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CHILD ADVOCATES EXCEEDS GOAL FOR SILICON VALLEY GIVES

More than \$35,600 Raised for foster children in Santa Clara County!

Milpitas, CA – May 6, 2015 – Thanks to our amazing supporters, Child Advocates of Silicon Valley raised more than \$35,600 during the Silicon Valley Gives campaign on May 5, 2015. The 24-hour philanthropic give-a-thon encouraged the public to donate to nonprofits throughout several Bay Area counties.

“We are thrilled that we exceeded our \$30,000 goal,” says Karen Scussel, executive director of Child Advocates. “We deeply appreciate the community’s support with this campaign and want to thank our sponsors, the Robert N. and Florence Slinger Foundation for providing a \$3,000 dollar-for-dollar match and the 1440 Foundation for providing a \$10,000 dollar-for-dollar match to encourage people to give. We also want our donors to know that many corporations match employee contributions to nonprofits. Many people don’t realize this and when they learn that their gift can be matched by their employer they are thrilled.”

Scussel says the generous gifts from the Silicon Valley Gives campaign will help Child Advocates **serve more than 700 foster children this year** with a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA). Child Advocates recruits and trains CASA volunteers who provide invaluable one-on-one attention to foster children ensuring their lives are filled with guidance, support and hope. Since 1986, Child Advocates has served over 15,000 children with the support of 10,000-plus community volunteers.

“CASAs are a powerful voice for children in foster care, ensuring that a child’s emotional and educational needs are met,” Scussel explains. “Less than 60% of children in foster care in California graduate from high school. But with a CASA in their life, 83% of our Santa Clara County foster youth complete high school and a majority of those graduates continue their education after high school.”

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 dependency court 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 the child’s relatives 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.

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