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## **CHILD ADVOCATES RECEIVES \$45,500 FROM THE SHARKS FOUNDATION GOALS FOR KIDS PROGRAM**

Milpitas, CA – April 6, 2015 – Child Advocates of Silicon Valley has received \$ 45,500 from the [Sharks Foundation](#), [Koret Foundation](#), [Taube Philanthropies](#) and [Le Boulanger](#) through the [Goals for Kids Program](#). For every goal scored by the San Jose Sharks during the 2014-15 season, \$ \$1,020 was donated to a running total that was evenly distributed at the end of the season to Child Advocates and five other Santa Clara County nonprofits dedicated to enhancing the lives of youth and families in the community.

“The Sharks Foundation is proud to partner with the Koret Foundation, Taube Philanthropies and Le Boulanger on the Goals for Kids Program, which raised a total of \$250,000 to enhance the lives of youth and families in our community,” said Heather Hooper, Sharks Foundation Manager. “Thanks to the generosity of these partners, each Sharks goal on the ice will help our beneficiaries achieve their goals in the community.”

“This incredible donation gives us the ability to transform more foster children’s lives,” said Karen Scussel, executive director for Child Advocates of Silicon Valley. “For every \$5,000 donated, 20 foster children on our waiting list will receive a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) who will provide them with stability and hope. In essence, every time the Sharks scored a goal, a foster child won a CASA.”

The other five beneficiaries that received donations through the Goals for Kids Program are City Year San Jose/Silicon Valley, Loaves & Fishes Family Kitchen, Rock the CASA, Ronald McDonald House at Stanford, and Via Services.

### *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](http://www.BeMyAdvocate.org).



*About the Sharks Foundation*

The Sharks Foundation is dedicated to enhancing the lives of youth and families in the community with an emphasis in the areas of Education, Health and Safety, and Character Development. The Sharks Foundation supplies emergency aid when appropriate, executes unique and relevant programming, supports the advancement of youth hockey and provides financial support and resources to organizations that enrich the lives of those in need.

For more information about the Sharks Foundation visit [www.sharksfoundation.org](http://www.sharksfoundation.org) or follow them on Twitter [@SharksCare](https://twitter.com/SharksCare).

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