



Contact: Laura Fulda, Director, Community Development  
Child Advocates of Silicon Valley  
[laura@cadvocates.org](mailto:laura@cadvocates.org)  
408-573-5615

## Child Advocates' Annual Spring Event Raises More Than \$360,000 Former Foster Youth Shares Inspiring Story



Milpitas, CA – March 15, 2018 – [Child Advocates of Silicon Valley's](#) annual spring event on March 10<sup>th</sup> raised more than \$360,000 to benefit foster youth in Santa Clara County. Approximately 300 guests attended the Saturday Night Fever themed event at Club Auto Sport in San Jose.

Child Advocates recruits, trains and supports Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) to work one-on-one with foster children. CASAs provide critical

emotional and educational support, ensuring that each child's needs are met and their voice is heard while navigating the dependency system. Since 1986, Child Advocates has served more than 16,000 children with the support of 10,000-plus community volunteers.

"We are Child Advocates of **Silicon Valley** – the heart of innovation, where the impossible becomes possible and dreams become real," said Karen Scussel, executive director of Child Advocates of Silicon Valley. "With your support we can achieve our goal of serving every foster child Santa Clara County, we can achieve our mission to provide stability and hope to foster children, we can ensure that every child has a positive view of their future and the opportunity to become a productive, healthy adult."

One of the evening highlights was when Wayne, a foster youth, spoke about the impact of the CASA program. "A CASA encourages you to be your whole true self and lets you know it's OK for you to be who you are. A CASA is there for you no matter what," said Wayne. Wayne received a standing ovation.

A live auction rounded out the fundraiser. Auction items included a weeklong stay in a modern Santa Cruz dream home, a four-night estate stay in St. Helena, two luxury box seats to a Warrior's game, a trip for two to Nashville, and 49ers' tickets. After the program, many guests dressed in 70s attire, enjoyed disco dancing.



Key sponsors were Liz and Mike Byrd and Karen Scussel and Curt Riffle. Silver Sponsors were [AppLovin](#), Linda Brennan and Sean Brennan, Mala Jairam and Bask Iyer, Nikki King and the Honorable Donald B. King, [Maxim Integrated](#), [Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP](#), Vilma Kennedy Pallette [Palo Alto University](#), Bronze Sponsors were: [BPM LLP](#), [Fish & Richardson](#), [Morrison & Foerster Foundation](#), [Marc Rogers](#), [Wells Fargo Advisors](#), [Samsung](#), M.L. White Charitable Trust, and [Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati Foundation](#).

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