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Annamaria Rapakko Joins Child Advocates Board

Retired partner at PwC to help lead prominent nonprofit serving foster youth in Santa Clara County

Milpitas, CA – October 11, 2017 – After 20 years at PwC and a lifetime split between Europe and the US, Annamaria Rapakko is making a major commitment to the foster children of Silicon Valley. A native of Finland, Rapakko brings extraordinary experience in tax law and fundraising to support the work of Child Advocates of Silicon Valley.

“When long-time board member Howard Slayen recommended Annamaria join the board, I could not have been more excited,” says Karen Scussel, executive director of Child Advocates of Silicon Valley. “Her background in tax law will enable us to prepare for any changes to the tax code regarding charitable donations and her fundraising skills will help us generate needed funds to help us reach our goal of serving 1200 children in foster care by 2021.”

Child Advocates has an ambitious strategic plan to provide a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for every child in the Santa Clara County foster care system by year-end 2021. CASAs serve as a friend and mentor, and represent the best interests of the child in dependency hearings. There are about 1,600 children in the Santa Clara County dependency system, 1,200 of which could benefit from a CASA. In fiscal 2017, Child Advocates served 810 children with a CASA volunteer.



“I enjoy supporting Child Advocates because this work gives me the satisfaction of positively impacting the lives of children and young adults who have not been privileged to have proper care and support in their lives.” says Annamaria Rapakko, “As a board member, I’ll be happy to pitch in on any area that has the most need.”

Annamaria retired recently as a partner at PwC – formerly known as PricewaterhouseCoopers – where she held a wide range of management roles. Most recently, she was a Senior International Tax Partner for the Global Structuring Services Group, where she harnessed capabilities to deliver outstanding and consistent growth and judiciously advocate for the common good of the practice and PwC, while inspiring stakeholders in new possibilities for growth. Throughout her career at PwC, she advanced to roles of increasing responsibility and was handpicked to lead key initiatives including a go-to-market strategy, new service launches, What does this mean?, and more. She graduated from the first Finnish university, University of Turku, with a dual JD/MBA and holds a Doctor of the Science of Law (J.SD) from Stanford Law School.



About Child Advocates of Silicon Valley

Child Advocates is the only agency in Santa Clara County that provides Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) to foster youth. Because our volunteers are court-appointed, they can thoroughly explore every aspect of a child's case, including meeting teachers, doctors, social workers, counselors, biological family members and foster parents, thereby gaining a comprehensive perspective on what the child needs in order to thrive. CASAs assist their child in accessing needed resources, follow their school progress, and speak up for their child's best interests in court. They maintain complete records about the case, submit reports and attend court hearings. CASA volunteers stay with their case until their child has a safe, loving home. Find out more about our CASA program at www.BeMyAdvocate.org.