



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Child Advocates Receives Matching Grants from the Warmenhoven Family Foundation and Quest Foundation

Milpitas, CA – February 1, 2016 – Child Advocates of Silicon Valley announced today that it has been awarded two \$50,000 matching grants totaling \$100,000 from the **Warmenhoven Family Foundation** and the **Quest Foundation**. [Child Advocates of Silicon Valley](#) provides stability and hope to children who have experienced abuse and neglect by being a powerful voice in their lives. The matching 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.

“Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we exceeded our fundraising goal during our annual holiday appeal and are eligible to receive these amazing matching grants,” says Karen Scussel, executive director of Child Advocates of Silicon Valley.

Laura Duganne, a trustee with the Warmenhoven Family Foundation says helping community nonprofits that work to better the lives of children has always been a priority in her family. “My parents have a working philosophy that we all share: Work hard, continue to do better and share the financial rewards of your efforts with the rest of the community.” Duganne is a member of Child Advocates’ board of directors and a member of the Junior League of San Jose.

“The Quest Foundation is pleased to support Child Advocates’ work on behalf of foster children,” says Derek Jernstedt, executive director of the Quest Foundation. “The difference a CASA can make in an individual child’s life is truly transformative. We look forward to continuing our partnership with Child Advocates and seeing the CASA program grow to help more youth.”

Child Advocates serves children ages 0 through 21 in the Santa Clara County dependency system. The agency is in the midst of a five-year strategic plan to provide a CASA volunteer to every foster child who would benefit from the attention and support of a consistent, caring adult. Currently, there are more than 1,600 children in foster care in Santa Clara County. This year, the agency’s goal is to match 780 foster children with a CASA volunteer.

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“Our vision is that every foster child has a positive view of the future and the opportunity to become a productive, healthy adult,” Scussel explains. Scussel says CASAs have a profound influence on the educational outcomes for foster youth. While only 58% of foster youth in California graduate from high school, 93% of Child Advocate youth complete high school. Last year, 91% of the agency’s graduates continued or planned to continue their education after high 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 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. More information about our CASA program can be found at www.BeMyAdvocate.org.

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