



Heroes & Legends

Child Advocates of Silicon Valley celebrates 30 years of supporting foster children in the community.

Currently, there are more than 1,700 children in the Santa Clara County dependency system. These children are served by Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) volunteers who are appointed by judges to watch over and advocate for them, to make sure they don't get lost in the overburdened legal and social service system or languish in inappropriate group or foster homes. Volunteers stay with each case until it is closed and the child is placed in a safe, permanent home. For many abused children, their CASA volunteer will be the one constant adult presence in their lives.

Child Advocates Silicon Valley is recognized as an innovator in volunteer training techniques, program design, and outcome measurement. Their developmental assets-based "8 Key Areas of Support" approach to training has been shared with the California and National CASA networks as a best practice. In addition, their work in developing an education advocacy program has been published in the National CASA Association magazine. Child Advocates Silicon Valley is in the midst of an ambitious 5-year plan to provide a CASA volunteer for every foster child in Santa Clara County (at the moment they serve nearly 800 children per year).

On May 21, Child Advocates of Silicon Valley (CASA) will hold Heroes & Legends—a gala fundraiser honoring six individuals whose work helped transform the lives of thousands of local foster children. Those individuals include: **Nora Manchester (1)**, founder of Child Advocates and Executive Director from 1986 – 1998, who served on the Child Abuse Council for over 30 years. Currently, she is Director of the Myra Reinhard Family Foundation. **Judge Len Edwards (2)**, a retired judge who served as Superior Court Judge in Santa Clara County for 26 years, is an internationally recognized teacher, trainer, and lecturer. Edwards is the recipient of the William H. Rehnquist award for Judicial Excellence. **Ann Whyte (3)**, former attorney representing parents in dependency court, is a longtime CASA Volunteer and employee. Whyte is also an emeritus member of the Child Abuse Council and continues to participate actively on committees. She currently volunteers at Child Advocates as a Mentor, assisting CASA with their advocate children. **Moe Whitaker (4)** was the first CASA Volunteer in Santa Clara County and one of Child Advocates' first staff members. During his 17 years of service, Whitaker personally advocated for 61 children in the dependency system. **Vilma Palette (5)** was a former Board Member and Training Coordinator at Child Advocates for five years. Palette transformed the Volunteering and Recruiting programs to substantially increase the number of CASA volunteers at the agency. Palette was also awarded the Presidential National at a White House ceremony in 1985 for her work as Director of Volunteer services for the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles. **Kevin Gardner (6)** is a former multi-term board member for Child Advocates and a CASA volunteer who received a National CASA Award for Excellence as board member of the year. Currently, Gardner serves on several Child Advocate committees and as a board member with California CASA Association.

The Child Advocates Silicon Valley Heroes & Legends fundraiser will take place at Club Auto Sport in San Jose. For tickets, call 408.416.0400 or visit www.childadvocatesofsv.wordpress.com.

GLORIA YOUNG

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■ WHERE I GREW UP

I was born in Beijing, and grew up in Hong Kong. My life in the US began in New York, where I studied at Columbia University and worked in finance at 30 Rock. Part of me will always be a New Yorker because I watched the twin towers fall on 9/11. I've lived in Palo Alto for a decade... where I continue to grow up.

■ MY FAVORITE HOBBY

It may sound geeky, but I love pricing things. As a child, I would tape "The Price is Right" and watch it after my classes, every day! I priced ads—the Super Bowl, the Grammy's, CSI, etc.—for the big networks in New York. Now, I'm still playing "The Price Is Right" every day, pricing and selling homes.

■ MY COMMUNITY INVOLVMENT

I've been a supporter of Child Advocates of Silicon Valley for a decade. I served as a CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) for a 16-year-old foster child for several years. I was her mentor, friend, and "voice in court."



About Gloria Young

Buying or selling your home can be an emotional roller coaster. Gloria's passion is helping you to make the best decisions based on rigorous analyses and a genuine interest in your priorities. Her attention to detail and outstanding communication skills will help you navigate through one of the most important financial decisions of your life. Gloria has a Master's degree in Financial Engineering from Columbia University, where she was also a guest lecturer on Pricing. She is fluent in English, Mandarin, and Cantonese.

GLORIA YOUNG

Call Gloria for a one-on-one meeting at 650.380.9918.

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