

## Board of Directors

**President**  
Henry Strength

**Vice President**  
Emily Haden

**Treasurer**  
James Broadley

**Secretary**  
Jane Lawrence

**Past President**  
Diane Neves

**Members**  
Mindy Broadley  
John Carlisle  
Natasha Crivelli  
Carol Etcheverry  
Stephen Jones  
Edith Ramirez  
Steve Tietjen  
Dena Traina  
Bette Woolstenhulme  
Nancy Young-Bergman

**Ex officio Members**  
Judge Donald Proietti  
Judge Brian McCabe  
Judge John Kiriara  
Laura DeCocker, Human  
Services Agency  
Marge Sadler, Advocate

**Executive Director**  
Cathie Lancaster

**Honorary Board Members**  
Congressman Jim Costa  
Senator Cathleen Galgiani  
Assemblyman Adam Gray  
Anna Balatti Brooks

**Contact:**  
Phone: (209) 722-2272  
Fax: (209) 722-2270

2824 Park Avenue, Suite A  
Merced, CA 95348

PO Box 2362  
Merced, CA 95344

MercedCASA@gmail.com

www.MercedCASA.org

# 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!

## Carolyn Jones Memorial Library



Advocate Coordinator, Charity Mocklin, began a summer reading program at the CASA office. A few of our Advocates brought their CASA youth in to read stories, sing songs, color, and socialize. This program is ideal for our kiddos between the ages of 2 and 10. We are excited to continue making memories with our CASA youth. The library and Kids Loft is open when the CASA office is open.

## 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" will be included in our next quarterly newsletter. What better way to pay tribute to remarkable 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, Yalitz  
 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 Kiriara, 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



I am for the child™

CASA of Merced County

P O Box 2362

Merced, CA 95344

SUMMER 2019 CASA Notes Newsletter

Follow us on

Social Media!



@ 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.**

NONPROFIT ORG  
 US POSTAGE PAID  
 MERCED, CA  
 PERMIT NO. 1493

Return Service Requested



A few photos from the fun the CASA Staff had at the various events in town. First was the C.U.B.E.'s carnival in Merced. Next the National Night Out events in Atwater, Merced & Livingston. Finally the Child Support Office put on the 1st annual KidsConnect event which was a huge success!



**Sacred Rock**

Our CASA Staff having an adventurous day at Yosemite National Park! They enjoyed the beautiful views and created many wonderful memories with each other. We hope to share similar experiences with our CASA kiddos!



**CASA CASINO Night**

\$60 per ticket

\$900 for table of 8

Includes: Unlimited wine, party favors, cocktail waitress, & additional \$100 per person.

Location: Los Banos O'Banion Auditorium

Date: September 14, 2019

Time: 6pm

BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW!

Call 722-2272 – Or online at

[www.MercedCASA.org/casacup](http://www.MercedCASA.org/casacup)