

Find out what C.A.S.A. has been up to!



## Your Bi-Monthly CASA News & Updates

Hello 2017! This month we take a look at all of the holiday festivities that our youth enjoyed with your support, we visit with one of our volunteer Board Members, share a recent article in the San Bernardino Sun, provide you with our Give Big! results, and send out a special invitation for our next event.

[Visit Our Website](#)

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### Closing out 2016 with a Bang!

During this past holiday season CASA experienced overwhelming love and support from community partners that helped put on two amazing events as well as gathered over 150 gifts for our youth.

Let's start with the always fun Thanksgiving Brunch. Youth and their volunteers came to the Burrage Mansion in Redlands to celebrate Thanksgiving as a family. They had the opportunity to prepare and cook their favorite Thanksgiving dishes. They were delicious! We had mashed potatoes, (fancy) mac-n-cheese, stuffing, turkey, ham, pie, green bean casserole, brownies, and much more. Needless to say everyone was stuffed!

In December we celebrated our annual Holiday party. This year we partnered with Mansion Memories and brought a Christmas "Toy Story" tale to life. Youth and their volunteers enjoyed an amazing morning filled with food, games, activities, gifts and an amazing show all thanks to Mansion Memories.

As I mentioned earlier, this year we received over 150 gifts from various community partners. A special thank you goes out to:

- North Fontana Fit Body Boot Camp
- Spectrum Brands
- Norco Fit Body Boot Camp
- Arrowhead United Way
- Wells Fargo Home Mortgage in San Bernardino
- Richard T. Fields Bar Association

These groups combined collected over 150 gifts that went out to all of our youth. Thank you for making this Christmas amazing for each of our youth.



North Fontana Fit Body Boot Camp



Spectrum Brands



Norco Fit Body Boot Camp

## Volunteer Spotlight

This month I want you to meet one of our CASA volunteer Board Members.

In her own words:

I worked for the Department of Children and Family Services for 32 years. When I retired in 2007 I was the Director. I worked as a social worker, supervisor, manager and Deputy Director before promoting to the Director's position.

I have also been a foster parent and adopted a child from the foster care system. Today I am a grandparent who cares for two grandchildren that are involved with the child welfare system. I am the primary caretaker and now see the system from a completely different perspective.

I was a Children's worker when I was newly hired and, at that time, the social worker was expected to form a relationship with every child on her caseload. That relationship would then help the child through the foster care system and all the changes and transitions it brings. Because the child knew and trusted the social worker they would share their fears, thoughts and needs with them.

Those days are long gone. Social workers have larger caseloads and many more statutory and court related mandates that fill their time. They are not usually the person a child turns to for support or advice. In many ways the Child Welfare system is broken. What I see from a caretaker's viewpoint is that the children are the last priority in the system.

CASA volunteers do those very things-they are the consistent, stable relationship that a child counts on. They are the person the child can go to for advice, support, help with school issues and all other things that matter to them. They see the child regularly and so the child knows they will be there and they can count on them. This is an invaluable service that the Child Welfare system can no longer provide.



Cathy Cimbalo

Research shows that the single most important thing in determining a child's successful journey through foster care is a stable, nurturing, relationship with an adult. CASA volunteers are that person. We need more of them in order to provide that important relationship to more children. - Cathy Cimbalo -

For more information about becoming a person visit our website for upcoming information sessions and to complete an application.

[Be that Person!](#)

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## CASA in the News

[Foster youth in San Bernardino County get a little help from volunteers.](#)

By [Michel Nolan](#), The Sun

Following a hearing at Juvenile Dependency Court in San Bernardino, CASA advocates gather to discuss the successful outcome. From left, CASA volunteer Jamie Rutledge; Advocate Supervisor Valerie Valadez; CASA Executive Director Cesar Navarrete; and a CASA youth. PHOTO BY MICHEL NOLAN



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## Give Big Results

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Give Big CASA campaign. It was our best year to date, with your help we raised a grand total of **\$4,515** in 24 hours. All proceeds will help us appoint a CASA volunteer to the youth on our waitlist. Since November we have appointed 15 new volunteers to serve 15 youth on our waitlist.



Even though Giving Tuesday is gone, you can still make a gift to help CASA serve more youth in need of a CASA volunteer. Consider making a recurring gift if you can.

[Continue to Give Big!](#)

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## Save the Date

Calling all Citizens!!!  
Join us for Child Abuse Prevention Month on Saturday, April 29th, 2017 for the "Heart of a Hero Run."  
Answer the call and be a HERO in the lives of our foster children.

Registration opens soon!



When: Saturday, April 29th, 2017  
Where: Glen Helen Regional Park,

2555 Glen Helen Parkway, San Bernardino CA 92407

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