



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Child Advocates of Silicon Valley Receives eBay Foundation Grant

Milpitas, CA – Dec. 10, 2015 – Child Advocates of Silicon Valley, an organization committed to providing stability and hope to children who have experienced abuse and neglect by being a powerful voice in their lives, announced today that it has been awarded a \$10,000.00 grant from the [eBay Foundation](#) Corporate Advised Fund at [Silicon Valley Community Foundation](#).

The grant was recommended by eBay Foundation's employee volunteer led San Jose Bay Area Global Impact Team. Funds will be used to recruit, train and support Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) to work one-on-one with foster children in Santa Clara County.

"We are thrilled to receive this amazing grant from the eBay Foundation and have to thank eBay employees and CASA volunteers **Aileen Tokuda** and **Susan Schmitt**, for championing our grant application," said Karen Scussel, executive director of Child Advocates of Silicon Valley.

[Child Advocates](#) serves children ages 0 through 21 in the Santa Clara County dependency system and reviews every child's case entering the system – more than 1,700 children over the course of the year. Children who are most in need of services are either matched with a CASA or placed on our waiting list. This year, the agency's goal is to match 780 foster children with a CASA volunteer.

"Our vision is that every foster child has a positive view of the future and the opportunity to become a productive, healthy adult. This grant from eBay will enable us to recruit 40 new CASAs to serve 40 children on our wait list," Scussel said.

"I became a CASA volunteer because I wanted to do something for children in need," said Aileen Tokuda. Tokuda has been a CASA volunteer since September 2010 and has worked with the same child, Amanda, for the past 5 years. "It's so important for children to have a stable adult presence in their lives. By being a CASA, I can help to provide that stability and give children, like Amanda, who have experienced abuse and neglect support to create a better future for themselves."

CASA volunteer Susan Schmitt began mentoring her foster youth, Aly, as an 11 year old. She is now 15 and is enthusiastic about school and pursuing her dream of a medical career. Once a very shy pre-teen, Aly has now blossomed into a confident teenager. "We spend a few hours a week together and take advantage of the events that Child Advocates of Silicon Valley hosts, such as picnics, and cooking classes. Funding from

grants such as this one, make these opportunities available for CASA volunteers and their youths to participate in and are an excellent way for the youth to enjoy new experiences. I love being a mentor and plan to continue working with Aly, supporting her through high school and the college applications process in a few years,” said Schmitt.

The project was made possible in part through eBay Foundation’s Global Impact Team program, which empowers employees of eBay to support their communities through volunteerism and employee-sponsored grants. In 2014 alone, Global Impact Teams worldwide recommended over 250 nonprofits to receive grants totaling more than \$1,200,000.

“eBay Foundation was established to reach beyond the boundaries of eBay’s virtual village to develop strong communities that bring people together,” said Amy Millington, president of eBay Foundation. “Through our Global Impact Teams, we’ve been able to identify and support a wide variety of outstanding programs, that feed families in the San Francisco Bay Area, educate children in India, assist seniors in Germany, and serve the homeless in Austin – to name only a few. We couldn’t be happier to add to our list of beneficiaries by supporting Child Advocates of Silicon Valley in its efforts to support its Advocacy Program for Foster Youth.”

### **About Child Advocates of Silicon Valley**

Child Advocates of Silicon Valley recruits, trains and supports Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) who serve the needs of children in the foster care system by providing a powerful, independent voice for the child. This dedicated community volunteers spend time with a child and become a trusted friend, mentor and consistent adult presence. They work with foster parents, teachers, social workers, counselors, and others to build a complete picture of the child’s life and needs. CASAs attend hearing in dependency court to advise the judge on the child’s best interests when key decisions are being made. The CASA volunteers stay with their case until their child has a safe, loving home. More information can be found at: [www.BeMyAdvocate.org](http://www.BeMyAdvocate.org).

### **About eBay Foundation**

[eBay Foundation](http://www.eBayFoundation.org) was established by eBay in 1988 and, reflecting eBay innovation, was the first corporate foundation to be endowed with pre-IPO stock. Since inception, the Foundation has contributed more than \$40 million to nonprofit organizations worldwide. The Foundation engages eBay employees and supports their pursuit of charitable giving and volunteerism through its Global Impact Team program. In addition, using a unique combination of foundation funding, employee volunteerism, and other resources, eBay Foundation has created The Opportunity Project to extend the company’s commitment to global citizenship. By scaling social innovations that create economic opportunity, The Opportunity Project gives people in need the chance to participate in the global economy, provide for their families, and build stronger communities. For more information: [www.theopportunityproject.org](http://www.theopportunityproject.org). eBay Foundation Global Impact Team grants are awarded by the eBay Foundation Corporate Advised Fund at Silicon Valley Community Foundation.

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