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By Sal Pizarro

CHILD ADVOCATES' SMART BET: Child Advocates of Silicon Valley honored former Executive Director **Karen Scussel** as a CASA Hero and Legend for nearly two decades of work with the agency at its Vegas-themed spring fundraiser last Saturday at Club Auto Sport in San Jose.

In her presentation remarks, Santa Clara County Superior Court Judge **Shawna Schwarz** noted the Scussel served as a court-appointed special advocate for 17 foster youth during her time with Child Advocates. And the very first of those foster youth, **Deborah J. Rutledge**, delivered a keynote speech about her experience and got a standing ovation of her own, too.

The fundraiser, which also served to introduce new CEO **Fred Ferrer**, raised more than \$425,000 for the nonprofit, which expects to serve more than 1,000 foster children this year.