

# Our Outstanding CASA Volunteers

Abong, Sabrina	Cuevas, Ana	Hyatt, Tania	Najar Perez, Debbie	Silveira-Miller, Selina
Acevedo, Krystal	Curry, Patrick	Hyde, Jewel	Nguyen, Namkha	Smelcer, Erin
Aguilar, Marina	Donayre Nolasco, Alba	Irvin, Sharon	Nord, Rita	Smith, Dan
Alshami, Sonia	Downing, Sonja	Jacobs, Tina	Ortiz, Angelina	Smith, Karen
Altieri, Rhapsodie	Dyas, Lynda	Johnston, Debbi	Osborn, Lynda	Solis, Amanda
Alvarado, Colby	Edmiston, Nancy	Jones, Luwanda	Pagan, Nitza	Solis, Lindsey
Arambel, Cynthia	Engel, Debbie	Jones, Tim	Parker, Hannah	Souza, Lou
Arias, Monika	Espinoza, Marlen	Kalmin, Claudia	Parker, Lynn Kahn	Souza, Stephanie
Aju Diaz, Daisy	Fleming, Henrietta	Kelley, Cindy	Parr, Kaitlyn	Stavrianoudakis, Stacey
Avila, Isaac	Foley, Christie	Khangura, Amrit	Paulo, Jane	Steed, Casey
Avila-Vargas, Joseph	Fuentes, Diane	Khatri, Shilpa	Payne, Sarah	Sullivan, Martin
Barnes, Donna	Garcia, Salena	Kolb, Tim	Piro, Robyn	Taiby, Zohra
Barreno, Albert	Garcia-Zaragoza, Paola	Kuster, Catherine	Pouncey, Elisa	Thomas, Kristen
Bartholomew, Candace	Garduno, Cinthia	Latronica, Jason	Purslow, Barbara	Thompson, Angelina
Baylard-Sampson, Maggie	Garretson-Merino, Cindy	Lawrence, Dondi	Quall, Sheila	Torres-Pinon, Daisy
Benavides, Alma	Gilliam, Crystal	Legg, Debra	Quien, Alane	Torres, Krysteen
Benavides, David	Gills, Jessica	Legg, Tomas	Ramirez, Christopher	Trevino, Crystal
Bennett, Vangie	Gittens, Elyse	Lor, Gozong	Ramirez Sr, Bosco	Trujillo, Daisy
Bergman, Don	Gonzalez, Celeste	Lowrance, Diana	Ramsey, Janet	Van LobenSels, Patty
Bier, Debbie	Gonzalez, Yalitza	Marciochi, Helena	Reyna-Canales, Jill	Verrinder, Lindsey
Bradley, Jan	Gunter, Terry	Marks, Brooke	Reynolds, Carolyn	Verrinder, Timothy
Breth, Debbie	Guzman, Jorge	Marquez, Humberto	Reynoso, Vilma	Villalva, Jolene
Calbert, Brenda	Halpin, Joan	Mattoon, Lyssabeth	Rivero, Stephanie	Villanueva, Jessenia
Callister, Christine	Hansford, Carissa	Maxey, Steven	Robledo, Valerie	White, Mary Elizabeth
Cano, Kimberly	Hargrave, Immanuel	McAuley, Kim	Ruiz, Blanca	Wood, Jan
Carlson, Mizhael	Harville, Luzie	McBride, Michelle	Sadler, Marge	Workman, Deborah
Carlson, Rita	Hendrickson, Brandon	McCoy, Emily	Salzberg Kirihara, Judith	Yanez, Eddy
Castro, Adam	Herrera, Shar	Medina, Karla	Samuelson, Deborah	Young Bergman, Nancy
Cheeks, Corey	Hestir, Erin	Mendoza, Lisa	Sanchez, Lisa	Zalinski, Jon
Coble, Andrea	Hewitt, Gwendolyn	Meraz, Caroline	Santana, Hilaria	Zamora Delgado, Sofia
Colbert, Katelynn	Hoffar, Claudia	Minor, Kristine	Scoto, Kathy	
Cortez, Rafael	Huff, Violet	Morgan, Kay	Shay, Pat	
Craig, Elaine	Hurtado, Nereida	Murphy, Linda	Silva, Joanna	

## 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](http://www.mercedcasa.org) or calling our office at 209-722-2272.

**Our next training class starts July 11, 2022; would you like to join us?**



## 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, 2022 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.

## 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](http://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.

## 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](http://www.mercedcasa.org)

Or call CASA at 209-722-2272

## 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!***

