13-17)	24	5
Adults (18-60)	9	2
Seniors (60+)		

	Percent of program participants	Estimated number of participants
We do not collect this data (indicate with 100%)*		

Target Population not collected - Age

NA

Target Population - Gender

	Percent of program participants
Female	43
Male	48
Non-binary	9
Unknown*	

*Target Population - Gender

NA

Target Population - Income Level

	Percent of program participants
Extremely Low-Income Limits, ceiling of \$32,100	100
Very Low (50%) Income Limits, ceiling of \$53,500	
Low (80%) Income Limits, ceiling of \$85,600	
Higher Than Listed Limits	
We do not collect this data (indicate with 100%)*	

*Target Population - Income Level

NA

What language(s) does this program accommodate:

- English
- Spanish
- Tagalog
- Chinese (Mandarin/Cantonese)

What demographic group does this program predominately serve:

- Youth - other setting

Social Determinants of Health (SDOH)

The Fallbrook Regional Health District has identified several Social Determinants of Health that demonstrate a significant impact on the long term health and well being of our community. The following questions address how your program and/or services address these concerns.

Program/Services Description - Social Determinants of Health

Education Access & Quality (Early Childhood Education

and Development, Enrollment in Higher Education, High School Graduation, Language and Literacy)

Healthcare Access & Quality (Access to Health Care, Access to Primary Care, Health Literacy)

Program Goal

The goal of VFC's CASA program in the Fallbrook Regional Healthcare District was to provide crucial advocacy to 18 FRHD children in foster care in fiscal year (FY) 2024–25. Funding from the Fallbrook Regional Healthcare District supported ongoing and comprehensive CASA advocacy for six of the 21 FRHD children we served this fiscal year. CASA volunteers ensure that the physical, mental, and behavioral health needs of children in foster care are addressed by advocating on their behalf in court, at school, in healthcare settings, at home, and in the community.

Program Objectives & Measurable Outcomes

VFC measures the impact of our program in two ways. We measure the number of children matched with CASA volunteers because each child matched will benefit from a relationship with a consistent and caring adult. The goal of the CASA program was to provide CASA advocacy services to 18 FHRD children in foster care and monitor the cases of all FHRD children in foster care in case their needs rise to a level requiring CASA or staff advocacy. To achieve this goal, VFC pursued the following objectives in FY 2024–25:

Objective 1: By June 30, 2025, VFC will match 18 children from the Fallbrook Regional Health District with CASA volunteers who will advocate on their behalf. At least 18 children will receive individualized advocacy from a CASA volunteer. This will be measured through an order from the Court documenting the assignment of each CASA to the case of a child from the Fallbrook Regional Health District. VFC tracked our progress by uploading court documentation of CASA assignments to each child's case profile in CASA Manager, our database and program management system.

During FY 2024–25, 18 children from Fallbrook and Bonsall were matched with CASA volunteers and benefited from a relationship with a dedicated adult who advocates on their behalf.

Objective 2: By June 30, 2025, VFC will recruit and train 18 new CASA volunteers. At least 18 prospective CASA volunteers will complete Advocate University, VFC's 35-hour CASA training program. VFC measured training progress through internal volunteer records, which documented completion of training requirements. VFC tracked each CASA trainee's progress in CASA Manager. Each prospective trainee is required to attend a CASA volunteer information session and complete an initial interview prior to enrollment in Advocate University. During Advocate University, trainees complete 35 hours of coursework, two additional interviews, a courtroom observation, and homework.

VFC staff met this objective. During the year, VFC held 30 informational sessions to recruit new CASA volunteers; 952 community members attended information sessions during the fiscal year. We held eight sessions of Advocate University, graduating 213 new CASA volunteers who will serve children throughout San Diego County.

Objective 3: By June 30, 2025, VFC will provide Juvenile Court judges with comprehensive reports at each regularly scheduled hearing, typically held every six months, on behalf of CASA-served children in foster care. At least 18 court reports will be submitted to judges on behalf of FRHD children, enabling judges to make more informed decisions about the children and their needs. This will be measured through the San Diego County Juvenile Electronic Library System (JELS), the program that court reports are submitted through. CASA volunteers will provide their VFC Advocacy Supervisors with monthly case updates, including information about the services provided to each child, observations from their monthly visits, and information shared by caregivers, teachers, healthcare providers, and child welfare professionals. Every six months, CASA volunteers will work with their Advocacy Supervisors to complete court reports that will be submitted to the Court electronically through JELS.

VFC CASA volunteers are continually submitting court reports and accompanying their case child to their court hearings as they are scheduled. The court report helps Juvenile Court judges make well-informed

decisions about each child's case and also provides VFC with an internal means of monitoring and assessing each child's progress on their path toward safety, stability, and well-being. VFC staff use the court report to help assess the program's individual impact on a child in foster care. A court report serves several important functions. It serves as a roadmap that guides CASA volunteers as they gather information about a child's situation. It documents a child's progress over time. It is an advocacy tool that alerts a child's judge, attorney, and social worker with timely information about a child's most urgent needs. It has a humanizing impact that provides the Court with a whole-child perspective on the child for whom they are making life-altering decisions.

Anticipated Acknowledgment

Please describe how the Fallbrook Regional Health District's investment in this program will be acknowledged. This includes all print and electronic materials, press releases, website references, and any other form of written and verbal publicity that relates to the funded program.

District Support Acknowledgment

Social Media Postings

Other

Contact Information

Contact Name

Rebecca Rader

Title

Chief Philanthropy Officer

Primary Contact Phone

858-610-5665

Email Address

RebeccaR@speakupnow.org

Organization Physical Address

2851 Meadow Lark Drive
San Diego, California, 92123

District Support Acknowledgment



VFC 23-24 Impact report w San Diegopdf

Program Budget



VFC 24_25 FRHD CHC Budget Report... .xlsx

Confirmation

YES - this information is accurate



MISSION

Voices for Children transforms the lives of abused, abandoned, or neglected children by providing them with trained, volunteer Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs).

VISION

Voices for Children believes that every child deserves a safe and permanent home and, to that end, will provide a trained CASA volunteer to every abused, abandoned, or neglected child who needs one and advocate to improve the lives of children in the foster care system.

FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO AND BOARD CHAIR

Dear Friends,

We are excited to share this year's Impact Report with you. This annual report allows us to illustrate how you have nurtured the lives of children and youth in our community through your support of Voices for Children. In the pages that follow, you will find inspiring examples of how CASA volunteers spark hope in the lives of some of our community's most vulnerable young people.

When children experience abuse or neglect and it is unsafe for them to remain in their homes, they enter foster care. Each child and family is assigned to a juvenile court judge who makes all of the decisions about what happens next. In California and around the country, judges appoint exceptional community volunteers to advocate for the child's best interests and to get to know the child in a holistic way. These volunteers are called Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs).

CASA volunteers work hard to lighten the heavy hearts of the children for whom they advocate. CASAs guide their assigned youth through some of the darkest days of their childhood. With compassion and commitment, CASAs learn as much as they can about a child's circumstances, advocate for their unmet needs, and work tirelessly to ensure brighter days ahead.

In San Diego and Riverside Counties, Voices for Children is the only organization authorized by the local courts to recruit, train, and support CASA volunteers. Children experiencing the complex child welfare system rely on Voices for Children to ensure they will have their very own CASA volunteer when they need one. VFC is also honored to serve as the CASA program for the Pechanga Band of Indians Tribal Court.

Thanks to Voices for Children's amazing corps of CASA volunteers and our committed professional staff, Voices for Children provided direct advocacy to 2,315 youth in foster care across San Diego and Riverside Counties as well as case monitoring services to hundreds of other children in foster care who might need an advocate in the future.

All of this is possible because of you – our CASA volunteers, our Board members, our donors, our community champions, and our steadfast friends. We are so grateful for the tremendous impact you have made in the lives of the children we serve.

With appreciation, always,



Jessica Muñoz

Jessica Muñoz, Esq., MFS
President & CEO



Kristi E. Pfister

Kristi E. Pfister, Esq.
Chair, Board of Directors





“

The impact that you can make as a CASA is life-changing for both your case child and yourself. Being a CASA perfectly illustrates the idea that ‘one person can change someone’s life.’ This experience provides both of us the chance to learn and grow. And, it is wonderful to advocate for someone who often does not have a voice.” - CASA KERI, RIVERSIDE COUNTY

Advocacy Starts with a Spark

Children in foster care deserve our support to help them thrive. Voices for Children (VFC) recruits, trains, and supports Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteers who advocate for these children in court, school, and community settings, ensuring their needs are met and their voices heard. CASA volunteers are the spark that ignites change and hope in the lives of children in foster care.

The childhood of a youth in foster care can be marked by trauma, disruption, and loss. **A CASA represents a stable, trusted relationship with an adult who sparks hope during the darkest of times in their life.** What seems like an insignificant action to most people — listening to concerns, meeting for a meal, and offering trust, safety, and respect — is paramount for the children we serve because these actions let them know **they matter**. A CASA volunteer's dedicated advocacy, support, and mere presence can be a constant light that can make a world of difference in a child's life and lead them toward a more hopeful future.

VFC is the only nonprofit designated by the Superior Courts in San Diego and Riverside Counties to connect foster youth with CASA volunteers. In FY23–24, VFC supported 1,222 CASA volunteers in these counties. This year, the organization focused on leveraging its CASA model, resources, and connections to meet the new challenges children and families impacted by the child welfare system are facing.

Key initiatives included:

1. Program Innovation: Both counties are innovating the CASA model to make it more

accessible, effective, and inclusive for all children. In Riverside County, the new staff role of Distance Advocacy Specialist now serves children placed outside the county. In San Diego County, our robust Case Liaison program continues to strengthen relationships with Juvenile Court professionals to identify and serve youth and families needing additional support.

2. Community Presence and CASA Impact: VFC bolstered its reputation as a trusted organization, ensuring our CASA volunteers' impact on children's well-being is widely recognized and supported. The *"Your Voice, Their Future"* campaign exceeded its goal of serving 150 children, assigning CASA volunteers to 241 children in foster care.

3. Sustainable Funding and Resources: Collaboration across departments facilitated site visits with funders, securing a balance of public and private funding. New office spaces in both counties reflect VFC's mission and values, providing welcoming environments for staff and volunteers.

4. Thought Leadership in Child Welfare: VFC continues to lead the most prominent juvenile justice CASA program and the largest CASA program in California.

This report highlights the importance of one caring adult in a child in foster care's life and the impact of our dedicated CASA volunteers. By showing up in meaningful ways, these volunteers help fulfill VFC's mission: providing a CASA to every child in need.

BY THE NUMBERS:

- **2,315** children served with advocacy by Voices for Children across San Diego and Riverside Counties
- **1,222** community members served as CASA volunteers
- **1,961** court reports were completed during the last FY
- **222** Voices for Children CASAs held educational rights on behalf of their case youth
- **337** cases closed while served by a Voices for Children CASA ended in reunification, adoption, or guardianship



“

What makes a CASA unique to youth in foster care? CASAs make a big difference in these kids' lives, advocating for what the child needs, from education to mental or physical health services to assisting with maintaining family ties. But most importantly, CASAs provide continuity.”

– CASA MARK, SAN DIEGO COUNTY

CASAS

MAKE THE *Difference*

A child who has a CASA volunteer is more likely to:



Find a safe,
permanent home



Experience fewer
foster placements



Have access to
more resources



Avoid re-entry
into the system



Spend less time
in the child welfare and
juvenile justice systems



Succeed in school



Have a sense
of acceptance
and self-worth

*“To give a child a CASA volunteer is to give them a voice.
To give them a voice is to give them hope, and to give them
hope is to give them the world.”*

– PAMELA, A FORMER YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE

OUR COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION



Our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) is a cornerstone of our Strategic Plan.

This year, we worked on ensuring all of our CASA volunteers have this crucial understanding when dealing with our population of youth and families. During the FY23–24, Voices for Children facilitated trainings on implicit bias & privilege for CASAs; filmed an educational video discussion with CASAs on the subject of LGBTQ+ advocacy as a Continuing Education resource; continued to ensure all our internal and external communications use inclusive and affirming language; held six bi-monthly staff DEI trainings that incorporated key topics such as: generational trauma, overcoming adverse childhood experiences (ACES), building resilience, and understanding the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) when working with Native American families and tribes.

We also changed our CASA small group session offerings to include more diverse topics that better represent the youth we serve.

This past year, Voices for Children again participated in the Human Rights Campaign Foundation’s All Children–All Families program. This program is designed to enhance the services child welfare agencies provide to the LGBTQ+ community, including children in foster care. We are proud to have earned the Innovative Inclusion Tier of Recognition, the highest level of recognition, for our efforts to support LGBTQ+ youth and families. This recognition is a testament to our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Now in its fourth year, our staff-led Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Awareness, and Action (IDEAA) Council supports essential advances in our DEI efforts.





“

CASA Laura helped me find what worked for me, which I think every CASA can do for their youth, whether it's sports or any hobby because you won't be there for the entire child's life, but if you can plant those seeds or help them plant their own, it goes a lot further than one or two resources you can provide at the moment. Being a CASA is just as much an experience for the youth in foster care as it is for the volunteer. This is an opportunity to make the world a better place by making an impact in a child's life.”

*- VANESSA, UCLA CLASS OF 2024,
B.A. IN SOCIOLOGY, REAL WORD PANELIST*

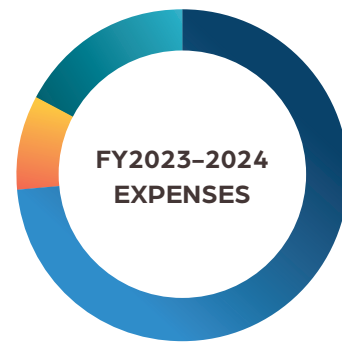
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

FY2022-2023 & FY2023-2024

REVENUES	FY2022-2023	FY2023-2024
Gifts and Contributions	\$3,220,756	\$3,599,145
Special Events (less direct benefits)	\$2,212,402	\$2,280,579
Government Funding	\$2,562,488	\$3,223,087
Contributed Goods, Services, and Facilities	\$62,607	\$65,297
Investment Return	\$220,606	\$543,426
Total Revenue	\$8,278,859	\$9,711,534
EXPENSES	FY2022-2023	FY2023-2024
Program	\$5,783,261	\$6,405,437
Management and General	\$625,292	\$780,847
Fundraising	\$1,370,658	\$1,492,690
Total Expenses	\$7,779,211	\$8,678,974
Change in Net Assets	\$499,648	\$1,032,560
Net Assets at the Beginning of Year	\$11,145,356	\$11,645,004
Net Assets at Year End	\$11,645,004	\$12,677,564



- GIFTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS **37.06%**
- SPECIAL EVENTS **23.48%**
- GOVERNMENT FUNDING **33.19%**
- CONTRIBUTED GOODS, SERVICES, AND FACILITIES **0.67%**
- INVESTMENT RETURN **5.60%**



- PROGRAM **73.80%**
- MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL **9.00%**
- FUNDRAISING **17.20%**

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

FY2022-2023 & FY2023-2024

ASSETS	FY2022-2023	FY2023-2024
Current Assets	\$11,579,990	\$13,550,270
Property and Equipment	\$197,471	\$385,504
Other Assets	\$3,169,054	\$2,575,433
Total Assets	\$14,946,515	\$16,511,207
LIABILITY AND NET ASSETS	FY2022-2023	FY2023-2024
Current Liabilities	\$1,728,661	\$2,264,417
Long-term Liabilities	\$1,572,850	\$1,569,226
Net Assets – Without Donor Restrictions	\$9,329,741	\$10,930,133
Net Assets – With Donor Restrictions	\$2,315,263	\$1,747,431
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$14,946,515	\$16,511,207



Your Support Gives Children a Voice

During FY23-24, Voices for Children received generous financial support totaling **\$9,711,534**. Because of you, we provided one-on-one advocacy to more than 2,300 children living in foster care across San Diego and Riverside Counties.

GIFTS, GRANTS, & CONTRIBUTIONS

Voices for Children is funded primarily by support from individuals, private foundations, businesses, and service groups who believe in our mission and join us in investing in our community's children. We are grateful for their contributions, which impact thousands of lives and will continue to make a difference for years to come.

Additionally, we apply and compete for government grants to recruit, train, and support CASAs for children in San Diego and Riverside Counties. We are grateful to receive support from the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services through the U.S. Department of Justice, Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), along with various Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), and other grants awarded by our state, county, and city jurisdictions.

We invite you to review the San Diego and Riverside County supplements to this report, which include donor listings showcasing the broad community support for local children in foster care through the exceptional advocacy of our CASAs.

BY THE NUMBERS:

- **1,222** CASA volunteers
- **99,000+** hours donated
- **\$3.8 million+** in donated time*
- **\$65,297** in-kind donations of media, special activities for children, development opportunities for staff, and professional services

**According to the Independent Sector, volunteer time in California is valued at \$38.61 per hour.*



Proud recipient of the 2024 GuideStar Platinum Seal of Transparency and a four-star Charity Navigator rating.

Leadership

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FY2023-2024

Annette Bradbury, *Chair*
Kristi E. Pfister, Esq., *Vice Chair*
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Andy Christopher, *Treasurer*
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Jenny McKenna
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Andrea Payne Moser
Hollis R. Peterson, Esq.
Sergio del Prado
Penny E. Robbins
Monique Rodriguez
Laura Roos
Edward Patrick "Pat" Swan, Jr., Esq.
Mark Wernig

Jessica Muñoz, Esq., MFS
President & CEO

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL RIVERSIDE COUNTY

FY2023-2024

Liz Jones
Jim Steere
Hector Zatarain



“

It's essential to provide young boys in foster care the opportunity to lean on and learn from stable male role models. I encourage men to take action by offering a few hours a month to make a difference for boys living in foster care in our local community. The little time spent as a CASA may be all it takes to have a life-changing effect.”

– CASA ROBERT, RIVERSIDE COUNTY



Voices for Children adheres to the "Trauma-Informed Care Code of Conduct" developed by San Diego Foundation, Clinton Foundation, and the County of San Diego.



speakupnow.org

858-569-2019 | San Diego County

951-472-9301 | Riverside County

IRS tax I.D. #95-3786047





IMPACT REPORT FY2023-2024
SAN DIEGO COUNTY SUPPLEMENT

A Guiding Light in a Child's Life

"As we work to create light for others, we naturally light our own way."

— MARY ANNE RADMACHER

For decades, we have been dedicated to championing the rights and well-being of children navigating the complexities of the foster care system. Through both challenging and transformative times, our unwavering mission remains clear: to ensure every child has access to a caring and committed Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) who needs one.

Our CASA program provides invaluable support to vulnerable youth, empowering them to find their voices. Each trained CASA volunteer serves as a beacon of hope, offering stability and consistency. They provide critical support through advocacy, meeting essential needs, and creating positive experiences. By ensuring that children in foster care are heard and fully represented, CASA volunteers illuminate a path toward brighter futures by being there every step of the way. Thanks to their efforts, Voices for Children (VFC) is honored to have advocated on behalf of 1,729 youth in San Diego County foster care this year.

As leaders within San Diego County's child welfare system, we continued amplifying our capacity to streamline access and resources for our CASA volunteers to improve how they can meet the physical, social, and emotional needs of the children they advocate for. As the most extensive juvenile justice program in the nation, we are committed to serving at-risk and justice-involved youth and leading the way for other CASA programs that are expanding their reach to serve these youth as well. As a CASA program dedicated to advocating for children in foster care since 1980, we continue to be seen as experts who consistently share our support, advice, and technical assistance with local CASA programs statewide and meet with dozens of staff from other programs to contribute to their growth and success.

What sets us apart is our innovative model of child advocacy that integrates both CASA volunteers and case liaisons, a strategy rarely seen in CASA programs. This dynamic combination allows us to provide a consistent and informed presence in the courtroom, ensuring that every child's voice is heard. Our case liaisons offer invaluable insights, bridging the gap between legal proceedings and each child's unique needs. This holistic approach to our work, along with our comprehensive programmatic organizational structure, allows us to harness the power of teamwork, serve every child who needs us as soon as possible, and continue to make a meaningful impact.

The work of CASA volunteers is vital in creating a world where every child feels valued and supported. For many children, their CASA symbolizes hope — a light in the darkness. In this report, we recognize this special light and the motivation our dedicated CASAs have sparked in the lives of the most vulnerable children in San Diego County.

THIS YEAR IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

- **1,226** children received a CASA volunteer
- **876** community members served as CASA volunteers
- **503** children in foster care received a VFC staff advocate
- **101** children received a CASA through Voices for Children's Juvenile Justice Program, one of the most established programs in the nation

PROGRAM IMPACT: IGNITING POSITIVE CHANGE FOR BOYS IN FOSTER CARE

Seven-year-old Tai* and his family sought asylum in the United States and immigrated in 2019. Due to a history of domestic violence, a family maintenance case was opened in 2020, which ultimately granted full custody to Tai's father in 2022. At that point, his mother was no longer involved in his life. Later that year, Tai was abandoned by his father and left alone in their apartment. Frightened and unsure of what to do, Tai reached out to a family friend, who arranged for him to stay with them while efforts were made to locate his father. The family friend cared for Tai for a little while. However, because of the emotional and physical abuse he had experienced for years, Tai had developed aggressive behavioral challenges that they felt unequipped to manage in the long term. With no known whereabouts of his parents, Tai entered foster care.

At just age 11, Tai had his whole life uprooted and turned upside down after being abandoned by both of his parents, and now adjusting to living in foster care. At first, Tai struggled to live with other youth in foster care, often having his things taken, getting involved in fights, and being bullied because of his race. Tai also experienced communication challenges due to his limited proficiency in the English language. Then Tai met his Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA), Brian. When CASA Brian first met Tai, he did not want to talk and had little interest in going outside. Tai didn't have many hobbies at the time because, for so long, his main priority was simply to survive. CASA Brian slowly introduced the idea of different outings they could go on to try new foods. Tai was hesitant but slowly gained more confidence as he spent more time with CASA Brian. Tai and CASA Brian share the same cultural background, so he introduced him to traditional foods he had never tried. Tai enjoyed the new foods and now asks to return for one of his favorites, Pho.



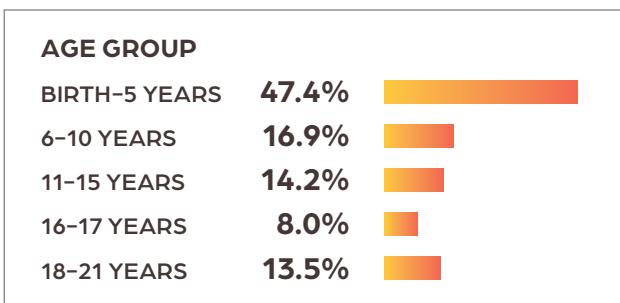
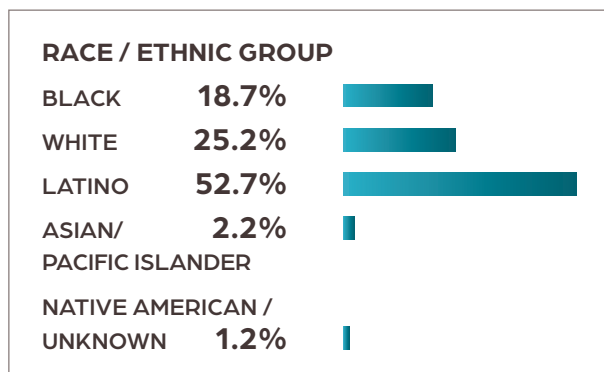
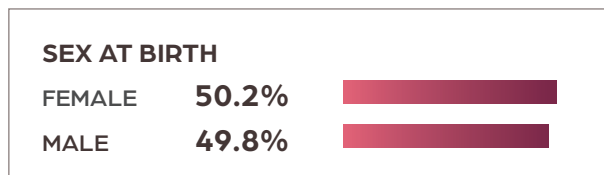
While Tai was more open to trying new foods, he still was hesitant to do any activities outside, as he had never really spent time outdoors and did not think he would like it. Nonetheless, CASA Brian continued to share different outing opportunities. Then, one day in the summer, Tai asked CASA Brian if they could go to the San Diego Zoo. CASA Brian worked with Voices for Children to obtain tickets, as this was the first time Tai had wanted to do an outdoor activity since he had met him. They had a great day together, and Tai showed fantastic growth, being open to such a new experience and showing curiosity and interest in new things. Since then, CASA Brian and Tai have attended other outdoor events and recently had a memorable experience riding multiple roller coasters at LEGOLAND.

Tai continues to blossom in his interactions with others. He shows genuine excitement about activities outside his comfort zone and keeps an open mind when forming friendships with his peers. Tai's significant school improvement, his confidence to ask more questions in class, and his academic excellence are all signs of his progress. His journey is a testament to the positive changes that can occur with the right support and guidance.

**Names and identifying details have been changed to protect confidentiality*

OUR COMMUNITY'S CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY ON JULY 1, 2023



Source: Webster, D., Lee, S., Dawson, W., Magruder, J., Exel, M., Cuccaro-Alamin, S., Putnam-Hornstein, E., Wiegmann, W., Saika, G., Courtney, M., Eastman, A.L., Hammond, I., Gomez, A., Gomez Hernandez, F., Guo, S., Agarwal, A., Berwick, H., Lu, F., Hoerl, C., Yee, H., Gonzalez, A., Ensele, P., Nevin, J., & Michel, J. (2024)

CCWIP reports. Retrieved Aug 20, 2024, from University of California at Berkeley California Child Welfare Indicators Project website. URL: <https://ccwip.berkeley.edu>



Inspirational Volunteerism



- 0-4 YEARS: **73%**
- 5-9 YEARS: **20%**
- 10-19 YEARS: **7%**
- 20+ YEARS: **<1%**

THE GIFT OF TIME

82,000

HOURS VOLUNTEERED

STEPPING UP

199

Dedicated community members became CASAs this year, completing Advocate University, Voices for Children's comprehensive training program for new CASA volunteers.

Our Volunteers

Our CASA volunteers are the heart and soul of our mission. Coming from all backgrounds and walks of life, they share a commitment to speaking up for our community's most vulnerable children. The following individuals served during FY23-24 and have been dedicated Voices for Children volunteers for five or more years.

40+ YEARS

Kathryn Ashworth, Esq.

20+ YEARS

Stacy Bond
Kim Neilson
Raquel Juarez
Genevieve Knych-Rohan

15+ YEARS

Sara Holmes
Jere McInerney
Sonya McMahon
Mary Reynolds
Jenny Sharratt
Barbara Winicki

10+ YEARS

Melanie Allen
Paul Arenson
CoraTena B. Ayala-Blackburn
Aneesa Baker
John Baker
Patricia Billins
Jessica Blankemeier
Robert Borthwick
Charity Bracy
Bonnie Burke
Sally Cohenour
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“

Being a CASA is about forming real connections, being there in the messy moments and championing a child's right to a brighter future.”

– CASA MIKI, SAN DIEGO COUNTY

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* *Deceased*



CASA ANDY | Became a CASA: 2022

CASA Andy has consistently advocated for 8-year-old Sean* and built strong relationships with everyone involved in Sean's life, especially his mother. After two years in the child welfare system, Sean started a 60-day trial visit at his mother's home. During this time, CASA Andy has been by Sean's side, providing a sense of stability and security, ensuring Sean has what he needs to thrive.

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The Amicus Circle at Voices for Children is composed of law firms, law schools, legal associations, and other legal support service organizations that support our mission. We are grateful for our FY23–24 members.

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CASA ADRIANA | Became a CASA: 2023

While serving as a CASA for youth who are involved in the juvenile justice system presents unique challenges, it also underscores the transformative impact of a caring adult in a vulnerable youth's life. CASA Adriana embodies this role for Antonio*, guiding him through rehabilitative services to complete his high school education, learn life skills, build healthy social behaviors, and prepare for successful reentry to the community.



speakupnow.org

858-569-2019 | San Diego County

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FRHD CHC GRANT BUDGET REPORTING FORM

Agency Name:

Voices for Children

PROGRAM NAME:

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program

The main categories align with the budget submitted with your application. Aggregate totals are all that should be reported under each heading.

1)	A	INDIRECT EXPENSES:	PROGRAM COST	REQUESTED FROM FRHD	<i>AMOUNT USED Q1</i>	<i>AMOUNT USED Q2</i>	<i>AMOUNT USED Q3</i>	<i>AMOUNT USED Q4</i>
		TOTAL INDIRECT EXPENSE	\$9,563.00	\$0.00				
	B	PERSONNEL EXPENSES - PROGRAM SPECIFIC	PROGRAM COST	REQUESTED FROM FRHD	<i>AMOUNT USED Q1</i>	<i>AMOUNT USED Q2</i>	<i>AMOUNT USED Q3</i>	<i>AMOUNT USED Q4</i>
		TOTAL PERSONNEL EXPENSE	\$39,892.00	\$15,000.00	\$3,750.00	\$3,750.00	\$3,750.00	\$3,750.00
	C	DIRECT PROGRAM EXPENSES	PROGRAM COST	REQUESTED FROM FRHD	<i>AMOUNT USED Q1</i>	<i>AMOUNT USED Q2</i>	<i>AMOUNT USED Q3</i>	<i>AMOUNT USED Q4</i>
		TOTAL OTHER EXPENSES	\$1,711.00	\$0.00				
	D	TOTALS	PROGRAM COST	FRHD Funds Awarded	Total Amount Q1	Total Amount Q2	Total Amount Q3	Total Amount Q4
			\$51,166.00	\$0.29	\$3,750.00	\$3,750.00	\$3,750.00	\$3,750.00

 Total funds expended to date: **\$15,000.00**