



Contact: Lesli Smith, Community Marketing Manager
Child Advocates of Silicon Valley
lesli@cadvocates.org
408-573-5663

CHILD ADVOCATES OF SILICON VALLEY EARNS COVETED 4-STAR RATING FROM CHARITY NAVIGATOR

Milpitas, CA – Sept. 2, 2015 – [Child Advocates of Silicon Valley's](#) 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. This is the first time that Child Advocates has earned this top distinction.

Since 2002, using objective, data-driven analysis, Charity Navigator has awarded only the most fiscally responsible organizations a 4-star rating. In 2011, Charity Navigator added 17 metrics, focused on governance and ethical practices as well as measures of openness, to its ratings methodology. These "Accountability & Transparency" metrics, which account for 50 percent of a charity's overall rating, reveal which charities have "best practices" that minimize the chance of unethical activities and whether they freely share basic information about their organization with their donors and other stakeholders.

"Child Advocates' coveted 4-star rating puts it in a very select group of high-performing charities," according to Michael Thatcher, president & CEO of Charity Navigator. "Out of the thousands of nonprofits Charity Navigator evaluates, only one out of four earns 4 stars -- a rating that demands rigor, responsibility and commitment to openness. Child Advocates' supporters should feel much more confident that their hard-earned dollars are being used efficiently and responsibly when it acquires such a high rating."

"Our [4-star Charity Navigator rating](#) demonstrates to our supporters that we take our fiduciary and governance responsibilities very seriously," says Karen Scussel, executive director of Child Advocates. "It's important our donors trust that we're using our funding wisely to accomplish our mission. We're proud that more than 82 cents out of every dollar donated goes directly toward programs that benefit foster children in Santa Clara County."

Child Advocates' rating and other information about charitable giving are available free of charge on www.charitynavigator.org. More-detailed information about Child Advocates' rating is available to Charity Navigator site visitors who become registered users, another free service.

About Charity Navigator

Charity Navigator, www.charitynavigator.org, is the largest charity evaluator in America and its website attracts more visitors than all other charity rating groups combined. The organization helps guide intelligent giving by evaluating the Financial Health and Accountability & Transparency of more than 8,000 charities. Charity Navigator accepts no advertising or donations from the organizations it evaluates, ensuring unbiased evaluations, nor does it charge the public for this trusted data. As a result, Charity Navigator, a 501 (c) (3) public charity itself, depends on support from individuals, corporations and foundations that believe it provides a much-needed service to America's charitable givers. Charity Navigator, can be reached directly by telephone at (201) 818-1288, or by mail at 139 Harristown Road, Suite 101, Glen Rock, N.J., 07452.

About Child Advocates of Silicon Valley

Child Advocates of Silicon Valley 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 was founded in 1986 by a dependency court judge and a social worker. The agency was modeled after the original Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program, developed by a dependency court judge who recognized the need for children in court to be represented by an impartial advocate who could speak on behalf of the child. Find out more about our CASA program at www.BeMyAdvocate.org.

###