Be a Child's Voice!



Your Monthly News & Updates

A Message from Executive Director Cesar Navarrete

I wanted to once again thank all of you, our supporters for a successful 2016-17 year. Here at CASA we are working hard to make 2017-18 even more memorable and increase the number of youth that are appointed a C.A.S.A. volunteer. How do we measure success:

In 2016-17:

- C.A.S.A. positively impacted the lives of 161 foster youth
- C.A.S.A. trained 81 new volunteers
- 139 volunteer contributed over 7,000 hours of mentoring and advocacy
- 80% of our program youth have achieved a GPA of 2.0 or better as a direct result of the educational advocacy provided by C.A.S.A. volunteers
- With your support, the Heart of a Hero Run raised over \$15,000
- With your support and the commitment of our 13 amazing <u>Board Members</u> that together planed, organized, and executed our <u>1st Annual Golf Tournament</u>, we were able to raised over \$20,000

On a personal note, I celebrated my third year as the Executive Director of C.A.S.A. and I'm looking forward to many more years to come. Our work is far from done, we have over 260 youth on our waitlist waiting for a CASA volunteer. Help us find a caring adult that will mentor and advocate for them. No child should ever feel unwanted, unseen, and unheard. Help us change a life! Become a CASA volunteer today!

Thank you, Cesar Navarrete Executive Director



Volunteer Spotlight

The Customer Service Experts TCSE showed their Heart of a Hero. Their associates formed a superhero team that was recognized as the top fundraising team this year, raising a total of \$810 not to mention their generous \$2,500 contribution earlier in the year.



Corporate Administrator, Leticia Perez sad,

"Every year, our

company enjoys donating to organizations that help benefit the communities in which we conduct our business. We are completely thrilled to partner with C.A.S.A., because we truly support what they stand for, and what they do for the families of this community and surrounding areas. Participating in the "Heart of the Hero Run", and seeing everyone come together in such a fun and exciting way was an absolute joy for us! We had such a wonderful time, and we can't wait to do it again next year! Thank you so much for allowing our company to be part of something so memorable, and for all of the hard work everyone did to make the event such a success!"

If you missed our Heart of a Hero run in 2017, don't make the same mistake in 2018! See you there!

What was it like to be in Foster Care

By: Georgette Todd

Interviewer: Are you still affected by your time in foster care, even to this day?

Foster youth: Yes and I must point out, I'm more affected by the events that led me into foster care. You know, the abuse and failure in parenting and protection. I refuse to blame everything on foster care but yes, my time in the system certainly caused further damage in some ways.



Interviewer: How so?

Foster youth: Well, it shouldn't take a village of programs and workers and agencies to care for a child but that is what exists even to this day. In foster care, there's little room for you to go through the normal process of development of being a kid and make mistakes. If you go through a rebellious stage in foster care, those antics will be written up and submitted to a court that will determine your home placement status. Also, my life skills are behind those that didn't grow up in care. I didn't realize how behind I was in taking care of myself and little things at home until I moved in with my life partner who had a more traditional, solid upbringing. For example, I didn't learn how to iron properly until I was in my thirties.

To read more about one youth's experience please click on the links below.

What was it like to be in Foster Care Part 1
What was it like to be in Foster Care Part 2

Upcoming Events

Munchin at the Mansion 2017 is here! Saddle up and join us on Wednesday, September 27. Enjoy tastes and drinks from the area's finest eateries and breweries, live music, raffles, a silent auction, and more.

All proceeds from this event will help support foster youth in our community by providing advocacy, mentorship, and the chance to build positive memories through the appointment of a CASA volunteer.

And a special thank you to San
Bernardino County Children and Family
Services for sponsoring this amazing
event.

Register Here!



Funder Spotlight

We would like to thank our friends over at Bank of America for their commitment to supporting our mission. As a direct result of the Bank of America grant in the amount of \$10,000, CASA will be bale to impact the lives of more foster youth supporting their academic success.

Thnak you Bank of America!



Call to Action

There are over 5,700 foster youth in San Bernardino County. CASA serves those that are most vulnerable, those that unfortunately will not be reunified with family, those that are alone and in need of a mentor and advocate to help give them a voice and help them navigate through the child welfare system together, hand in hand.

We aren't asking for you to make a commitment to change the lives of 5,700 children, but we are asking for your commitment to change the life of just one. There are several ways you can help.



I can help change a life by:

- Becoming a CASA VOLUNTEER
- Donating tangible items (school supplies, movie tickets, gift cards, etc.)
- Giving a Recurring gift of \$10 or more
- Following CASA on <u>Facebook</u>; <u>LinkedIn</u>; <u>Twitter</u>; telling a friend, a neighbor, a family member, and or a colleague about CASA
- Becoming a <u>Business Community Partner</u> and investing \$3,500 a year to support a volunteer/youth match
- Select Child Advocates of San Bernardino County as your charity of choice on **Amazon Smile** and start shopping today.
- If you are a Rite Aid customers and wellness+ with Plenti member, you can choose to round-up purchases to the nearest dollar and donate the change to help support <u>CASA of San Bernardino County</u>
- Use GoodSearch

Help transform a life of tragedy into a life of HOPE!

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STAY CONNECTED:





