Our Outstanding CASA Volunteers

Abong, Sabrina Acevedo, Krystal Aguilar, Marina Alshami, Sonia Altieri, Rhapsodie Alvarado, Colby Arambel, Cynthia Arias, Monika Aju Diaz, Daisy Avila, Isaac Avila-Vargas, Joseph Barnes, Donna Barreno, Albert Bartholomew, Candace Baylard-Sampson, Maggie Benavides, Alma Benavides, David Bennett, Vangie Bergman, Don Bier, Debbie Bradley, Jan Breth, Debbie Calbert, Brenda Callister, Christine Cano, Kimberly Carlson, Mizhael Carlson, Rita Castro, Adam Cheeks, Corey Coble, Andrea Colbert, Katelynn Cortez, Rafael

Craig, Elaine

Cuevas, Ana Curry, Patrick Donayre Nolasco, Alba Downing, Sonja Dyas, Lynda Edmiston, Nancy Engel, Debbie Espinoza, Marlen Fleming, Henrietta Foley, Christie Fuentes, Diane Garcia, Salena Garcia-Zaragoza, Paola Garduno, Cinthia Garretson-Merino, Cindy Gilliam, Crystal Gills, Jessica Gittens, Elyse Gonzalez, Celeste Gonzalez, Yalitza Gunter, Terry Guzman, Jorge Halpin, Joan Hansford, Carissa Hargrave, Immanuel Harville, Luzie Hendrickson, Brandon Herrera, Shar Hestir, Erin Hewitt, Gwendolyn Hoffar, Claudia Huff, Violet Hurtado, Nereida

Hyatt, Tania Hyde, Jewel Irvin, Sharon Jacobs, Tina Johnston, Debbi Jones, Luwanda Jones, Tim Kalmin, Claudia Kelley, Cindy Khangura, Amrit Khatri, Shilpa Kolb, Tim Kuster, Catherine Latronica, Jason Lawrence, Dondi Legg, Debra Legg, Tomas Lor, Gozong Lowrance, Diana Marciochi, Helena Marks, Brooke Marquez, Humberto Mattoon, Lyssabeth Maxey, Steven McAuley, Kim McBride, Michelle McCoy, Emily Medina, Karla Mendoza, Lisa Meraz, Caroline Minor, Kristine Morgan, Kay Murphy, Linda

Najar Perez, Debbie Nguyen, Namkha Nord, Rita Ortiz, Angelina Osborn, Lynda Pagan, Nitza Parker, Hannah Parker, Lynn Kahn Parr, Kaitlyn Paulo, Jane Payne, Sarah Piro, Robyn Pouncey, Elisa Purslow, Barbara Quall, Sheila Quien, Alane Ramirez, Christopher Ramirez Sr, Bosco Ramsey, Janet Reyna-Canales, Jill Reynolds, Carolyn Reynoso, Vilma Rivero, Stephanie Robledo, Valerie Ruiz, Blanca Sadler, Marge Salzberg Kirihara, Judith Samuelson, Deborah Sanchez, Lisa Santana, Hilaria Scoto, Kathy Shay, Pat Silva, Joanna

Silveira-Miller, Selina Smelcer, Erin Smith, Dan Smith, Karen Solis, Amanda Solis, Lindsey Souza, Lou Souza, Stephanie Stavrianoudakis, Stacey Steed, Casey Sullivan, Martin Taiby, Zohra Thomas, Kristen Thompson, Angelina Torres-Pinon, Daisy Torres, Krysteen Trevino, Crystal Trujillo, Daisy Van LobenSels, Patty Verrinder, Lindsey Verrinder, Timothy Villalva, Jolene Villanueva, Jessenia White, Mary Elizabeth Wood, Jan Workman, Deborah Yanez, Eddy Young Bergman, Nancy Zalinski, Jon Zamora Delgado, Sofia

Swearing in Ceremony for CASA CLASS 43



We want to welcome the three new individuals who have chosen to dedicate their time to children in the foster care system. Pictures from left to right are: Gozong Lor, Honorable Judge Donald Proietti, Blanca Ruiz, & Emily McCoy. Our graduates have completed 30 hours of training, 5 hours of courtroom observation, multiple background checks, reference checks, and fingerprints. These wonderful community citizens will soon begin advocating for foster youth in Merced County and we could not be more excited!

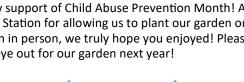
A CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) is a trained volunteer who is appointed by the Judge to represent the best interests of a child currently in foster care. The CASA Volunteer provides the Juvenile Dependency Judge with recommendations that help the Court make difficult decisions about the child's future. No specific type of background is required to become a Volunteer. CASA of Merced County provides all necessary training needed to become a Court Appointed Special Advocate. Learn more about how to become a CASA Volunteer by visiting our website at www.mercedcasa.org or calling our office at 209-722-2272.





CASA Pinwheel Garden

We would like to give a special thanks to all of those who sponsored a pinwheel in the CASA Pinwheel Garden to show support of Child Abuse Prevention Month! A BIG thank you to the Kids Discovery Station for allowing us to plant our garden on their property! If you saw the garden in person, we truly hope you enjoyed! Please be sure you keep an eye out for our garden next year!







Robyn Piro Award of Merit



Congratulations!! The fifth annual Robyn Piro Award of Merit was presented to Advocate Brenda Calbert's lovely CASA youth on May 18, 202 at the CASA Board of Directors monthly meeting.

The Robyn Piro Award of Merit was established in 2017 by the CASA Board of Directors in honor of Robyn Piro, an outstanding volunteer and advocate for foster children and youth. The Award of Merit is presented to a Merced County foster youth who has a CASA and the funds are to be used for education and/or training beyond High School.

We need more CASA Volunteers! We need YOU!

As COVID-19 continues to impact our community, the need for CASA grows even greater. Currently in Merced County, there are over 700 children in care and we need to ensure that those children can have the benefit of a CASA Volunteer to advocate for their best interest. Please consider helping a child in need and sign up for an Information Session today.

There is a child in foster care who needs your voice.

Visit us at www.mercedcasa.org Or call CASA at 209-722-2272

Foster Care Awareness Month









May was National Foster Care Awareness month and you can still show your support by purchasing a Turn a Life around t-shirt for \$25! Please stop by the CASA of Merced County office to purchase yours today!

You can also visit our website to make your purchase www.mercedcasa.org or Venmo @casaofmerced. If you would like us to ship your t-shirt, please pay \$30 total to include \$5 for shipping.

Foster Care Month Proclamation

At the May 16th City Council meeting, Mayor Matthew Serratto acknowledged representatives from Merced College Next Up and CASA of Merced County. He proclaimed May, 2022 as National Foster Care Month. This campaign shows recognition to the important role that members from all parts of child welfare play in supporting children, youth, and families. Serratto urged our community to volunteer their talents and energies to honor those foster parents/families who have selflessly opened their hearts and their homes to nurture at risk children and promote healing in their most desperate time of need.

Thank you Mayor Serratto!

