



new  
**HORIZONS**  
with  
**CASA**

2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT



**CASA**  
Court Appointed Special Advocates  
FOR CHILDREN  
ORANGE COUNTY

# A LETTER FROM OUR CEO

As we wrap up this fiscal year, I've been thinking a lot about the **importance of community**. This year has seen so many wonderful accomplishments for CASA OC, and we are so grateful for the critical role our **supportive community** has played over the past year.

In early 2023, we moved into a bright, new office space that provides a cheerful and safe work environment for our staff and visitors. We wrapped up our fiscal year on solid financial ground thanks to the **collaboration** between our generous donors, our development team, and additional funding from California CASA. We have expanded the number of volunteers trained and the diversity of our advocates to better reflect **the community we serve**.

Our **CASA community** includes our phenomenal CASA Board of Directors under the excellent leadership of Chairman Michael Wong. From the beginning of Michael's term, he has prioritized expanding the board's hands-on engagement in the work of our organization. He and his fellow board members have helped with the annual Back to School Picnic, staffed the Holiday Party for CASA youth, assisted at our Pinwheel Project fundraiser, and participated in many other CASA events in the **community**.

Every CASA board member contributes in mission-focused ways that align with their own professional or personal experience and they work collaboratively with our CASA executive team. They share their time and expertise in areas ranging from staff development and retention to best financial practices. Each board member serves on sub-committees that include programming, development, governance, finance, audit and real estate.

The effort to integrate the talent and time of our board into the day-to-day **mission of CASA** has been so successful that Michael and I were invited to share our best practices with CASA colleagues at the 2023 California CASA Executive Directors Conference.

Our treasured CASA community also includes our two hard-working auxiliary groups; **Friends of CASA** and **Kids for CASA**, our Diversity Committee, who supports us with volunteer recruitment, and our affinity groups; **Comunidad CASA** and **Men of CASA**. You can read more about the valuable contributions of these groups in the pages ahead.

Countless **members of the community** also give tirelessly to help us expand our mission to support more youth in the foster care system. Local businesses, foundations, and individual donors provide funds that allow us to recruit and train more advocates. Their generous donations of goods and services provide resources our volunteer advocates use to improve the lives of CASA youth. These **community partners are mission-focused** with a shared desire to expand the reach of CASA by matching more youth in foster care with caring adults who can help them reach their potential.

We hope you'll take the time to read some of the highlights of our **community partnerships** in the following pages of our Annual Report. We are so grateful for the meaningful engagement of so many businesses, foundations, and individuals who are part of our CASA community. We value the contributions of all who are named in this report and appreciate you all being part of our CASA family.



**REGAN DEAN PHILLIPS**  
ESQ., MSW, CEO



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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  - DAVID NUSZ**



CASA Board at Celebration 2023



Carol Moore at 2022 Youth Holiday Party



Lindsey Poker, Dana Strader, Anar Patel at Shopping Event



CASA Board at CASA Classic Golf Tournament



Karen Jordan and Bobbie Howe at 2022 Friends of CASA Holiday Luncheon



CASA Board at 2023 Back to School Picnic

PATRICIA CAHILL (27) • JOY WINGER (21) • JOYCE HERRON (20) • VALERIE ARENELLA (17) • DIANE LIMBO (17) • CARLA MEBERG (17) • DEBORAH WYCOFF (17) • LYDIA DUYNSTEE (16) • FRANK LA SOYA (16) • JEANIE ROE (16) • KATIE BURNETT (15) • FRANCINE MORRISON (15) • TRISH FRAHM (14) • JOY GOEBEL (14) • SANDY JURANICH (14) • DAVID NUSZ (14) • SARAH RANDALL (14) • JEFFREY STERN (14) • BARBARA FAGINS (13) • DAWN FARABEE (13) • ANNASTASIA HENDERSON (13) • ANN MA (13) • JERRY ASMONDY (12) • GARY CONKLE (12) • JULIE DEYAN (12) • JUDITH DONCKELS (12) • ARTI GHAI (12) • MINZI TAYLOR JONES (12) • BETTY LENON (12) • JOY ALLENSPACH (11) • ELYSE DAVIDSON (11) • KIMBERLY DER (11) • SHEILA FRAZIER (11) • DEENA HOFFMAN (11) • JOSEPH SILVEY (11) • HOPE SNYDER (11) • BARBARA STOCKER (11) • SUE BAKER (10) • RENEE CHIAPPELLONE (10) • DIANNA DALY (10) • CHERYL DEMARCO (10) • CAROL GILBERT (10) • HOPE KANALEY (10) • ELHAM KARIMI (10) • KATHY OWSINSKI (10) • SUSAN AVILA-BRADSHAW (9) • TRACEY CLARK (9) • HEIDI CORDOVA (9) • MARION DUNN (9) • STEPHANIE GETZ (9) • NORA GRIFFIN (9) • SEAN GRIFFIN (9) • SUNG JOON KIM (9) • TIM MURPHY (9) • MICHELLE OLIVEIRA (9) • MARISA ROBBINS (9) • CHERI STARR (9) • HOLLY STONE-ROCHESTER (9) • EDD THARP (9) • MICHELE THARP (9) • WENDY WALKER-WILEY (9) • DEBBIE WIEGEL (9) • ROBIN ABRAMS-DUARTE (8) • SUZETTE ALI (8) • JORDAN BARTLETT (8) • DONNA COOLEY (8) • JEANNE CORRIGAN (8) • KATHERINE DICKINSON (8) • KATHY FLAXINGTON (8) • PAM GOACHER (8) • DENNIS HARRIS (8) • STEVEN HILL (8) • DYANNA HOAGE (8) • KRISTINA JODIS (8) • JODI KOLLAR (8) • JANET LEASURE (8) • MINDY MACK (8) • JANET MILLER (8) • RAINBOW NADRATOWSKI (8) • SARAH NOONE-BOYD (8) • BEVERLY ODEN (8) • PATTY RODRIGUEZ (8) • KAREN SHAFFER (8) • DONNA SIMESTER (8) • DEBBIE THOMSEN (8) • SHERI VANDER DUSSEN (8) • BEVERLY YOUNG (8) • CYNTHIA ARNELL (7) • GINA BABER (7) • CINDY BOCK (7) • KIMBERLY FELIX (7) • EVE FUDGE (7) • CHRISTINE GOLUS (7) • KARLA JARAMILLO (7) • KATHY LAWRENCE (7) • FLORENCE LEHAVI (7) • SARAH LIESKE (7) • JUDY MAHER (7) • KAREN MCDANIEL-KOPICKI (7) • CARLA MCGUIRE (7) • SALLY NEISER (7) • GEOFF POYER (7) • BARBARA PRINCE (7) • MANNY SAHU (7) • ANNE SAN JUAN (7) • STACY SILVA (7) • REBECCA SPROAL (7) • ROBYN STANNARD (7) • IRENE STRAUSS (7) • SUSIE STUCKY (7) • MARY SULLIVAN (7) • ABE ULUG (7) • JOSEPHINE WALBERG (7) • DEBBIE WESSELN (7) • MAUREEN WOLTER (7) • HOLLY ANDERSON (6) • GLORIA ANDREN (6) • BETHANY ARBGAST (6) • ALDO BENALCAZAR (6) • TWYLA BRILEY (6) • CYNTHIA BUDE (6) • KRISTI CANCELLIERI (6) • MARIE CROSSON (6) • HEIDI DARYABARY (6) • NANCY DELSANTO (6) • GAIL FROMMER (6) • HEIDI GREENE (6) • CHRISTINE GUIZARD (6) • SIOBHAN HICKEY (6) • KATHY KOHLER (6) • IRENE LIN (6) • MICHELLE MACKAY (6) • RANDY PAUL (6) • AMY SHIH (6) • SUZANNE TANI (6) • NADINE TURNER (6) • ALISA ABECASSIS (5) • ANA ALONSO (5) • RACHEL ANCTIL (5) • PAT AUGUST (5) • KATHEE BEN-MENAHM (5) • DANA BONIFACIO (5) • RACHEL CARPIO (5) • SAC CARREATHERS (5) • DAVID CAVANAUGH (5) • JESSICA COBB (5) • DENISE CUNNINGHAM (5) • TARA DEMPSTER (5) • JANE DOE (5) • DIANE DONALDSON (5) • TRACY DRESLINSKI (5) • JESSE ELLISON (5) • KATHLEEN ENGSTROM (5) • CELIA FAIOLA (5) • SHARON FARRELL (5) • KATHLEEN FIEDLER (5) • RHONDA GALBREATH (5) • SUZANNE GOLDSTEIN (5) • JULIE GRABLE (5) • MARIA GUDIOL (5) • SUSAN HARDWEGG (5) • MARY KING (5) • MELANIE LAASE (5) • CHANNING LEFEBVRE (5) • ANNIE LOZADA (5) • MICHELLE LUSTIG (5) • KATHLEEN MCBENTTEZ (5) • SAMANTHA MCDONALD (5) • ROB MENDOZA (5) • KEELY MENDOZA (5) • TYLER MOUNCE (5) • MAI NGUYEN (5) • JULIANA ODUGUWA (5) • NANCY PILLING-SMITH (5) • JOEL RAKOW (5) • TERESA RANDALL (5) • BILL ROTH (5) • ANN SASSER (5) • JOHN SHIMADA (5) • KARIN SIZE (5) • FRANCES SMITH (5) • ROXZEL SOTO TELLEZ (5) • MARIE TAKESHITA (5) • SANDRA VANIAN (5) • USHMA VYAS (5) • LISA WALTON (5) • MEGAN WEBB (5) • GEORGE WRIGHT (5) • LARRY WRIGHT (5) • KELLY YNZUNZA (5) • DAVID ANTON (4) • JILLIAN ASHCRAFT (4) • SUE BASSEY (4) • JENNIFER BEEKMAN (4) • STEFFANIE BELASCO (4) • CAT BENNETT (4) • MARY ANN BROWN (4) • VIRIDIANA BURGOS (4) • SUE BURKE (4) • BRIAN CARD (4) • KAREN CARSON (4) • KIM CASHIN (4) • JULIETTE COOKE (4) • RICHARD EATON (4) • RUTH ANN EWING (4) • MARISSA FARFONE (4) • SUSAN GAEBLER (4) • SUE GERNAEY (4) • MAGGIE GIBSON (4) • CINDY GONZALEZ (4) • MARY-PAT GONZALEZ (4) • KATHERINE HAMMERSLY (4) • MELINA HANN (4) • GAB HEATON (4) • JAY HERRON (4) • DAN HILL (4) • IRIS HIMERT (4) • PAM HOPKIRK (4) • HAZEL-ANN HOSEIN (4) • REGINA JENNINGS (4) • LAURA JONES (4) • ANITA KAPUR (4) • RACHEL KENT (4) • BRITT KILEY (4) • KARLI KRUEGER (4) • SIMONE LECOMTE (4) • DEBRA LEVEL (4) • LISA LITMAN (4) • TAMARA LOEFFLER (4) • CHERYL LONG (4) • SARA LOZOYA (4) • GAIL LYONS (4) • PHILIP MAGISTRADO (4) • DIANE MAIDANA (4) • ALIDA MARRACCINO (4) • MELANIE MCCORKLE (4) • LORI MCILROY (4) • STACY MONTANEZ (4) • ALEX MONZON (4) • DIANE NEWSOME (4) • CONNIE PALOMARES (4) • KATE PETTY (4) • PEGGY POPADAK (4) • SUSAN RENNER (4) • LISA RIGAUD (4) • MOLLY RISAK (4) • ROBIN ROUNAGHI (4) • NANCY SALLEE (4) • LISA SEPULVEDA (4) • DAMI SHEPARD (4) • LISA SHIMADA (4) • STEVEN SIPE (4) • MARION SISTRUNK (4) • NARVELLA SLACK (4) • PATTI SOLLENBERGER (4) • PHIL SOLLENBERGER (4) • JUDITH STAMPER (4) • JEANNETTE TARLTON (4) • JAN THOMAS (4) • TAMMY TOMPKINS (4) • MIKE TUCKER (4) • KATE WAGNER (4) • KATHY WILK (4) • CHRIS WILLIAMS (4) • JO WOOLDRIDGE (4) • JANICE AKINS (3) • ERIKA ALVAREZ (3) • MARISA ARANDA (3) • LISA BAZIAK (3) • DEE DEE BEDELL (3) • RENEE BRADSHAW (3) • WENDY BRANDT (3) • KEVIN BROADY (3) • GABY BUSTAMANTE (3) • MICHELE CAPPEL (3) • JAQUELINE CELESTINO (3) • SARA COCO (3) • ROSEANNE COSTELLO (3) • RACHEL CRANDALL (3) • CRYSTAL DAWES (3) • PAUL DEPERRY (3) • SHETAL DESAI (3) • BROOKE DOBOS-BUBNO (3) • PATTI DROSSEL (3) • CAROL EBERHARDT (3) • STACY EDWARD (3) • COSTA ELEFTHERIADIS (3) • JOE EMENS (3) • VERONICA ERWIN (3) • SHELLY FAULSTICK (3) • KARISSA FERRER (3) • MICHELLE FRANK (3) • LORI FREEDMAN (3) • KIMBERLY GAVIN (3) • KRISTIN GILMORE (3) • GLENN GOMEZ (3) • MELISSA GOMEZ (3) • NINA GOMEZ (3) • SHAE HAGEN (3) • SONDRA HALEY (3) • CRAIG HARPER (3) • BARBARA HEYDORFF (3) • KAREN HILL (3) • STEPHANIE HILL (3) • LISA HOLTE (3) • FELICIA HUYNH (3) • RACHEL IMMEL (3) • LYNETTE IRVINE (3) • JOANNA ITOH (3) • MARIO JARAMILLO (3) • JEANNIE JONES (3) • JANET KANE (3) • MARY KILBURN (3) • NORB KOHLER (3) • MICHELLE KOONTZ (3) • JUDY KREMER (3) • KRISTYN LAU (3) • SUSAN LAVELLE (3) • JASON LEE (3) • SUSAN LIECHTY (3) • CHRIS LINS (3) • LANITA LOGAN (3) • LACEY LONDON (3) • SUSHEEL MANTHA (3) • MELANIE MARQUEZ (3) • KATHY MARVIN (3) • CHANEL MASEK (3) • JENNIFER MAURITZEN (3) • GWEN MCNALLAN (3) • JESSICA MENDEL (3) • SARAH MILTIMORE (3) • MECHELLE MONROE (3) • ERIKA MORALES (3) • SANDY MORENO ANAYA (3) • CASEY NEWHOUSER (3) • HANNAH NGUYEN (3) • EILEEN NORKIN (3) • RUTH PALMA (3) • ANNETTE PANTING (3) • BARB PATZ (3) • PEGGY PENCE (3) • SHAINA PENG (3) • ANDY PETITT (3) • LORI PETRY (3) • DONNA POTIKER (3) • SUN POWLEY (3) • ASHLEY RADER (3) • DANIELLE REAGAN (3) • JEFF ROEDERSHEIMER (3) • LORRAINE RUBIO (3) • KAREN RUTLEDGE (3) • ELANA SAMSON (3) • TRACY SARGENT (3) • WENDY SCHOEMAN (3) • MELISSA SEIDNER (3) • MARK SERPA (3) • ANNETTE SMITH (3) • CYNTHIA SMITH (3) • KATHERINE SMITH (3) • BETTY SOTO DE QUINONEZ (3) • ELIZABETH SPAIN (3) • TERRY STEVENSON (3) • TOMMY TANKERSLEY (3) • CHARLES TEMPLER (3) • NATASHA TRAWEEK (3) • JUDITH VALADEZ (3) • MONICA VAN ESS (3) • PAUL VANHOOMISSEN (3) • ADRIANA VELAZQUEZ (3) • BRIANA VERHAM (3) • HELEN VOLLERO (3) • APRIL WALSH (3) • SUSAN WASHLE (3) • SALLIE WIDA (3) • DIANNE WILKENS (3) • ANN WILLIAMS (3) • AUBREY WILSON (3) • ANTHONY ZARCADES (3) • DAISY ABARCA (2) • DANIELLE AIREY (2) • TANIA ALLEE (2) • JOSEPH AMAYA (2) • VANESSA AMAYA (2) • GARY AUGUSTYN (2) • LILY ANNE BABIGIAN (2) • VANESSA BARRIOS (2) • CARMEN BASTOS (2) • BRIAN BENNETT (2) • MARY BLACKER (2) • ANNA BOFFA (2) • DANIEL BOGART (2) • KATHY BOGGIO-MOCNIK (2) • DORIAN BOLANOS (2) • KAYLIN BOURDON (2) • SUMMER BRADY (2) • MICHELLE BREGOZZO (2) • DEBRA BRENDER (2) • MELISSA BROWN (2) • NIKKI BRUNETTI (2) • MICHELLE BRYENTON (2) • KATHLEEN BUESO (2) • YVETTE CARNEY (2) • JADE CHANDLER (2) • EMILY CHANG (2) • MARY CHAPPELL-DAVEE (2) • JENNY CHIANG (2) • NICO COETZEE (2) • JORDYN DAHLKE (2) • DIANE DARUTY (2) • CAROL DAVIS (2) • RODNEY DETRICK (2) • ANN DONOVAN (2) • HEIDI DUARTE (2) • CHRISTINE DUBELBEISS (2) • CHRISTOPHER DURST (2) • KAREN DVORMAN (2) • HANAA ELKEBIR (2) • PRISCILLA ESPARZA (2) • CLAUDIA FEIT (2) • SANDRA FRANCO (2) • KELLY GARCIA (2) • REBECA GARCIA (2) • MARLO GARRETT (2) • SARI GEARTY (2) • CRYSTAL GERBER (2) • DANI GILDEMONTES-DAVILA (2) • WHITNEY GILLIGAN (2) • JIM GINOCHIO (2) • CAROLYN GOULD (2) • THERESA GREEN (2) • GAYLE GUNNISON (2) •



ANTOINETTE GUTIERREZ (2) • RISHINA HAKIMI (2) • ROSELYNE HANIFA (2) • VICKI HANNA (2) • JENNY HAYES (2) • KATHLEEN HAYES (2) • WHITNEY HENDERSON (2) • SARAH HEO (2) • PAUL HESSE (2) • VALERIE HIRSH (2) • KAREN HOGAN (2) • RICHARD HOLDAWAY (2) • BRITTNEY HOLLAND (2) • DARLA HOLLAND (2) • CHRIS HOSMER (2) • CRISTAL HUERTAS GARCIA (2) • DOUG JAGERMAN (2) • MAUREEN JESTER (2) • MICHELLE KANG (2) • DHIRU KAPADIA (2) • SPENCER KELLY (2) • BETH KEMP (2) • CAROL KINGSLEY (2) • LIZZY KOVACH (2) • TAMMY LAKES (2) • JANISE LAMBERT (2) • KATHY LENNEY (2) • GRACE LEOS (2) • ANNE-MARIE LINAS (2) • ANNABEL LIND (2) • JENA LINHART (2) • BRIDGET LISH (2) • HADARA MANDEL (2) • BECKY MANDICH (2) • SKYE MARCINIAC (2) • TAYLOR MARTIN DEL CAMPO (2) • MELISSA MATHEWS (2) • JAMES MATTHEWS (2) • KATY MCCLELLAN (2) • ROBERT MCVICKER (2) • PAM MESSIER (2) • JENNIFER MINICHELLO (2) • KELLY MOODY (2) • CHRISTINA MORRELL (2) • MERRIJANE MORRISON (2) • BIANCA MOYA (2) • CHRISTINA MUIRHEAD (2) • TRACY MURCHISON (2) • LILY NGUYEN (2) • KATIE NIEVES (2) • BRET NINOMIYA (2) • LIZ NUNEZ (2) • TEODORA OLAH (2) • STEPHANIE OLSEN (WILLIAMS) (2) • SOFI OZDEN (2) • SIMA PAPI (2) • JANET PEARCE (2) • JAYME PERUSSE (2) • ANCA POPESCU (2) • FAN QIAN (2) • CLARE RICHEN (2) • STEFFANIE RIESE (2) • YUKIEL RIVERA (2) • ABBY SAMAWI (2) • KRISTA SCHAEFFER (2) • TRISTEN SHARP (2) • LINDA SHELDON MCGEE (2) • KARI SINGER (2) • BETH SMITH (2) • VICKI SNELL (2) • AMY SPENCER (2) • LAURIE STEPANEK (2) • DANIELLE TELLEZ (2) • IAN THOMASON (2) • JOSHUA THORPE (2) • MARISSA TITUS (2) • RAINEY TOMES (2) • ED TRAINOR (2) • HANIA TRAN (2) • WENDY VASSILAROS (2) • KIMYA VAZIRZADEH (2) • IVETTE VEGA (2) • ANNETTE VILLANUEVA (2) • MICHELLE VILLERY (2) • JENNIFER WARE (2) • LINDSEY WHISLER (2) • JESSIE WILMOTH (2) • ANGELA WINTHEISER (2) • CASEY WIRTH (2) • KAREN WOLCOTT (2) • SUSANNA WOLFE (2) • LANNY WONG (2) • ELIZABETH YEO (2) • ALE ZAVALAGA (2) • KATHY ZHANG (2) • WENDY ADDY (1) • JESSICA ARENAS (1) • HEATHER ASHWILL (1) • YESSICA AVALOS (1) • NANCY BALLANTYNE (1) • REHANA BALUCH (1) • MARJON BARRIGAN (1) • ANDE BATES (1) • DANIELLE BERG (1) • SHAUN BLAYLOCK (1) • MILES BOLNICK (1) • JAN BOYD (1) • ASHLEY BOYER (1) • ALISON BRENNER (1) • REID BREWSTER (1) • EMILY BROCK (1) • WENDY BRYAN (1) • AMANDA BUSTAMANTE (1) • KATHLEEN CALDERON (1) • CARRIE CALDERONE (1) • BEATRIZ CERVANTES ZIJLSTRA (1) • JESSICA CHANG (1) • VICKI CHERNOFF (1) • KRISTINA CLEMENS (1) • RUTH COLON (1) • BRI COUGLE (1) • KENDRA CREED (1) • SHELLEY CRUMLY (1) • JENNIFER DEARING (1) • LISA DESAI (1) • JANELLE DRYER (1) • CHRISTOPHER EDWARDS (1) • GINGER ELDER (1) • JULIA ELLIOTT (1) • BAHRAM ESFAHANI (1) • EMILY FERREE (1) • ARI FLECHNER (1) • JENNY FRIESS (1) • LISA FRIGO (1) • LILY GANDARA (1) • TERRI GIANFORMAGGIO (1) • HEATHER GIL-LASTRINA (1) • PATTY GRANADOS (1) • DONNA GRIFFIN (1) • ROBIA HAMMOUD (1) • PAUL HARDY (1) • JANET HECTOR (1) • MATT HEER (1) • MELANIE HESS (1) • DONOVAN HIGBEE (1) • OLIVER HO (1) • SHERYL HOSKINS (1) • YOKO ISHIGURO (1) • JENII JACOBSON (1) • TIM JOHNSON (1) • VERONICA JONES (1) • ZIA JONES (1) • EMILIE JUDD (1) • AMAL KHALIL (1) • SANEeya KHAN (1) • LOIS KIM (1) • TIFFANIE KRAUSE (1) • CHRISTINE LA VORGNA (1) • MADISON LAMONICA (1) • SHARON LEGESE GEMECHU (1) • DAVID LIU (1) • ANNIE LOPEZ (1) • DAVID LUOMA (1) • THAER MAHMOUD (1) • SONIA MARKWALD (1) • ANGELA MARTINEZ (1) • CAROL MCCLAIN (1) • BRIANNA MCCOVEY (1) • WINDEE MCKINLEY (1) • TIANA MERK (1) • TAWNY MILLER (1) • THOMAS MINASIAN (1) • YANET MORENO (PEREZ) (1) • DEBBIE MORINES (1) • DORIS MUNN (1) • FAVI NAJERA (1) • DAMARIS NAVAR (1) • JENNIFER NINO (1) • AIDAN O'LEARY (1) • MICHELE OGDEN (1) • SAM ONTEK (1) • MARGARET OWENS (1) • MAGGIE PARENT (1) • JENNIE PARK (1) • ANTHONY PEREZ (1) • LAUREN PESCE (1) • MY PHAM (1) • ALEXIS PIERCE (1) • MARC POTTER (1) • RACHEL RAMIREZ (1) • EMILY ROBINSON (1) • ARIEL ROMERO (1) • ALEX ROSETTI (1) • TOM RYU (1) • REBECCA SANDERS (1) • LUZ SAPIEN (1) • ANGELIKA SCOTT (1) • SONIA SHAH (1) • RANA SHERKAT (1) • BETTY SHIHHARA (1) • JEANA SIMONEN (1) • EMMA SIMPSON (1) • REBECCA SKOLNIK (1) • VANESSA STANFIELD (1) • JESSICA STERNICK (1) • TAY STILLMAN (1) • JENNIFER SUN (1) • CLAUDIA TEHRANI MAYS (1) • DIMITRA TRIANTOS (1) • CHRISTY TROMP (1) • KATY UPPERMAN (1) • NICK VALENCIA (1) • PAULA VALLE-BOWMAN (1) • ANTONY VANDERSANDE (1) • TRACY VARNER (1) • SARAH VOGEL (1) • TAMARA WALKER (1) • CYNTHIA WANG (1) • CONSTANCE WEATHERMAN-CRASS (1) • MARYANN WELTON (1) • ALEXIS WICKHAM (1) • NANCY WILK (1) • VEE WILLIAMS (1) • CHRISTINA YANG (1) • TIFFANY ZHOU (1) •



## CHEERS TO OUR DEDICATED ADVOCATES BELOW WHO'VE COMPLETED TRAINING AND ARE NOW MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THEIR FIRST YEAR OF SERVICE!



JODINE ALPERN • CLARA AMADOR-LANKSTER • LAURA ANSON • ROBYN APPLBAUM-MICHAELOFF • TINA ASADI • SHANNON ASH • KELLYANN BALMER • HEIDI BEEZLEY • LESLIE BERKMAN • ANGEL BOHORQUEZ • LEANNE BONTER • KEVIN BOSSENMEYER • CHRISTINA BRUCE • ESTHER CARRERA • VERONICA CASSIDY • MAYNARD CLARKSON • JEAN CLEMENS • INDIGO COCHRAN • RUTH COCHRAN • SUE COLLINS • KASENIA COLOMBO • ASHLEY COMPTON • DIANE CONLY • ALLISON CRANE • NEDRA D'AMBROSIO • DANA D'ANGELO • ARDEN DAY • PAUL DEESE • ISABEL DEL POZO • COLLEEN DONG • WAYNE DUNN • YAJAYRA FERNANDEZ • SHARON FETTERMAN • KASSIDY FODOR • MARK FULLER • SUSAN GAARDER • KIMBERLY GAMBETTA • LIZBETH GARCIA • YAHIN GARNICA • JAMIE GIACOBBE • BRADLEY GILBERT • ANNA GONZALES • MARIA GONZALEZ LOPEZ • REBECCA GONZALEZ • STACY GREGERSON • JULIE GUGLIELMO • SHADMAN HABIBI • BETH HAMMER • MINDY HANN • AMY HELLESEN • PHOEBE HERTZ • JENNIFER HONG • BRIAN JAFFE • SANAZ JAHANGIRI • CLARA JONES • RENEE KANTAROVICH • JOHN KIM • LISA KNIGHT • ERA KO • RICHARD KUMLER • BESS KUSSNER • HEATHER LACOVARA • SANDY LARSON • VICKI LEWIS • MADELEINE LISEBLAD • JASMINE LONDO • SHEEVA LOTFIAN • JENNA LUMAR • NICHOLAS MACAULAY • YORDANKA MARTIN • DANIELLE MASELLA • LAUREN MERHAUT • NICOLE MICHEL • PEGGYANN MORRILL • DANG NGUYEN • KERI NICHOLSON • GEORGE NUTTALL • TRAVIS OGDEN • DANIEL OLIVER • BRENT PARKER • KAREN PARKER • RILEY PARKER • LINDA PAYNE • JANELLE PEDERSON • MAREN PEDERSON • KENNETH PICKLE • PETER PIFERI • STEVEN PLETL • NICOLE POMPEY • JOSEPH PURTELL • SHANNON QUIHUIZ • CRISTINA QUILES • VICTOR QUIROS • LESLIE RAINS • HEATHER REEVES • VANESSA RIVERA • AMY RODE • LAUREN RUIZ • CARLA SANCHEZ CABANAS • MADISON SANDERS • ALEEYAH SAVOY • SIGRID SEXTON • TUCKER SHARP • BRETT SHUPE • DEVYNN SMITH • SHARON SOBEL • CAIT STERN • REBECCA STRASSENBURG • ANNIE STUDNER • TRACY SUGIYAMA • KAINAT SYEDA • RYAN TEEYO • BRIAN TEW • DENISE THIENES • ERICA TORRES • KIMBERLY TRICHE-HARRIS • VALERIE URENA • ELIZABETH VALDIVIA • NAOMI VAZQUEZ LOPEZ • INGRID VILLANUEVA • LA TONYA WATSON • AMY WAUNCH • ALEXIS WINCHELL • CAROLINA YANEZ • JOHN YESKEL • TRISHA YOUNT • MONICA ZARAGOZA

# 2022-23 COMMUNITY MAP

## MATCH ACTIVITY PARTNERS

The organizations providing activities for CASA youth and volunteers all over Southern California

- A** Los Angeles Chargers Football Game
- B** Youth Holiday Party at Saddleback Church, Anaheim
- C** Monster Jam at Angels Stadium
- D** Harlem Globetrotters at Honda Center
- E** Pacific Symphony Concerts, Costa Mesa
- F** Empowerment Event at Friends Church Yorba Linda

- G** Willy Wonka Play at Tustin High School
- H** Orange Coast Planetarium, Costa Mesa
- I** Pretend City, Irvine
- J** Irvine Railroad
- K** OC Zoo, Irvine
- L** Angels Baseball Game, Anaheim
- M** Orange County Museum of Art, Costa Mesa
- N** Movie Screening at The LOT (courtesy of Just in Time for Foster Youth), Newport Beach
- O** Samueli Academy Tour, Santa Ana

- P** LA Galaxy Soccer Game (courtesy of St. Hilaire Family), Carson
- Q** Fashion Island Experience, Newport Beach
- R** Jurassic World Live, Honda Center, Anaheim
- S** Ocean Institute, Dana Point
- T** Pacific Marine Mammal Center, Laguna Beach
- U** John's Back to School Picnic at Saddleback Church, Lake Forest
- V** Independent City Event with Orangewood Foundation & Pretend City, Irvine



## PLACEMENTS

Youth served in the child welfare system are placed throughout Orange County

- |                     |                  |                           |                  |
|---------------------|------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| 10 Aliso Viejo      | 7 Ladera Ranch   | 2 Rancho Mission Viejo    | 8 Trabuco Canyon |
| 282 Anaheim         | 2 Laguna Beach   | 11 Rancho Santa Margarita | 92 Tustin        |
| 30 Brea             | 24 Laguna Hills  | 3 Rossmoor                | 38 Westminster   |
| 43 Buena Park       | 11 Laguna Niguel | 23 San Clemente           | 26 Yorba Linda   |
| 3 Corona Del Mar    | 2 Laguna Woods   | 12 San Juan Capistrano    |                  |
| 80 Costa Mesa       | 25 La Habra      | 3 Seal Beach              |                  |
| 1 Coto de Caza      | 24 Lake Forest   | 1 Silverado               |                  |
| 13 Cypress          | 3 La Palma       | 34 Stanton                |                  |
| 8 Dana Point        | 8 Los Alamitos   |                           |                  |
| 1 Foothill Ranch    | 6 Midway City    |                           |                  |
| 22 Fountain Valley  | 33 Mission Viejo |                           |                  |
| 104 Fullerton       | 16 Newport Beach |                           |                  |
| 94 Garden Grove     | 1 Newport Coast  |                           |                  |
| 78 Huntington Beach | 189 Orange       |                           |                  |
| 46 Irvine           | 37 Placentia     |                           |                  |

# advocate of the YEAR

CASA volunteer Ian Thomason received the call that he'd been selected from over 550 advocates to be honored as CASA's 2023 Advocate of the Year. The plan was to recognize Ian and his CASA youth, Ruben, at the annual Celebration Gala. Ian and Ruben went to work preparing remarks about their journey together to share with attendees at the Gala. Their story touched on Ruben's challenges navigating his way through five different social workers, multiple schools and four different living placements in just 18 months.

Ian wrote about his nervousness as a newly trained CASA meeting Ruben for the first time. "We officially met in October of 2021 and boy was I nervous. If it weren't for the CASA training program and support staff around me, especially my supervisor Adrianna Gonzalez, I would not have felt comfortable entering Ruben's life as I did. Once we were matched and had our first hangout, I quickly realized that Ruben greatly wanted someone in his life to talk to. Someone that would listen. Like most children in foster care, Ruben was rarely heard."

Ruben and Ian quickly bonded over dozens of dinners and events they shared together. Ian proved to be the good listener Ruben really needed after feeling unheard as a youth in and out of the foster care system since he was only six years old. And Ruben demonstrated tremendous resiliency through all of the many transitions and challenges he faced in foster placements and in school. Ian shared, "When Ruben was having issues at one of his foster homes, he made a statement that I heard loud and clear. He said he did not want to become a typical foster kid statistic. That night we grabbed dinner and discussed how he could avoid becoming that statistic. When things weren't working out with his living arrangement, I did my best to advocate for him."

Ian and Ruben were successful in advocating for Ruben to live on his own, in an environment where he flourished. Ian shares the challenges Ruben still faced, "Unfortunately, school wasn't easy for Ruben to get to. He rode his bike one mile to the bus stop and had to take two buses to get to school. He also would get up and workout before doing all of this. Several nights a week he either was working a job or volunteering to ensure he was able to maintain his independent living status. And somehow, he managed to squeeze hanging out with me into his schedule. He did all of this when he was only 17. I can't imagine having the discipline to do all of that on my own."

Because Ruben now lived much closer to Ian, the two were able to spend more time together during the workweek. As a VP of Sales, Ian maintained a very busy schedule that required travel throughout his west coast region. However, Ian says, the two had time to "travel the world together through food." According to Ian, "We were constantly trying new places. It was over these dinners that I was able to mentor him or lend that listening ear that he always craved. We discussed business management and how to motivate people over Italian food. We chatted about comics, literature and the book he was writing over several sessions of sushi. Over a bowl of pho, we discussed boxing and working out goals. We set up his bank account and investment account over boba tea."

As the Celebration Gala approached, they reviewed the speech they were going to present and looked forward to sharing their story. However, as is often the case for youth in the foster care system, plans took a last minute turn. Due to a difficulty with his living situation, Ruben expedited his decision to join the military six weeks earlier than he had originally planned, and

IAN & RUBEN



## “ HIS PASSION & AUTHENTICITY IN SUPPORTING OUR CASA YOUTH HAVE BEEN BOUNDLESS SINCE HIS FIRST DAY AS A CASA. – Adrianna Gonzalez, Advocate Supervisor

was unable to join Ian for the festivities.

Ian was still able to deliver his remarks to a sold-out crowd of CASA supporters at the Celebration Gala and attendees were able to view a video that Ian and Ruben recorded together before Ruben departed for boot camp.

According to Ian, Ruben continues to thrive and recently graduated from boot camp and the School of Infantry in Quantico, VA. His ultimate goal is to become an Embassy Guard. Ian says Ruben is enjoying the military and working really hard. Ian recently traveled to watch Ruben graduate.

According to Ian, being a CASA is manageable despite his busy schedule with a full-time job, family and travel commitments. He also makes time to attend Men of CASA events when he's in town and tries to help recruit more younger men to consider becoming a CASA volunteer. "Most of the role models in Ruben's life have been women and it's nice for boys to have a male to look up to. I think there's sometimes an easier camaraderie that can develop when there are shared interests - even if it's just sports. I think boys can sometimes feel there will be more of an understanding when talking to a man about a problem you're having," said Ian.

Adrianna Gonzalez is Ian's Advocate Supervisor and said, "Ian was selected as Advocate of the Year for several reasons; his passion and authenticity in supporting our CASA youth

have been boundless since his first day as a CASA. He truly is the definition of a CASA superstar with the kindest heart and generous spirit that is contagious to all."

When asked why he believes he was selected for the Advocate of the Year honor, Ian modestly gives the credit to Ruben. "Ruben is a phenomenal youth and super articulate, he really stood out to CASA staff. He has accomplished so much and made such an impression. He graduated early and did all these amazing things we hope to see with our youth. I think I was also a good example of someone who has a really busy schedule but makes the time to serve as a CASA." Ian added, "I'm super excited that one of my friends I brought to a Men of CASA event signed up, went through the training and has now been matched with his first youth."



# 2022 FRIENDS OF CASA HOLIDAY LUNCHEON



## Event Committee

Zelma Banuelos  
Katrina Bess  
Tifani Bradley  
Lourdes de Quillien  
Giselle Deese  
Annee Della Donna  
Danette Dye  
Amanda Ebricht  
Alexis Fiore  
Narima Freitekh  
Arti Ghai  
Jen Hanlon  
Rae Harker  
Lori Jackson  
Sandhya Kapoor  
Kanani Karasaki  
Debra Klein  
Julie Leigh  
Mei Li  
Leezette Lopatic  
Daisy Loza  
Christina Markl Coffey  
Jennifer Martin  
Christi Matthews  
Paige Palmer  
Sandy Parten  
Jeanne Peyton  
Jessica Rau  
Caitlin Reyna  
Bree Richards  
Alison Rubino  
Carolina Sayed  
Grace Schlichter  
Laura Tennant  
Angela M Williams  
Rachel Zamolo

## Executive Committee

Nadia Bess  
Jamie Born  
Liz deSousa  
Connie Dinsmore  
Danette Dye  
Raquel Edwards  
Jennifer Gonzales Oxen  
Annette Hellmich  
Nicole Inal  
Joanna James  
Molly Jolly  
Holly Joseph  
Patty Juarez  
Deb Keillor  
Sandi Kirby  
Colleen Masterson  
Kimberly Matties  
Natalie Midlock  
Marjie Mrs  
Bill Peters  
Val Ramsay  
Corinne Sheehan  
Joanna Smith  
Stef Stamires  
Dana Strader  
Briana Verham  
Janine Wald  
Trisha Yount

## Chairs

Sara Van Dusen  
Sarah Minakary



**Sara Van Dusen & Sarah Minakary**  
2022 Friends of CASA  
Holiday Luncheon Chairs



**2022 Friends of CASA Holiday  
Luncheon Committee**



**Regan Phillips: CASA CEO**  
**Dana Strader: Friends of CASA President**

# 2023 CELEBRATION COMMITTEE



**Karen Jordan & Nancy Eaton**  
Celebration Chairs



**Lucy Donahue**  
Children's Champion



**Ian Thomason: Advocate of the Year**  
**Regan Phillips: CASA CEO**



**Joanna Kong & Dara Mullarkey**  
**Sun Family Foundation**  
Outstanding Foundation



**Anne Marie McNeill**  
**Newport Beach Dermatology &  
Plastic Surgery**  
Outstanding Corporation

## Chairs

Nancy Eaton  
Karen Jordan

## Event Committee

Analisa Albert  
Shahrzad Bina  
Abby Corpodian  
Ali Corter  
Lourdes de Quillien  
Connie Dinsmore  
Lucy Donahue  
Jacqueline Dupont  
Kara Duffy  
Paul Fenner  
Melanie Fitch  
Wendy Friedman  
Tammy Gannon  
Cate Hanley  
Maggie Hicok  
Holly Hoch  
Bobbie Previti  
Dana Kanne  
Lisa Kassel  
Jassel Kaye  
Christine Kelleher  
Holly Kerslake  
Cathie Lawler  
Vance Long  
Michelle Long  
Elizabeth Manji  
Viki Merage  
Wendy Misner  
Lisa Mullins  
Lourdes Nark  
Regina Oswald  
Anoosheh Oskouian  
Urvashi Patel  
Bill Peters  
Kylie Schuyler  
Andrea Smith  
Paula Steurer  
Wendy Tenebaum  
Lauren Wong  
Linda Young

# FRIENDS OF CASA

The annual Holiday Luncheon benefiting CASA OC is a glamorous blend of luxury fashion and holiday festivity. The emotional cornerstone of the event always features a compelling keynote speaker who spotlights the needs of youth in the foster care system. This powerhouse fundraiser is planned and executed each year by the hard-working CASA auxiliary, Friends of CASA (FOCASA.) The event typically nets over \$600,000 each year which is critical to CASA's mission to support Orange County youth in foster care.

Since CASA only receives about 20% of its funding from government sources, the remaining 80% of CASA's operating budget is dependent upon the fundraising efforts of FOCASA and other generous donors. Regan Phillips, CEO of CASA OC, said, "It's astonishing we are able to raise that much money in the middle of the day at a luncheon during the busy holiday season. The funds raised by Friends of CASA at this beautiful luncheon go directly to recruiting, training, and supporting more CASA volunteers throughout their journey as advocates working with local youth."

The Holiday Luncheon magic is created by a team of almost 70 FOCASA volunteers. The team organizes a spectacular event. The annual event is back up to capacity with a sell-out crowd following the pandemic. The FOCASA team organizes a spectacular Silent Auction, Gift Bags, Sponsor-A-Child program, and Starfish Wishes. The luncheon typically features a luxury fashion partner presenting a fashion showcase and pop-up shopping boutique. The keynote

presentation always concludes with attendees stepping up to Sponsor-A-Child by contributing financially to support the work of CASA OC.

Starfish Wishes give supporters an opportunity to fulfill a wish expressed by a CASA youth by purchasing a Starfish ornament, custom-designed by local artist Timree Gold, from one of the beautifully decorated trees at the Holiday Luncheon. Starfish Wishes have included new clothes or shoes, dance lessons, art classes, a chance to attend a summer camp, and Uber cards to help youth get to and from



**Friends of CASA Members preparing hygiene bags for CASA Youth**

work.

The chairs of the luncheon strive to achieve a balance between a fun, celebratory atmosphere, while also remaining mission-focused. A recent event chair said, "We're there to help youth in foster care. It's fun to see a fashion show, but we're all there for an important reason."

CASA OC was established in 1985 when Orange County Junior League member Lydia Tyler authored the proposal that launched CASA locally. Cathie Cardelucci has been an integral part of CASA since that time. Cathie got involved with CASA when she joined the Kappa Alpha Theta sorority as a UCLA student in the late 70s and CASA was Theta's national philanthropy. When Cathie moved to Orange County, she continued her association with CASA as a member of the Junior League and was part of a small group of members who were instrumental in establishing CASA OC.



**Friends of CASA Advisory Council & CASA Staff**

Ten years later, in 1995, Friends of CASA was created as a separate auxiliary to raise funds and awareness for CASA OC. One of FOCASA's earliest fundraising efforts was the annual Holiday Tea. That event has evolved over the years into today's Holiday Luncheon, which has grown tremendously both in scope and net proceeds for CASA.

Cathie remains very active in supporting CASA and currently serves on the FOCASA Advisory Council. She also serves as a liaison between CASA OC and the Theta chapters at local colleges. The local Theta sororities provide volunteers for the Holiday Luncheon and the Celebration fundraiser and as interns at CASA's offices. Orange County Thetas at UC Irvine and Chapman University also help fundraise with special on-campus events such as the "CASA Carnival" and "CASA KATWalk Fashion Show." For a recent National Day of Service, Thetas wrote thank-you notes and provided gift cards for advocates to use on behalf of their youth.

Former FOCASA President and Holiday Luncheon Co-Chair Jaynine Warner serves alongside Cathie on the Advisory Council as Chairwoman. About twelve years ago, Jaynine was tapped to reinvigorate the FOCASA organization, which was going through a lull in membership and activity.

Jaynine finds her time with FOCASA extremely rewarding since the work feels very mission-oriented. "Keeping mission-focused has always been a deep passion of mine," she says. "When restarting the FOCASA auxiliary, education was so important

we made it one of the three pillars of our mission. We held court tours, education luncheons, and speaker events where members had the opportunity to hear about the incredible impact CASA is making in the lives of children who have faced some truly terrible circumstances."

FOCASA works very closely with the executive team at CASA to ensure their fundraising efforts remain mission-focused. Dana Strader, President of FOCASA, sits on the CASA OC Board of Directors for her two-year term. She is also a member of the Development Committee within the board to help guide and assist with all of CASA OC's fundraising efforts.

Members of FOCASA enjoy a broad range of membership experiences and volunteer opportunities. They can work directly in the field by volunteering to organize and serve a meal at Orangewood Foundation or by helping out at the annual CASA Picnic. There are also opportunities to spend social time with other members via mixers, which typically feature a guest speaker who shares information about CASA's work. Members also enjoy a FOCASA book club and shopping opportunities where retail partners contribute a portion of their sales to CASA OC.

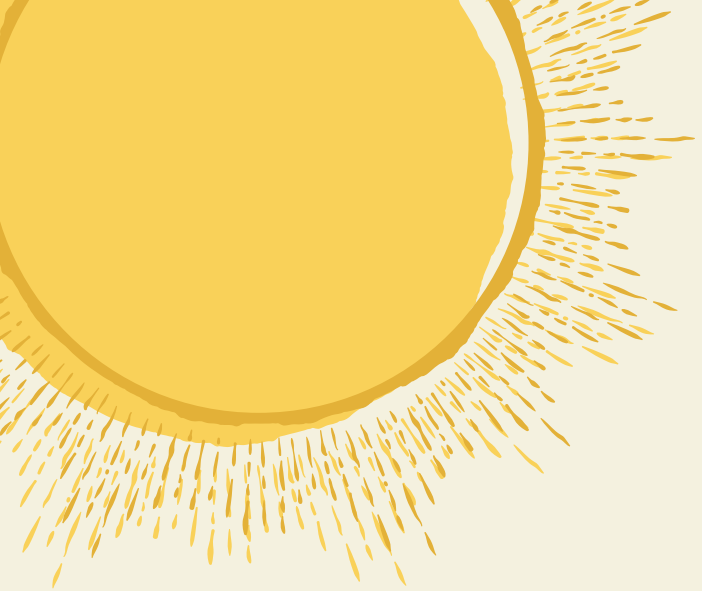
The camaraderie enjoyed by the members of FOCASA is evident from the number of deep friendships that have been formed over the years of working together on various committees. Many longtime members even have children who have gone on to volunteer with the Kids For CASA auxiliary at their schools, some even starting their own chapters in



**Starfish Wish Tree at Holiday Luncheon**



**Holly Joseph, Dana Strader, Colleen Masterson**



# FRIENDS of CASA



**FOCASA Book Club**



**FOCASA Members at Orangewood Foundation Kitchen:** Sarah Randall, Jennifer Gonzales Oxen, Heather Gil-Lastrina, Sarah Minakary, Lily Randall, Kimberly DeLamar Matties



Sandi Kirby, Valerie Ramsay, Colleen Masterson at **Weekend MaxMara In Store Shopping Event**

Cathie Cardelucci shared, “These children in our community are our legacies. They deserve to be safe, and it’s important to help them. If we have the time or the passion to help make that happen, there are so many different ways to get involved, either by being an advocate or doing any one of a number of other things alongside the Friends of CASA.”

Although FOCASA members' efforts are focused on fundraising, they are also keenly aware of the importance of elevating the visibility of CASA and recruiting more volunteers to train to become advocates. Some FOCASA members also serve as advocates and one of them, Holly Joseph, said, “I think people sometimes have a mental barrier to becoming a CASA due to the perceived time commitment. But people probably spend just as much time on Instagram in a week as it takes to be a CASA. It’s more doable than people think. If it’s something you value, you can find time to do it.”

Dana Strader agreed that volunteering with CASA feels very fulfilling. “I love CASA. It truly is one of the very few organizations where you can actually see that you’re making a difference. Funds raised go to educate the advocates and mentors. Statistically, you can see how much better a child does when they have an advocate. There is a tangible connection between the fundraising we do, the dollars we give, and the end result with these children. There really is no better organization to support.”

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- President:** Dana Strader
- Vice President:** Inga Sanders-Marcereau
- Membership Director:** Joanna James
- Finance Director:** Janine Wald
- Community Sponsorship Director:** Sarah Minakary
- Major Events Director:** Jennifer Gonzales Oxen:
- Communications Director:** Nicole Inal Hutchinson
- Secretary:** Liz deSousa
- Retail Sponsorship Director:** Valerie Ramsay
- Parliamentarian / Past President:** Colleen Masterson

## Member At Large:

- Kimberly Matties
- Sandi Kirby
- Sandy Parten
- Jennifer Hanlon
- Holly Joseph

## MEMBERS:

### Platinum

- Regina Oswald
- Jayne Warner

### Gold

- Jennifer Cops
- Liz DeSousa
- Sara Jarrett
- Patty Juarez

### Silver

- Alia Batniji
- Katrina Bess
- Nadia Bess
- Jamie Born
- Molly Bourne
- Tifani Bradley
- Queenie Bui
- Giselle Deese
- Annee Della Donna
- Danette Dye
- Amanda Ebright
- Raquel Edwards
- Alexis Fiore
- Sally Fowler
- Nariman Fraitekh

- Lina German
- Jennifer Gonzales
- Elizabeth Gould
- Nicole Inal
- Lori Jackson
- Joanna James
- Dana Johnson
- Molly Jolly
- Holly Joseph
- Kanani Karasaki
- Julie Leigh
- Ann Levine
- Leezette Lopatic
- Christina Markl
- Jennifer Martin

- Debbie Masek
- Colleen Masterson
- Christi Matthews
- Kimberly Matties
- Natalie Midlock
- Kelsey Mills
- Sarah Minakary
- Marjie Mros
- Andrea Parks
- Sandy Parten
- Jeanne Peyton
- Valerie Ramsay
- Paris Sabo
- Grace Schlichter
- Corinne Sheehan

## BOARD ADVISORY COUNCIL

- Chair:** Jaynine Warner
- Cathie Cardelucci
- Janet Colclaser
- Annette Hellmich
- Lori Jackson
- Patty Juarez
- Debbie Masek

## FRIENDS OF CASA BOARD







“It was like a giant game of Jenga with hundreds of handmade blankets stacked carefully so nothing would fall in my garage last December,” says high school senior Ryan Clemons. She is describing the result of a collaborative effort between Santa Margarita Catholic High School’s (SMCHS) **Kids for CASA** club and several other schools, along with a local National Charity League chapter. Together, the youth groups provided hand-tied flannel blankets for youth in the foster care system attending CASA OC’s annual holiday party.

Ryan has served as the co-president of her school’s Kids for CASA club since its launch when she was a freshman. During that time, she and fellow co-president Grace Jackson helped it grow from ten members to the current roster of 150 members. But Ryan’s involvement in CASA OC’s youth auxiliary group began long before she was a student at SMCHS. She first began volunteering with Kids for CASA ten years ago when her mom, Erika Pedersen, who is now on staff with CASA, was on the Friends of CASA board. Ryan says, “CASA has been such a big part of my life. **I don’t even remember being me without being a part of CASA.**”

Kids for CASA was first formed at Corona del Mar High School by students Garin Friedman and Zach St. Hilaire in 2016 to encourage high school students to volunteer at CASA events. That effort now spans ten high schools and an equal number of elementary schools throughout Orange County. Activities include making and donating items for the holiday party held each year for CASA youth, volunteering at various CASA events, stuffing newsletters, baking items to be sold or donated, and raising funds.

CASA volunteer and former staff member Nicole Joseph and her 14-year-old daughter Ava have been involved since those early days. Nicole and her close friend Christy Flanagan were looking for ways to get their young daughters, Ava and Bridget, involved in sup-

porting the work of CASA. Nicole explains, “Christy and I met in Junior League when we were both pregnant with our daughters. We did a lot of philanthropy work together, including helping with CASA’s annual Holiday Luncheon. We had the idea of setting up a program to engage younger kids and calling it Junior Kids for CASA.”

The two brought their fundraising experience to layer onto the volunteering aspect of the program. Nicole’s daughter Ava said, “Our first project was to raise money selling baked goods. We got about 15 girls who each raised \$200. We pooled that money and bought Timree hand-painted ornaments. We then sold those ornaments for a \$100 donation. Our goal was to sell 300 of them, which we did, **raising \$30,000 our first year.**” Nicole laughs when she adds, “One of the great things about kids that age is they’re so hard to resist. When a sweet little 8 or 9 year old asks, you just can’t say no.” To date, Kids for CASA has raised over \$375,000 for local youth in foster care.

In 2017, CASA launched an effort to expand community awareness by creating a public installation of thousands of pinwheels representing youth in foster care. Nicole says, “I thought, ‘Ding ding ding!! Let’s make this a fundraiser as well!’ That first year, we held the event in Dana Point and charged \$5 to sponsor a CASA Pinwheel.” The event was moved to Fashion Island the following year, and the goal was to double the money raised. Pinwheels sponsorships were sold for \$10, and corporate sponsors were brought on board. **Now, the annual Pinwheel Project raises about \$70,000** with the generous help of Subaru of America, which matches every contribution to this campaign.

The Pinwheel Project has proven to be a great way to engage younger kids in a valuable community service effort. According to Ava, “A lot of kids set up booths like lemonade stands on street corners or in front of grocery stores to sell their pinwheels.” The high school clubs

are part of the Pinwheel Project effort as well, arriving early in the morning to set up the pinwheels, staff the information booth, and break things down at the end of the day. Ryan is there every year from set up to closing. **“I love it. I’m there all day long,”** she says.

During the COVID shutdown, Kids for CASA had to change how they approached fundraising and building awareness about the needs of CASA youth. With the help of **Matthew Wadlinger**, CASA’s Chief Strategy Officer, a virtual fundraiser was created with an assist by former NFL quarterbacks, Mark Sanchez and Matt Leinart, and Matt’s wife Josie. The video they created to keep the Pinwheel Project alive in 2020 was shared amongst the community and generated significant funds for the effort. Kids for CASA also ran a Build-Your-Own stuffed animal event, allowing children to select an animal to design, stuff, and dress for a \$50 donation. The completed stuffed animal was later provided to a CASA youth as a holiday gift. Matthew shared, “These events are such an important, tangible way to **help young children develop empathy for others and to understand it’s a privilege to be in a position to help others.**”

Eventually, Junior Kids for CASA merged with Kids for CASA, so participating youth now range in age from 5 to 18. As Ava prepares to transition to high school and Ryan moves on to college, both girls reflect on their time with CASA. Ava shares, “After all these years, CASA has grown into a special place in my heart, and I want people to know about kids who need our help.”

For Ryan, CASA has given her a perspective on all she has to be grateful for in her own life. “I realize how big of an impact just a little bit of effort can have in the life of another person.” She hopes to launch a club to support CASA when she starts college in the fall.”

Nicole shares that volunteering with CASA is

different from other philanthropic efforts she’s been a part of. “Many volunteer opportunities can feel rather exclusive. **Kids for CASA is 100% open to anyone who wants to help.** CASA really empowers their volunteers to be on the ground and make a real-world impact. We’re all about figuring out how to best help the organization.”



Pinwheel Project

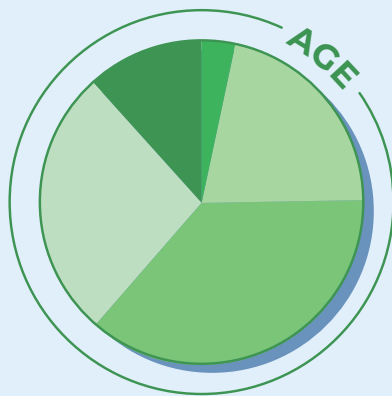


# Youth

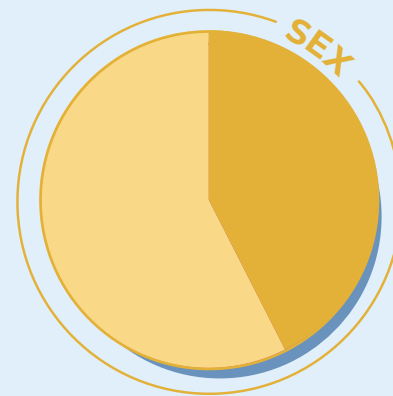
## DEMOGRAPHICS

# Volunteer

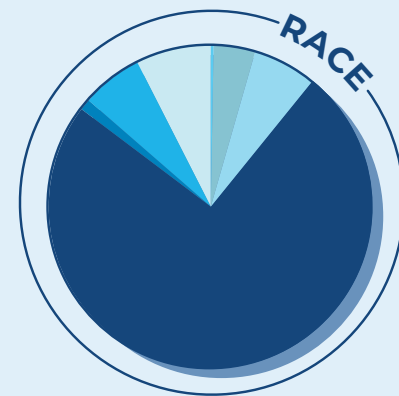
## DEMOGRAPHICS



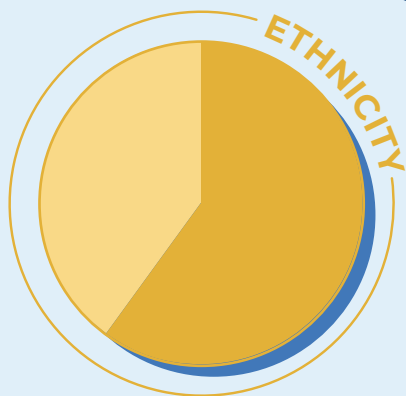
- 3 – 5 **3.5%**
- 6 – 10 **21.4%**
- 11 – 15 **36.6%**
- 16 – 18 **27.0%**
- 18 and over **11.5%**



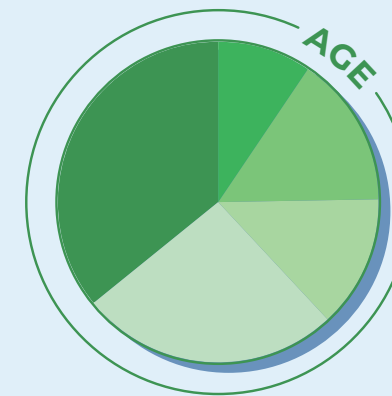
- Female **57.2%**
- Male **42.8%**



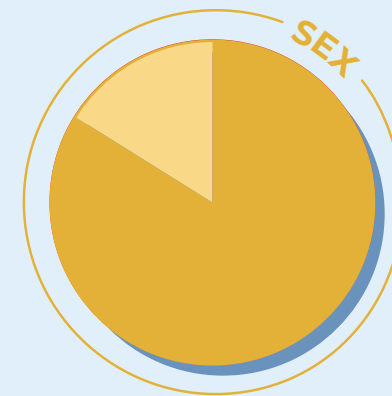
- American Indian or Alaskan Native **0.5%**
- Asian **4.0%**
- Black or African American **6.5%**
- White **74.5%**
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander **1.0%**
- Two or more races **6.0%**
- Other/ Unknown **7.5%**



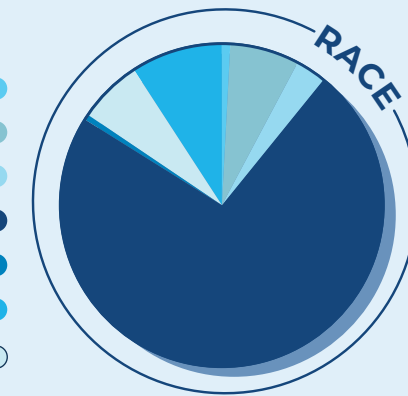
- Hispanic **60.0%**
- Non-Hispanic **40.0%**



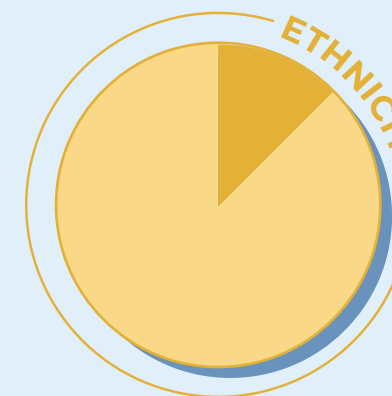
- 21 – 29 **9.5%**
- 30 – 39 **15.3%**
- 40 – 49 **13.3%**
- 50 – 59 **26.3%**
- 60 and over **35.6%**



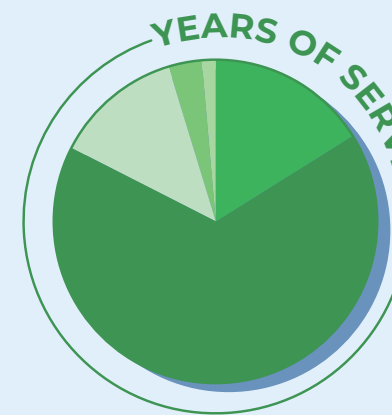
- Female **84.2%**
- Male **15.8%**



- American Indian or Alaska Native **1.0%**
- Asian **7.0%**
- Black or African American **3.0%**
- White **73.0%**
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander **0.5%**
- Other **9.0%**
- Two or more races **6.5%**



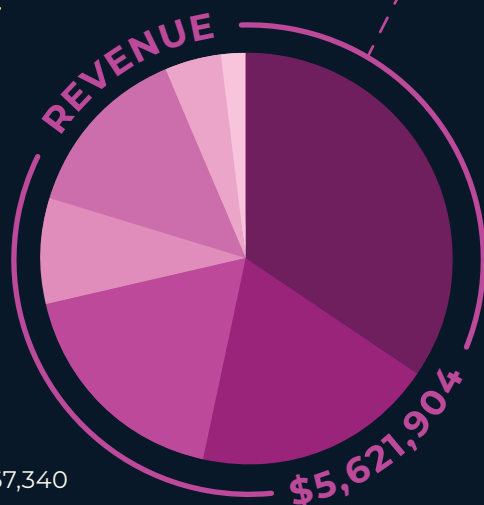
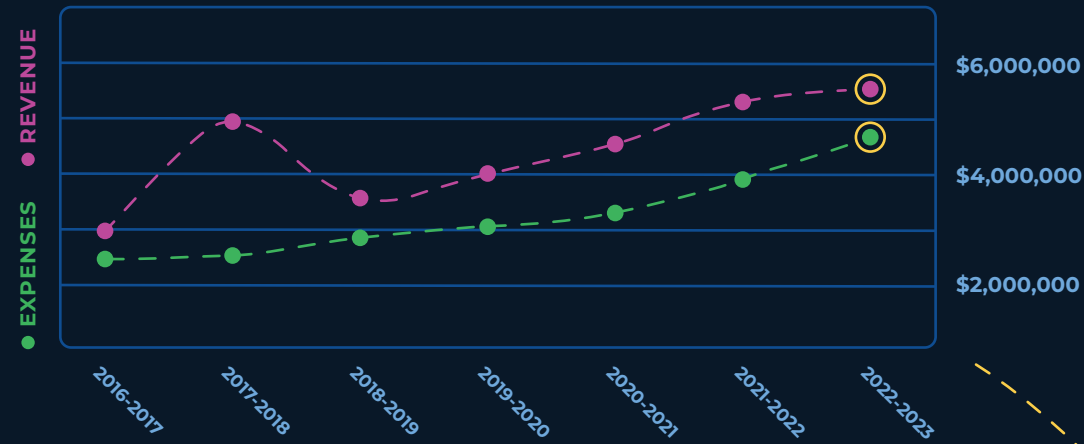
- Non-Hispanic **87.4%**
- Hispanic **12.6%**



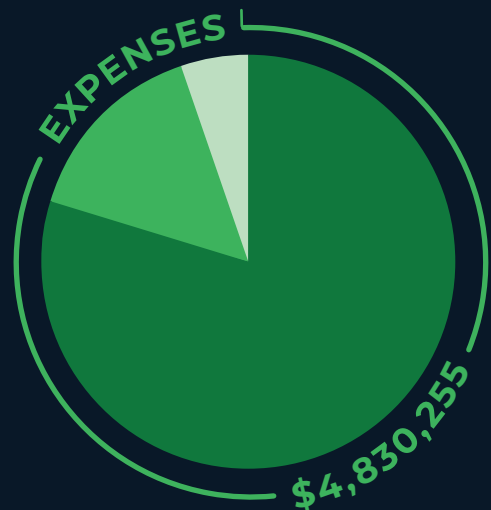
- <1 **16.4%**
- 1-5 **66.4%**
- 6-10 **12.6%**
- 11-15 **3.3%**
- 16-27 **1.3%**



# 2022-23 FINANCIALS



- Events: \$1,945,014
- Foundations: \$1,067,340
- Government: \$1,004,640
- Individuals: \$777,168
- Corporations: \$475,604
- Investments: \$244,133
- Other: \$108,005



- Admin/Overhead: \$244,184
- Development: \$723,970
- Programs: \$3,862,101



**1,694**  
CHILDREN SERVED  
through CASA programs



**168**  
NEW CASA VOLUNTEERS  
sworn in



**191**  
CHILDREN ACHIEVED PERMANENCY  
via reunification with their parent,  
adoption or guardianship



**1,160**  
CASA REPORTS SUBMITTED  
to the court



# 2022-23 IMPACT

# DIVERSITY

## Committee



### MEMBERS:

Sac Carreathers  
Corina Espinoza  
Ballabh Garg  
Linda Igarashi  
Florence Lehavi  
Christina Marquez  
Carol Moore  
Patricia Rubio De Luca  
Brianna Shigo  
Deborah Vasquez

### STAFF LIAISONS:

Norma Mendoza (lead)  
Galdina Franco  
Adrianna Gonzalez  
Jordyn Kieft  
Cristian Lopez  
Rachel Montanye  
Briana Moore  
Paloma Ocampo

CASA OC's diversity-driven affinity groups provide a space for volunteers to come together, connect, and share their unique experiences as advocates, and the layered challenges the youth they serve are facing.

In addition to the opportunity to connect, the groups aim to diversify our volunteer pool by focusing on recruiting volunteers that mirror the demographics of the youth that we serve.

To participate in one of CASA's diversity groups, please contact us at [diversity@casaoc.org](mailto:diversity@casaoc.org)

# COMUNIDAD

## CASA

### COMUNIDAD CASA



Supporting Hispanic/Latinx volunteers

### MEMBERS:

Amanda Bustamante  
Beatriz Cervantez Zijlstra  
Ruth Cochran  
Ruth Colon  
Yajayra Fernandez  
Melissa Gomez  
Favi Najera  
Connie Palomares  
Naomi Vazquez Lopez  
Carolina Yanez

### STAFF LIAISONS:

Galdina Franco  
Norma Mendoza  
Kevin Plata

# MEN

## of CASA



### MEMBERS:

Aldo Benalcazar  
Andy Petitt  
Antony Vandersande  
Ari Flechner  
Bahram Esfahani  
Billy Ratliff  
Brian Bennett  
Brian Card  
Chris Durst  
Chris Edwards  
Christopher Williams  
Colin Israel  
Conrad Hoppe  
Dan Bogart  
David Berkovitz  
David Cavanaugh  
David Nusz  
Ed Trainor  
Edd Tharp  
Frank La Soya  
Gabe Nava  
Gary Augustyn  
George Nuttall

Glenn Gomez  
Ian Thomason  
James "Jim" Matthews  
James Matthews  
Jason Lee  
Joe Purtell  
Joel Rakow  
John Shimada  
John Yeskel  
Kevin Black  
Kevin Bossenmeyer  
Kevin Broady  
Manny Sahu  
Marc Potter  
Mark E Serpa  
Mike J Tucker  
Nicholas Macauley  
Oliver Ho  
Patrick Larkin  
Paul Deese  
Paul Hardy  
Paul Hesse  
Paul Tacorian  
Peter Piferi

Reid Brewster  
Richard Holdaway  
Robert McVicker  
Sylvester "Sac" Carreathers  
Theodore P Schraff III  
Tom Ryu

### STAFF LIAISONS:

Norma Mendoza  
Kevin Plata

### MEN OF CASA



Supporting male volunteers

# CASA GEMS



## Gives Every Month

Jared Baumer  
Andrew Border  
Miguel & Maritza Campo  
David Cavanaugh  
Jessica & Garrett Cobb  
Debra Costa  
James Davison  
Michelle & Eric Frank  
Amy Fulford  
Terry & Karen Harstad

Patricia & Robert Huggins  
Priscilla Jara  
Laura Kramer  
Carol Moore  
Lynda & Joseph Perring  
Sun Powley  
Lisa Rigaud  
Lisa Rocha-Arana  
Luisana Ruvalcaba  
Tina & Kenneth Ryder  
Andrea Schoembs  
Karen A. Tamura  
United Way, Inc.  
Lauren Visser  
Susan Willig  
Glenn Wood  
Madison Yates  
Diego Zarate

A heartfelt thank you to our amazing GEMs (Gives Every Month)! Through your monthly financial contributions, CASA volunteers can forge meaningful connections with youth in foster care and provide essential mentorship and advocacy.



 [CASAOC.ORG](https://CASAOC.ORG)  714.619.5151