#### We Need CASA Volunteers! We Need You!

The first step to becoming a CASA Volunteer is to attend an Information Meeting. Information Meetings are free and open to the public. Information Meetings take place the first Tuesday of each month at 12:00 PM. If you are curious to learn more about CASA and our important mission to provide advocacy to Merced County foster youth, please join us for an Information Meeting!

**Upcoming Meetings:** 12/4/18 12:00PM 1/8/19 12:00PM

Winter 2019 **Training Cycle begins January 10th 2019** 

### Learn more at www.mercedcasa.org



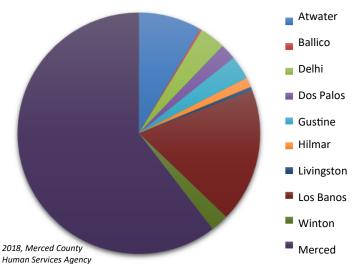


### **Top 10 Reasons to Volunteer in Your Community**

- You make a difference.
- Enhances your resume and enriches your life.
- You get a chance to give back.
- You can learn a lot from the people that volunteer.
- 5. Strengthens your community.
- It promotes personal growth and self-esteem.
- 7. It brings people together.
- 8. Gain professional experience.
- 9. Saves community resources.
- 10. Health benefits Physical and mental benefits, reduces stress and helps your brain stay active.

https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/top-10-reasons-why-people-volunteer-erin-britton

# **Merced County Foster Youth Attending Merced County School Districts by Percentage** Atwater



## Did you know that Foster Youth with CASA Volunteers...

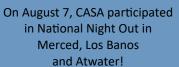
- Are less likely to have poor conduct in school.
- Are less likely to be expelled.
- Are more likely to pass all courses.

http://www.casaforchildren.org/site/c.mtJSJ7MPIsE/b.5332511/k.7D2A/Evidence of Effectiveness.htm





On August 17, in lieu of a company picnic, Berliner Cohen held a "Day of Service." Their staff prepared 36 EPEC kits (Essential Packs for Every Child) and delivered them to CASA of Merced County, along with extra supplies and a generous donation. EPEC kits are age and gender appropriate packs, which contain basic hygiene and school supplies. These kits are given to children when they are detained and placed in foster care. Thank you to the Merced and Modesto offices of Berliner Cohen, LLP.











On September 19, CASA of Merced County was presented with a proclamation from Assemblyman Adam Gray's Office, in honor of being named 2018 California Nonprofit of the Year.



On October 24, Congressman Jim Costa was present to congratulate recipients of the 2018 Merced Sun-Star Excellence in Business Awards. Congressman Jim Costa has been a consistent supporter of CASA of Merced County for many years.



October 17, Fall Career Fair Merced College



October 4, Valley Crisis Center's Peace for Families March.



On October 24, CASA was honored by the Merced Sun-Star at the 4th Annual Excellence in Business Awards Luncheon Ceremony. CASA of Merced County, among six other local businesses and organizations were recognized at the ceremony which took place at Hilmar Cheese Company. The winners for each category, were selected by diverse panel of judges. CASA received the 2018 Excellence in Business Award in the Charitable/Non-Profit category. Staff, Board Members and CASA Volunteers were present on behalf of the organization.