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CASA Notes

Volume 7, Issue 3 Summer 2019

A Member of the National CASA Association

Message from the Executive Director, Cathie Lancaster

It feels like the middle of summer, but kids are already heading back to school; where did our summer go? One of the rewarding things that we are able to do at CASA is to make sure that all of the kids we serve are ready to start the new school year. Thanks to InterWest Insurance Services, Merced Sunrise Rotary, Mattress Land, Berliner Cohen LLP and wonderful CASA supporters, we have a supply of gift cards available when our CASA kiddo's have an urgent need for clothing or hygiene items, backpacks filled with school supplies.

I wish everyone could see the smiles on the faces of our CASA kiddo's when they pick out their brand new backpack and see all the wonderful items inside or when they have the opportunity to shop with their Advocate for new clothing that someone else did not own before them.

Children should not have to worry about having clean clothes that fit to wear to school, or supplies such as pens and pencils, they should only have to focus on school and being a child.

When a child starts the school year in a new grade it can be exciting and a bit scary. A new teacher to get used to, new subjects to learn, new friends, and perhaps a new school and new expectations to adjust to. Imagine then, what it is like for children in foster care who often change schools multiple times a year. The stress of always being in a new situation is profoundly challenging for youth in foster care.

It is estimated that foster children move schools at least twice a year, and by the time they age out of the system, over one third will have changed schools five or more times. The result of all of these changes is that youth in foster care lag behind every other group of students; children in poverty, non-English speaking children and children with disabilities.

Thankfully, there are everyday citizens in our community who are making a profound difference in the lives of foster youth by ensuring stability, promoting school attendance, preventing serious behavior problems, and meeting a child's special education needs - CASA volunteers or Court Appointed Special Advocates!

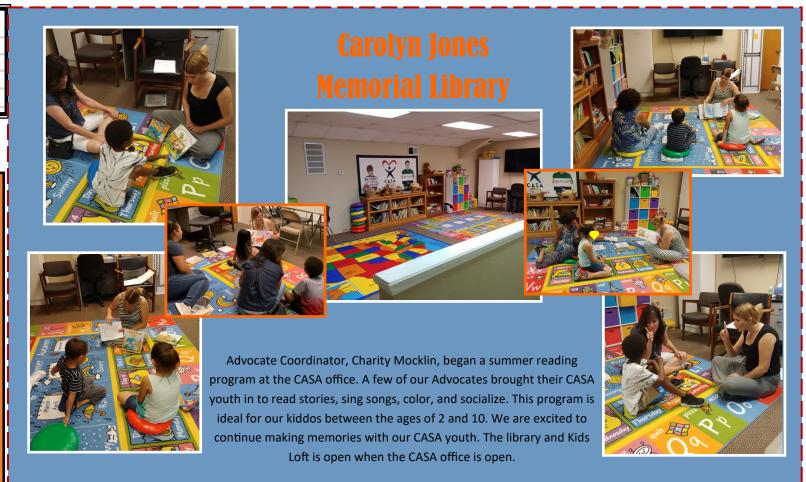
Our next training class starts October 7. I hope you will consider becoming an Advocate; there are still over 400 children in care that need a consistent, caring adult to help them on their journey.



Yogi Berra said "Love is the most important thing in the world, but baseball is pretty good, too".

On August 28th our CASA kiddos, volunteers, and CASA staff went and enjoyed the Oakland A's baseball game. This wonderful event was only made possible thanks to the Etcheverry Fund. Through the fund, our youth were able to enjoy a tailgate pizza party as well as fill their stomachs with delicious snacks. The kids and adults had a memorable day!

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Join the current group of 163 Voices4CASA members!

CASA relies on individual and corporate donors and financial partners to make its work possible. Financial support is needed to recruit, train and supervise advocates.



Our VOICES4CASA are asked to support the organization with an annual donation.

We welcome all support.

You can help make a difference!

Upcoming CASA of Merced County Events:

Thursday, 8/29/2019 Mix Bakery Fundraiser, 9am-6pm Saturday, 9/14/19 Los Banos CASA Fall Fundraiser Monday, 9/2/19 CASA Office Closed for Labor Day Tuesday, 9/3/19 CASA Information Meeting 12pm Monday, 9/16/19 CASA Information Meeting 3pm Tuesday, 9/24/19 **CASA Information Meeting 3pm** Thursday, 10/7/19 CASA Training Begins—Class 32 Monday, 10/14/19 CASA Office Closed for Columbus Day Monday, 11/11/19 CASA Office Closed for Veterans Day Saturday, 4/4/20 Merced CASA Spring Fundraiser



Memorials & Honorariums

In Honor of Mary Lyons Bill Lyons

In Memory of John Menezes Jr Anthony & Diane Neves and Maurice & Carol Etcheverry

In Memory of Bernice Millen Douglas & Sandra Stocking Bette Woolstenhulme Adrian & Shar Herrera Anthony & Diane Neves Robert & Janice Salles Kim & Mark McAuley Al & Claudia Kalmin

If you would like to make a donation in Honor or Memory of a special someone who has impacted your life, please use the enclosed donation envelope to submit your gift.

Your "In Memory of" or "In Honor of" of will be included in our next quarterly newsletter. What better way to pay tribute to remarkable individuals than to make a

individuals than to make a charitable donation in their name?

Abong, Sabrina Acosta, Jewel Aguilar, Marina Alshami, Sonia Alvarado, Colby Alvarez, Karolyn Arambel, Cynthia Asai, Gini Barnes, Donna Barreno, Albert Barron, Nichole Bartholomew, Candace Baylard-Sampson, Maggie Benavides, Alma Benavides, David Bier, Debbie Borland, Danielle Boykin, Gwendolyn Bradley, Jan Bui, Stephanie Callister, Christine Cano, Kimberly Carlson, Rita Castro, Adam Chambers, Jalisa Chappell, Susan Cheeks, Corey Cheffer, Karen Coble, Andrea Colbert, Katelynn Cortez, Rafael Cuevas, Ana Davis, Jerry Lou

Downing, Sonja Drolshagen, Yuki Dyas, Lynda Edmiston, Nancy Estrada, Monica Fishback, Bill Fleming, Henrietta Foley, Christie Fuentes, Diane Fuentes, Tony Garcia, Paola Garretson-Merino, Cindy Gilliam-Bowers, Crystal Gills. Jessica Gittens, Elyse Gonzalez, Yalitza Hafer, Michelle Hague, Wayne Halpin, Joan Hamm, Carol Hansford, Carissa Harris, Skip Harville, Luzie Hazlett, Juene Hernandez, Joel Herrera, Shar Hewitt, Gwendolyn Hoffar, Claudia Huff, Violet Hurtado, Nereida Irvin, Sharon Jacobs, Tina Jimenez, Juanita

Johnston, Debbi Jones, Luwanda Jones, Tim Jones, Veda Kalmin, Claudia Kolb, Tim Latronica, Jason Lawrence, Dondi Legg, Debra Legg, Tomas Livingston, Tanya Lopez, Lisa Lopez, Yadira Lorenzi, Jan Lowrance, Diana Madrigal, Elizabeth Makoui, Anali Marciochi, Helena Martinez, Emily Martinez, Eva Mattoon, Lyssabeth Matzenbacher, John Maxey, Steven McAndrew, Kimberlie McAuley, Kim McBride, Michelle McKellar, Angela Meraz, Caroline Meyer, Lisa Minor, Kristine Morgan, Kay Murillo, Karina Murphy, Linda

Nguyen, Namkha Nord, Rita Ochoa Sierra, Elizabeth Orozco, Nelly Osborn, Lynda Otani, Ashley Paulo, Jane Piro, Robyn Pouncey, Elisa Purslow, Barbara Quall, Sheila Quien, Alane Ramirez, Christopher Ramsey, Janet Reyna-Canales, Jill Reynolds, Carolyn Reynoso, Vilma Rivero, Stephanie Rodriguez, Lizette Romero, Rita Sadler, Marge Salzberg Kirihara, Judith Samuelson, Deborah Sanchez, Lisa Scoto, Kathy Sevilla, Sandie Sharma, Krishneel Shay, Pat Sickenger, Julie Silveira-Miller, Selena Smaby, Nadine Smelcer, Erin Smith, Dan

Smith, Karen
Souza, Stephanie
Stavrianoudakis, Stacey
Steed, Casey
Stroud, Barbara
Sullivan, Martin
Torres-Pinon, Daisy
van LobenSels, Patty
Villa, Lesly
Wood, Jan
Workman, Deborah
Zalinski, Jon



SUMMER 2019 CASA Notes Newsletter

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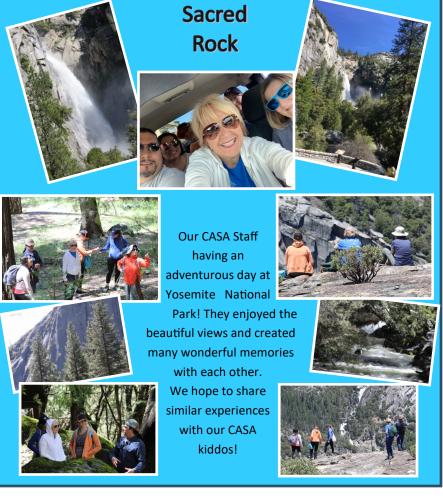


@ MERCEDCASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Merced
County advocate for the best interests of abused and
neglected children within the court system.

VOLUNTEER. DONATE. GET INVOLVED.







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