

The Killer Dueling Pianos Fundraiser



CASA has so much gratitude to our community for all the support they showed us at our first in person fundraising event since 2019. Our event was a huge success. The Killer Dueling Pianos got our guests singing and dancing. The food, desserts and coffee bar were delicious. Hank's magical punch, well it was magical. A special thanks goes out to Merced Elks Lodge #1240 for sponsoring the Killer Dueling Pianos. We would like to thank our Auctioneer Maui; food vendors, Five Ten Bistro, Custom Catering, Tequila Café, Mix Bakery and Sipsy; Sunrise Rotary for providing the bar; Merced Scholars Charter School DECA for their awesome help and of course Ryan and Donnie, The Killer Dueling Piano's! We would also like to thank everyone that attended, purchased a table or an item from the silent and live auctions. The Board of Directors, Advocates and CASA Staff worked tirelessly to host this successful event.



EVERY DAY HERO: TIMOTHY & LINDSEY VERRINDER



Lindsey and Timothy grew up in the Merced area with big families. They were both homeschooled. Lindsey and her family were involved in scouting for many years as she was growing up. Timothy has eleven brothers and sisters and has many fond memories of his childhood.

Aside from being an advocate, Lindsey and Timothy often visit their families during the week and on weekends and they will usually have coffee together, catch up or crack jokes. They also have a church family they spend time with regularly. When it is just the two of them at home, they enjoy walks together, reading and spending time outdoors tending their garden or chickens.

Both Lindsey and Timothy have been CASA advocates since the Fall of 2021. During the summer of 2021, they had been thinking about volunteering their time somewhere and CASA kept popping up. Their sign to sign up was during the Atwater, 4Th of July Parade Float.

In regards to their first case, the most memorable times for Lindsey and Timothy were when they would get invited to their kiddos birthday parties. The FosterParents treated them like family. For their current case, they love taking the kids to the park when they go over to visit and the children love it too. When they arrive to the kiddos' home, if they are not quick enough to walk to the park the kiddos will let the CASAs know, "Park?????" "I wanna go to the park!"

Timothy and Lindsey believe that CASA is an important part of the experience that children in Foster Care endure because younger children, like their CASA kiddos do not really understand what is going on but sense when they are loved. A CASA can provide that sense of love to a child in the midst of their circumstance while in foster care.

Timothy believes his biggest strength as a CASA volunteer is having a calm and relaxed disposition. As for Lindsey, her willingness to do the monkey bars with the kids, go down the slide, play tag. For both of them together, integrity is essential. Their advice to a new CASA is to get to know contacts (CASA Staff, social worker, etc.), go to advocate trainings (meet others and learn), and have fun with your child.



Welcome Class 47!

CASA of Merced County welcomes our newest Advocates! Each of these Advocates have completed 30 hours of training and 5 hours of Court Observations along with background checks. We cannot wait for them to take a case and start advocating for our foster youth.



Child Abuse Prevention Month



April is Child Abuse Prevention month and the symbol for this is a blue pinwheel. For the second year, CASA planted a Pinwheel Garden at the Kids Discovery Museum in Merced in honor of all the children in foster care.

The pinwheel represents the happy, carefree childhood every child should have. We would like to thank everyone that sponsored a pinwheel for our garden.