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**CHILD ADVOCATES OF SILICON VALLEY HONORS MIKE BYRD
AT 11th ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC**

Nonprofit Raises More than \$100,000 to Benefit Foster Youth

Milpitas, CA – September 1, 2016 – [Child Advocates of Silicon Valleys'](#) 11th Annual Golf Classic was a huge success, raising more than \$100,000 to benefit foster youth in Santa Clara County. The nonprofit agency also honored Saratoga resident Mike Byrd by presenting him with the Walter "Skip" Shaw Inspiration Award for his philanthropic work in the community.

The Walter "Skip" Shaw Inspiration Award, named for the man who created the Golf Classic and who gave selflessly to Child Advocates, was created to recognize those like him who demonstrate generosity of spirit and commitment to the community.

After advising and working in start-up entrepreneurial environments for more than 20 years, Mike joined the Child Advocates Board of Directors in 2003. During his nine-year term, Mike served as Board Chair. He and his wife Liz have been long-time benefactors of Child Advocates and have introduced the agency to many supporters. Mike and Liz made their home available for major donor events and other fundraising efforts that raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for Child Advocates. Just as important, Mike has helped recruit new board members and spread the word about our mission and work in the community.

A long-time advocate for teenage foster youth, Mike has helped fund Child Advocates' programs that keep these often overlooked young men off the streets and in programs that help them grow into responsible, productive adults.

"Child Advocates' salutes Mike for donating his time, energy and talent as a board member for nine years. With his wife Liz, Mike has been a tremendous supporter of Child Advocates and other nonprofits in the community. He is an inspiration to us all," said Karen Scussel, Child Advocates executive director.

A record 111 golfers participated in the Golf Classic at Los Altos Golf and Country Club on Aug. 29, 2016. Monies generated from the event will be used to recruit, train and support Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) to work one-on-one with foster children in the Santa Clara County dependency system. During the past 11 years, the event has raised more than

\$1,000,000 for foster children. Since 1986, Child Advocates has served over 16,000 children with a CASA volunteer.

Key sponsors of the tournament included [HGST](#), [DGDG](#), Michael and Cindy O'Leary, Jeff and Christy Richardson, [Avnet](#), [Samsung](#), [Seagate Technology](#), [Intel Corporation](#), James and Maren Otieno, [Springwood Apartment Homes of Los Altos](#), [Marc Rogers](#), [Wells Fargo Advisors](#), John and Patricia Richardson, Shirley and Richard Cantu, Mala Jairam and Bask Iyer, Mary and Dan Adler, Linda and Sean Brennan, Kim Dinh and Motasim Sirhan, David Vik, and Kevin Gardner.

About Child Advocates of Silicon Valley

Child Advocates of Silicon 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. These 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 hearings 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.

Child Advocates' sound fiscal management practices and commitment to accountability and transparency have earned it a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, America's largest independent charity evaluator and a Gold-star rating from Guidestar. To find out more about Child Advocates' CASA program, please visit www.bemyadvocate.org.

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