Dear Friends,

Thanks to your generous support, Child Advocates reached a major milestone—we achieved our five-year strategic goal of serving more than 900 foster children. Our staff of 22 supported 660 Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) who served 905 foster children!

We believe that every foster child deserves to have a consistent caring adult in their life, someone to listen to their concerns and nurture their hopes and dreams. Studies show that foster children with a CASA experience better outcomes. They receive more services, are more likely to find a safe, permanent home, do better in school and spend less time in foster care than children without a CASA.

The 2018 California Children's Report Card by Children Now outlines the reasons why it is so critical to provide foster children with the physical, emotional and academic support of a CASA:

- **Frequent Placement Changes**: multiple residential changes cause additional trauma to foster children and can negatively impact their brain development, mental health, physical health, academic achievement and the ability to form healthy relationships.

- **Poor Health**: half of all children in foster care have endured four or more Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) such as household mental illness, drug and alcohol abuse and domestic violence. These traumas cause foster children to experience depression at seven times the rate of their classmates.

- **Educational Challenges**: In Santa Clara County, only 8% of foster students in 8th grade met the standards for mathematics, compared to 51% of non-foster students. Only 17% of 8th grade foster students met the standards for English Language Arts, compared to 64% of non-foster students.

CASA volunteers help foster children achieve greater results. Last year, 95% of our CASA youth completed their high school requirements, compared to just 43% of all foster children in Santa Clara County; and, 71% of our CASA children ages 3 to 5 were enrolled in preschool, compared to 23% of all preschool age foster children in Santa Clara County.

Today, there are over 1,200 children in the Santa Clara County dependency system. Our new three-year strategic plan is to provide a CASA for every foster child living in the county by year-end 2021. Your ongoing contributions and commitment to our agency can help continue our positive momentum and progress to achieve this goal. Thank you for all you do to help improve the lives of foster children in our community.

With gratitude,

Cassio Conceicão
Chair, Board of Directors

Karen Scussel
Executive Director

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**MISSION**
To provide stability and hope to children who have experienced abuse and neglect by being a powerful voice in their lives.

**VISION**
Every child has a positive view of the future and the opportunity to become a productive, healthy adult.

**PURPOSE**
To recruit, train and support Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) who are matched with foster children to provide critical emotional and educational support, ensuring that each child's needs are met and their voice is heard while navigating the dependency court system.
Five years ago, Child Advocates developed a strategic plan to serve more foster children in our community with a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteer. Thanks to your support, in June 2018, we reached our goal!

**Total Number of Children Served**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY 2014</td>
<td>629</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 2015</td>
<td>735</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 2016</td>
<td>783</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 2017</td>
<td>810</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 2018</td>
<td>905</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

660 CASAs served
905 foster children in FY2018

*47% Male
52% Female
1% other*
CASAs ARE FRIENDS, MENTORS AND ADVOCATES

“There are no barriers for Victor. He began high school as an English language learner and distinguished himself by achieving academic honors in advanced placement classes and fully participating and excelling in extracurricular activities, including community service. Victor possesses true grit, resiliency and a determination and drive to succeed.”

— Adam Escoto, CASA Volunteer

“Adam is my inspiration. One day, I hope to be not only a great principal as he was, but the amazing person that he is. Without Adam, I would not be here today.” — Victor, high school graduate and scholarship recipient, now attending UC Davis

“There are no barriers for Victor. He began high school as an English language learner and distinguished himself by achieving academic honors in advanced placement classes and fully participating and excelling in extracurricular activities, including community service. Victor possesses true grit, resiliency and a determination and drive to succeed.”

— Adam Escoto, CASA Volunteer
16,000 children served since 1986

Moving forward, we have a 3-year Strategic Plan to serve every foster child in Santa Clara County with a CASA.
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018

TOTAL REVENUE $2,362,635
TOTAL EXPENSES $2,049,843

NET INCREASE $ 434,434

NET ASSETS FOR FY18: $2,971,656

More than 78 cents out of every dollar donated goes to services that directly support the advocacy of foster children in Santa Clara County.

Ages of Children Served

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-5 years</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-10 years</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-14 years</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-17 years</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18+ years</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ethnicity of Children Served

- 60% Latino
- 22% Multi-Racial
- 1% American Indian
- 8% Caucasian
- 5% Asian American
- 4% African American

TOTAL CHILDREN SERVED 905
ACTIVE CASA VOLUNTEERS 660

71% of CASA 3 to 5 year olds are enrolled in preschool compared to 23% of all preschool age foster children in Santa Clara County.

From Our CASAs
- 94% felt they made a positive difference in their child’s life
- 85% reported improvement in their child’s success at school
- 82% engaged in healthy eating and physical activities with their child that encouraged a healthy lifestyle
- 94% felt their court recommendations were fully considered by the judge
- 97% would recommend the CASA volunteer experience to others
Thank you to our donors who make hope a reality for the children we serve.
"My CASA Denise taught me that I had a voice, and that my voice mattered. That I am somebody. Now, I go about my every day, confident."
— Mayra, former foster youth

"We are the voice for the children who may not otherwise have someone to speak up for them."
— Denise Peralez, CASA Volunteer

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And online at: www.BeMyAdvocate.org