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### **Child Advocates Appoint Three New Board Members**

**Milpitas, CA – July 9, 2019** – The Board of Directors of Child Advocates of Silicon Valley has appointed South Bay residents, Arlene Chan, Terese Kemble and Neta Retter to the board. The appointments come as Child Advocates' enters its 34<sup>th</sup> year of transforming foster children's lives with a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA). CASAs work one-on-one with children and teens in the Santa Clara County foster care system. They serve as friends, mentors, and advocates, representing the best interests of the child in dependency court hearings.

"Child Advocates is fortunate to have Arlene, Terese and Neta join our board at a time when we are scaling our program to serve more foster children with a CASA," says Frederick J. Ferrer, CEO of Child Advocates of Silicon Valley. Their expertise in accounting, HR and computer engineering combined with their dedication, enthusiasm and commitment to our community's children and youth will be invaluable as we work toward our goal to serve 1,000 children in foster care with a CASA in fiscal year 2020."

Child Advocates has an ambitious three-year strategic plan to provide a CASA for every child in the Santa Clara County foster care system by year-end 2021. Currently, there are approximately 1,500 children and teens in the Santa Clara County dependency system, 1,200 of which could benefit from a CASA. In fiscal 2019, Child Advocates served 967 children with a CASA volunteer.



A resident of Cupertino, Arlene brings a wealth of knowledge in public accounting to the Child Advocates Board. Arlene is an Audit Partner at Moss Adams LLP and has been practicing public accounting since 1993. Before joining Moss Adams, Arlene spent 14 years with Ernst & Young in San Francisco including a global rotation of two years with Ernst & Young in Singapore. She is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, and the California Society of Certified Public Accountants, and has a BA in political economy of industrial societies from the University of California at Berkeley.

"Child Advocates makes a profound and positive difference by providing advocacy for neglected and abused children," said Arlene. "I am honored to join the Board to help support foster youth and make a difference in our community."



Terese Kemble, a resident of Saratoga, is a Human Resource Executive with over 30 years of experience in the Silicon Valley. As an HR Executive, Terese has served at Juniper Networks, Lam Research, TE Connectivity and Applied Materials. She excels in and has been recognized for her strategic planning, outstanding partnership abilities with C-suite teams, and her consistency in delivering impactful solutions grounded in business objectives.

"Child Advocates gives me opportunity to use my expertise to work with these amazing young children and help them become the adults we all look to for our future," explains Terese. "Being a positive force and advocate for foster children in Santa Clara is an honor."



A resident of San Jose, Neta Retter, is a hardware design engineer with over ten years of technical experience designing cutting edge technology. Neta currently enjoys the role as a FIRST LEGO League partner for Northern California and brings a passion for STEM education and outreach especially in underrepresented communities.

"I'm grateful for the opportunity to become part of an organization whose core values and mission is to better the lives of youth in the foster system," Neta explained. "Through its incredibly dedicated staff and volunteers, Child Advocates Silicon Valley helps facilitate a future that is brighter and full of potential for the youth it serves. I look forward to supporting the organization's ability to expand its services to an even greater population while expanding its volunteer base."

### **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 research 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 [BeMyAdvocate.org](http://BeMyAdvocate.org)