



## New Year, New Challenges & Celebrations

Happy New Year! 2016 marks Child Advocates' 30th year of service to children in Santa Clara County who have experienced abuse and neglect. Three decades filled with milestones, changes, growth and development. During this time, **more than 15,000 foster children's lives have been**



**transformed** from the one-on-one care and support they received from a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA).

We are **on track to have another record year!** So far, we have served 615 children this fiscal year. **Our goal is to serve 780 children by June 30, 2016.**

If you know anyone who you think would be interested in becoming a **CASA volunteer**, please let them know about our program. **We hold monthly [Open House/Volunteer Orientations](#)** for people to learn what's involved in becoming a **CASA**.

## Our Mission



To provide stability and hope to children who have experienced abuse and neglect by being a powerful voice in their lives. [Learn more about our work.](#)

## Matching Gift Opportunity!



We are so close to meeting our **Annual Holiday Campaign Goal** of \$330,000 but **we need your help** to push us over the top.

Our work would not be possible without our incredibly hard-working board, staff, volunteers, donors and colleagues throughout Santa Clara County. Thank you for your passion, dedication and concern. **Together, we can make a difference in the lives of our children. Here's to a fantastic 2016!**

With gratitude,  
Karen Scussel  
Executive Director

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## In My Words: A CASA Volunteer Story

Vanessa was 17 when I began working with her. I knew she was warming up to me when she invited me to attend a family celebration. Unfortunately, when I arrived I parked in a lot that closed early and my car got trapped. I think seeing me go through that - making a silly mistake and recovering from it - helped her learn to trust me.



[Read more.](#)

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## The Three Most Important Things In My Life: A Foster Child's Story

To most people the most meaningful things in life are materialistic. They look at what they got rather than who the item's from, or the price, rather than how hard that person worked to afford it.



When a person asks me what the three most important things in my life are, I don't say my hair, my fancy phone, or my computer that I am so attached to. No, to me

We have a **great incentive** that will **double your donation** if you **give between now and January 15th!**

[Your gift](#) will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to a total of \$100,000 by the **Warmenhoven Family Foundation and Quest Foundation.**

That means a \$100 donation becomes \$200! So don't delay, [donate today](#) and help us receive our \$100,000 match!

[DONATE NOW](#)

## Volunteer Open House



Have you thought about becoming a CASA volunteer? Do you have a friend who might be interested in becoming a CASA?

Our next Volunteer Open

House/Orientation is **January 12th** [Learn more here.](#)

**Help Us Get a Great Nonprofits Award!**

the three most important things in life are my aunt's family, my CASA, and the influence of music.

[Read the full story.](#)

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## CASA Volunteers and eBay Employees Help Facilitate \$10,000 Grant for Child Advocates

**Kudos to CASA volunteers and eBay employees Aileen Tokuda and Susan Schmitt** for helping Child Advocates receive a **\$10,000 grant from the eBay Foundation**. The grant 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.



[Read the full story in the Morgan Hill Times.](#)

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## Foster Children Enjoy Child Advocates' Annual Holiday Party

There was plenty of joy at Child Advocates' Annual Holiday Party in December. More than 100 children and their CASA volunteers enjoyed great food, games, entertainment, and of course, a visit by Santa Claus!



Thank you to **Krishna's & Sathya Sai Baba** for hosting such a wonderful event, **Playworks Northern California and Child Advocates' staff and volunteers** for bringing a smile to the faces of our advocate children.



You can help Child Advocates receive a @GreatNonprofits Top-Rated Award by writing a review of your experience with us! It's easy and takes just minutes. Write your review at: <http://stage.greatnonprofits.org/org/child-advocates-of-silicon-valley-inc>.

## Save the Date!



Child Advocates will host its **Spring Gala and 30th Anniversary Celebration** on Saturday, May 21st at [Club Auto Sport](#) in San Jose.

Please join us in celebrating 30 years of recruiting and training CASA volunteers to speak up for foster children.

When: Saturday, May 21st

Time: 5:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Where: Club Auto Sport, 521 Charcot Ave, San Jose, CA

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**DONATE NOW**