Over 100 foster children are on our waitlist for a CASA. Help a child today. Visit www.BeMyAdvocate.org.

Meet Daniel… And Learn About His Story

For the past three years we have increased the number of CASA Volunteers and the number of children we serve.

Pictured above: Former foster youth Daniel, with his wife Sheree, and children Bernard, Harvey and Lucy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Volunteers</th>
<th>Children Served</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>426</td>
<td>595</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>481</td>
<td>629</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>575</td>
<td>735</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dear Friend,

In Fiscal Year 2015, we proved that our strategic objectives are attainable. We ended the year achieving our key program and financial goals, demonstrating the ability and capacity to think differently and scale. Although there remain plenty of challenges, we are confident that we can achieve our long-term goal to provide a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for every dependent child in Santa Clara County who will benefit from the attention and support of a CASA volunteer.

**Significant Progress**

2015 marked the second year of our five-year strategic plan. During this time, we served 735 children in the dependency system, a 17% increase over FY14. We reached our goal by increasing the number of CASA volunteers from 481 to 575, a 19% increase. In addition, as you can see in this report, we supported better outcomes for our CASA children.

**Scaling With Volunteers To Serve More Children**

To continue to serve more children, the agency was restructured to take greater advantage of our many talented volunteers. We’ve expanded our Peer Coordinator model, a model where experienced CASA volunteers provide guidance and coaching to fellow CASAs, allowing us to support our ever growing volunteer base. This model enables us to serve more children while managing our expenses. In addition, we have expanded our use of office volunteers and interns from Palo Alto University. By providing additional internship opportunities, we meet our case assessment needs and provide valuable work experience to their students.

**CASA’s Lasting Impact**

We know CASAs can help change a foster child’s life. Yet, it is sometimes difficult for our CASA volunteers to see the depth of their positive impact at the time that a child’s case closes. This was the case for longtime CASA volunteer Harvey Barnett. After several years, Harvey and his former CASA youth, Daniel, reconnected on Facebook. The two men share their story in this annual report.

**You Make A Difference**

Child Advocates is grateful for your ongoing support and commitment. Your donations help us continue to recruit, train and support an amazing group of volunteers who are consistent, caring adults for our community’s most vulnerable children. Thank you for helping us make a lasting difference in these children’s lives.

With sincere appreciation,

James Otieno
Chair, Board of Directors

Karen Scussel
Executive Director

"As I raise my own family, I have so much appreciation for everything Harvey and Child Advocates have done for me. I’m very grateful.”

– Daniel, former foster youth
Lifelong Bond

Harvey Barnett knew he was a positive influence on Daniel, the foster youth he’d served as a CASA volunteer, but he didn’t know how much he’d impacted Daniel’s life until years later when he reconnected with him on Facebook.

“I found out he’d named his son after me,” Harvey says smiling.

“My wife and I liked the name Harvey, and I wanted to honor him by giving my son his name,” says Daniel. “Harvey’s been a father figure to me.”

“He needed a male role model in his life, and as a former educator, I wanted to help him. We bonded and that bond exists today.”

– CASA volunteer Harvey Barnett

First Meeting

Harvey first met Daniel when Daniel was 13 and living in a foster home in Hollister. Daniel had recently been transferred from a group home where he had lived since age 11 when the courts found his mother was unable to raise him. He never knew his father.

Harvey made the long drive from Cupertino to Hollister twice a month to spend time with Daniel who was struggling in school and feeling directionless in life.

“When I first met Harvey, I thought he’s too old. He doesn’t understand what I’m going through. He’s not cool. I just didn’t trust anyone. All the adults in my life were unreliable and broke their promises to me,” Daniel explains.

Harvey was not deterred. After several meetings, Daniel’s protective walls came down and he opened up to Harvey.
Bonds Form

“I realized that he was a responsible, good man who provided stability in my life. If he said he was going to pick me up after school on Friday at 3 pm, he was there,” Daniel remarks.

Over the years, Harvey taught Daniel how to cook healthy meals, play golf and snow ski. He enrolled Daniel in a driver’s education course and helped Daniel manage his anger when problems came up.

“He needed a male role model in his life, and as a former educator, I wanted to help him,” Harvey explains.

Most importantly, Harvey found a new high school for Daniel that was more responsive to his educational needs. Daniel graduated at the top of his class. He later joined the military, married and had three children.

“We bonded and that bond exists today,” Harvey says.

Daniel agrees. “It meant so much to me that Harvey was a volunteer who took time out of his day to spend time with me. Back then, I really didn’t have anyone. He instilled confidence in me, even when I didn’t believe in myself. He stood by my side. He never judged me or talked down to me. He always had my back,” Daniel explains.

“My wife and I liked the name Harvey, and I wanted to honor him by giving my son his name. Harvey’s been a father figure to me.”

– Daniel, former foster youth

Full Circle

“Now, as I raise my own family, I have so much appreciation for everything Harvey and Child Advocates have done for me,” Daniel remarks.

Daniel’s positive experience with Harvey left him wanting to help other foster children. He became a CASA volunteer for two years. Now, Daniel and his wife are exploring the possibility of becoming foster parents.

“It’s something I’ve always wanted to do—to help a child in need and give back. It would be a pleasure,” Daniel says smiling.
Your Support Makes A Difference

Despite our affiliation with the courts, government funding provided only 13% of our FY15 budget. The percentage is expected to decrease to 11% in FY16 due to continued pressure on public funding. We count on the continued support of our generous donors, foundations and corporations to be the backbone of our successful program. We allocate over 85% of our budget to services that directly support the advocacy needs of foster children in Silicon Valley.

**Total Children Served:** 735

**Active CASA Volunteers:** 575

**Ages of Children Served:**
- 0-5 years: 15%
- 6-10 years: 30%
- 11-14 years: 22%
- 15-17 years: 22%
- 18+ years: 11%

**Ethnicity of Children Served:**
- Latino: 62%
- Caucasian: 12%
- American Indian/Other: 1%
- Asian American: 5%
- Bi-Racial: 10%
- African American: 10%

**Volunteer Hours:**
- CASA volunteers: 63,862
- Other (office assistance, events, etc.): 4,494
- Total Community: 68,356

**From Our CASAs:**
- 94% felt they made a positive difference in their child’s life
- 80% provided educational support to their child over the past year
- 66% saw an improvement in their child’s success at school
- 88% engaged in healthy eating and physical activities with their child that encouraged a healthy lifestyle
- 89% felt their court recommendations were fully considered by the judge presiding over their child’s case
- 99% recommend the volunteer experience to others

**Sources of Funds:**
- Government: 13%
- Events: 24%
- Foundations: 11%
- Individuals: 22%
- Community: 14%
- Corporations: 16%

**Revenue:** $1,911,941
**Expenses:** $1,496,212
**Operating Income:** $415,729

85 cents of every dollar donated goes to services that directly support the advocacy of foster children in Santa Clara County.
Thank you to our donors who make hope a reality for the children we serve.

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This list reflects donors who generously gave during FY 2015 (July 1, 2014 — June 30, 2015).
If you find an error please accept our apologies and contact the Development Office so we can correct our records.
SAVE THE DATE

October 25, 2015  Theta Breakers Run for the Children
Stanford University

November 12, 2015  Breakfast Event “Help Us Reach Every Child”
Microsoft Campus, Mountain View

Spring 2016, TBA  Annual Spring Gala Celebrating Child Advocates’
30th Anniversary

August 29, 2016  11th Annual Golf Classic
Los Altos Golf and Country Club, Los Altos

For more details visit www.BeMyAdvocate.org

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