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A Member of the National CASA Association

A Message from the Board President: Serving the Uncared



Henry Strength
CASA Board President

In Merced County, at any moment, over 400 children and youth are in foster care. Some have experienced immeasurable neglect and know what it is like to go to bed feeling unloved and alone. Perhaps Mother Teresa said it best:

"Being unwanted, unloved, uncared for, forgotten by everybody, I think that is a much greater hunger, a much greater poverty than the person who has nothing to eat."
Mother Teresa

The very purpose of CASA of Merced County (Court Appointed Special Advocates) is to provide support, mentoring, and a sense of belonging and worth to those youth in our neighborhoods that are in the foster children network. So many of these children have been abused, abandoned, or neglected and they have been removed from those households and parents for their own protection.

Through a network of volunteers – caring, giving adults just like you – that we call advocates, these children are connected with community members who volunteer their talents and heart-felt support to show foster youth that they are not alone, that they are cared for, and that someone is there to help them navigate the road ahead.

Being a volunteer will be one of the most rewarding experiences of your life. Here is how Gandhi put it:

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." Mahatma Gandhi

Today, CASA of Merced County has community members, from stay-at-home parents to corporate executives to caring neighbors from every walk of life, who feel that immeasurable sense of purpose and satisfaction because they are advocates for the rights and futures of these once-neglected, unwanted children and youth.

If you are not yet an advocate, let me ask you to lose yourself in the service of others. We will provide you with all of the orientation and training and support that you require and any amount of time you have, however minimal or extensive, will be useful and will make a difference in the lives of the youth you will serve.

Beyond serving as an advocate, there are so many other ways to be a "difference maker" for CASA. From hosting a field trip to serving as a role model/speaker to assisting with our annual fundraising events, you are needed and wanted. Just contact the capable administrative staff or any of the advocates and volunteers of CASA and we will immediately get you connected.

At your service,

Henry N. Strength
President Board of Directors

I am for the child®

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!**



Memorials & Honorariums

In Memory of David Ferro
Anthony and Diane Neves

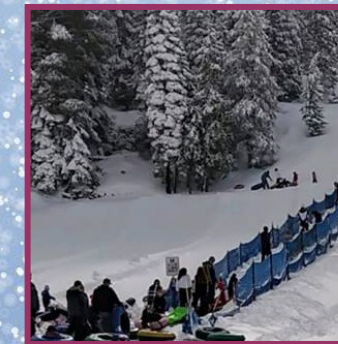
In Memory of Linda Smith
Dorothy Menezes



In Honor of Dorothy Menezes
Michael and Mary Ann Charters

In Honor of Chris Ramirez
Carolyn Ann Vara

CASA SNOW DAY!



The children in our CASA program were able to spend their Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday making fun, new memories. Thanks to some very generous individuals (Etcheverry Family & Friends), CASA sent a bus load of our children and Advocates for a day of snow play! The bus ride was supplemented with donuts, hot cocoa and many other snacks. The kids had a great time!

I cannot become a CASA Volunteer at this time, how else may I help?

CASA accepts various types of support. In lieu of monetary support, you may instead donate new items to our office. Our Advocates spend a great deal of time with their CASA children on outings away from the foster homes or group homes. These outings help create a bond of trust and are an important component of the CASA volunteer's role. The Advocates do this out of the kindness of their heart but also out of their own pocket. Can you help them with these activities and outings?

To make a monetary donation, please return the enclosed envelope with your preferred method of payment or make a secure 1-time credit card donation on our website at:

www.mercedcasa.org/donate



- Food and Gas Gift Cards
- New Clothing and Shoes
- New Toys, Games and Books
- Scholarships for Extracurricular Activities
- Gift Certificates for Children's Activities
- Personal Hygiene Items for Youth

Visit our website to view the full CASA Wish List:
www.mercedcasa.org/donate/wishlist.html

Winners of the CASA Fall Fundraiser Prize Drawing:



One week stay in
Cabo San Lucas Resort

Nancy Silva



Golf Package for 2 at Quail
Lodge Golf Club in Carmel

Scott & Brooke Silveira



Monterey Plaza Spa
Package for Two

Jared & Jeni Brazil



Crinklaw Fine Art
Original Painting

Barry & Jeanne McCauley

Thank you to all who participated in our Fall Fundraiser! Your donations help us to recruit, train and supervise current CASA volunteers and those still to come. CASA of Merced County thanks you for your support!



April is Child Abuse Prevention Month.

In support of Child Abuse Awareness month, CASA is selling fabulous t-shirts to raise awareness. Our hope is that everyone who purchases a t-shirt will wear it every Friday in April. T-shirts are \$25 each and are on sale now. Please contact the CASA office at 209-722-2272, or email clancaster@mercedcasa.org to purchase a t-shirt. You can also pay online at <https://mercedcasa.org/donate/>




CASA of Merced County
P O Box 2362
Merced, CA 95344

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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.



Thank you Merced County residents for supporting our fundraiser with "The Cupcake Lady!"

Advocating for abused and neglected children in Merced County since...

2010 Jan Lorenzi	2015 David Benavides	2017 Christie Foley	2018 Tim Kolb
2010 Marge Sadler	2015 Judith Salzberg Kirihara	2017 Yadira Lopez	2018 Michelle McBride
2010 Lynda Osborn	2015 Jon Zalinski	2017 Kathy Scoto	2018 Lammi Adem
2011 Shar Herrera	2015 Kay Morgan	2017 Pat Shay	2018 Maggie Baylard-Sampson
2011 Debbi Johnston	2015 Jane Paulo	2017 Casey Steed	2018 Gwendolyn Boykin
2011 Jan Bradley	2015 Carol Hamm	2017 Susan Chappell	2018 Christine Callister
2011 Robyn Piro	2015 Juene Hazlett	2017 Donna Barnes	2018 Rafael Cortez
2011 Claudia Kalmin	2015 Barbara Purslow	2017 Jason Latronica	2018 Crystal Gilliam-Bowers
2011 Kim McAuley	2015 Erin Smelcer	2017 Eva Martinez	2018 Gwendolyn Hewitt
2012 Colby Alvarado	2015 Karen Smith	2017 Lisa Sanchez	2018 Luwanda Jones
2012 Karolyn Alvarez	2015 Nancy Edmiston	2017 Claudia Hoffer	2018 Jan Wood
2012 Stan Mollart	2015 Michelle Hafer	2017 Juanita Jimenez	2018 Albert Barreno
2012 Veda Jones	2016 Rita Carlson	2017 Anna Jones	2018 Danielle Borland
2012 Sheila Quall	2016 Linda Murphy	2017 Tomas Legg	2018 Kimberly Cano
2012 Christopher Ramirez	2016 Rita Nord	2017 Martin Sullivan	2018 Corey Cheeks
2013 Deborah Workman	2016 Barbara Stroud	2017 Kimberly Wright	2018 Nichole Barron
2013 Lynda Dyas	2016 Janet Ramsey	2017 Joan Halpin	2018 Tina Jacobs
2013 Kristine Minor	2016 Jewel Acosta	2017 Yadira Balderas	2018 Tim Jones
2013 Jalisa Chambers	2016 John Matzenbacher	2018 Nichole Barron	2018 Elizabeth Madrigal
2013 Helena Marciochi	2016 Elisa Pouncey	2018 Tina Jacobs	2018 Anali Makoui
2013 Patty van Lobensels	2016 Karen Cheffer	2018 Tim Jones	2018 Kimberlie McAndrew
2013 Ashley Otani	2016 Lisa Lopez	2018 Elizabeth Madrigal	2018 Lizette Rodriguez
2014 Wayne Hague	2016 Karina Murillo	2018 Anali Makoui	2018 Deborah Samuelson
2014 Skip Harris	2016 Candace Bartholomew	2018 Kimberlie McAndrew	2018 Kristy Verma
2014 Tanya Livingston	2016 Henrietta Fleming	2018 Lizette Rodriguez	2018 Sabrina Abong
2014 Debbie Bier	2016 Diane Fuentes	2018 Deborah Samuelson	2018 Sonia Alshami
2014 Youa Chang	2016 Lisa Meyer	2018 Kristy Verma	2018 Stephanie Bui
2014 Stephanie Souza	2016 Carolyn Reynolds	2018 Sabrina Abong	2018 Yuki Drolshagen
2014 Bill Fishback	2016 Julie Sickenger	2018 Sonia Alshami	2018 Lesly Villa
2014 Rita Romero	2016 Selena Silveira-Miller	2018 Stephanie Bui	
2014 Jerry Lou Davis	2016 Nadine Smaby	2018 Yuki Drolshagen	
2014 Ruth Alejo	2017 Cynthia Arambel	2018 Monica Estrada	

We thank our amazing CASA Volunteers for the remarkable service you provide to foster youth!

Upcoming CASA of Merced County Events!

- Monday, 4/1/19 — CASA Office Closed in Observance of Cesar Chavez Day
- Tuesday, 4/2/19 — CASA Information Meeting, 12:00PM
- Saturday, 4/6/19 — CASA Derby Night Spring Fundraiser, 6:00PM
- Wednesday, 4/10/19 — CASA Information Meeting, 5:30PM
- Monday, 4/15/19 — Class 29 Training Cycle Begins, 5:30PM
- Monday, 5/27/19 — CASA Office Closed in Observance of Memorial Day
- Wednesday, 6/19/19 — Panda Express Fundraiser, 5PM



YOUR VOICE COULD BE MY ONLY CHANCE.

Training Begins April 15th

Contact us today to learn more about how you can advocate for a foster child in court.
 209-722-CASA (2272) www.mercedcasa.org



CASA of Merced County Presents
DERBY NIGHT

MERCED COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
 HALF DOME HALL
 \$75 PER PERSON
 SATURDAY APRIL 6, 2019
 6:00 PM

TO PURCHASE TICKETS CONTACT
 (209) 722-2272
 WWW.MERCEDCASA.ORG

DELICIOUS FOOD STATIONS BY LOCAL RESTAURANTS

CASA OF MERCED COUNTY ADVOCATES FOR ABUSED AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN IN THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM

"Meet you at the Races"