



A Powerful Voice for Foster Children



DEAR FRIENDS,

Child Advocates of Silicon Valley has been recruiting, training and supporting Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) for 33 years. For the last five of those years, Karen Scussel led Child Advocates to ensure it stayed true to its mission - to provide stability and hope to children who have experienced abuse and neglect by being a powerful voice in their lives - and she's done a phenomenal job.

Fiscal year 2019 marked a transformation for the agency and the end of an era as Karen decided to retire from Child Advocates. Her steadfast leadership and dedication to foster children and youth will be missed.

But with the closing of every door, another one opens.

At the end of FY2019, our Board of Directors, with Karen's support, engaged in an exhaustive search to find the next great leader for Child Advocates of Silicon Valley. And that's exactly what we found.

In March of 2019, Frederick J. Ferrer, began his tenure as Chief Executive Officer of Child Advocates. A galvanizing leader, Frederick has over three decades of nonprofit leadership in Silicon Valley. From mobilizing stakeholders to leading groundbreaking systems reform,

“ Every foster child deserves to have a consistent, caring adult by their side.”

Frederick has the expertise, know-how and fortitude to guide Child Advocate's next stage of strategic growth.

He's hit the ground running and we're excited to see how he shapes the future of Child Advocates and the impact it will have on our foster youth.

In Fred's Words

I am extremely excited and honored to be the new leader of Child Advocates. Thanks to Karen, the organization is in great shape and ready for continued success.

I look forward to drawing on my background as an early childhood practitioner, college instructor, fundraiser and policy advocate to serve vulnerable children and youth in the dependency court system, and to grow the agency to serve more foster youth.

Every foster child deserves to have a consistent, caring adult by their side who is their advocate, mentor and voice. With your continued support and the courage of our amazing CASA volunteers, we can improve the lives of our community's most vulnerable children. I look forward to working with you to make that happen.

With Gratitude,



Frederick J. Ferrer  
Chief Executive Officer



Cassio Conceição  
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2019 FINANCIALS

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

TOTAL REVENUE.....	\$2,926,030
TOTAL EXPENSES.....	\$2,705,170
NET INCOME.....	\$220,860
NET ASSETS FOR FY19.....	\$3,224,836

Nearly 80 cents out of every dollar donated goes to services that directly support the advocacy of foster children and youth in Santa Clara County.

SOURCES OF FUNDS FOR FY19

GOVERNMENT.....	31%
EVENTS.....	22%
INDIVIDUAL.....	20%
FOUNDATION.....	11%
CORPORATE.....	9%
COMMUNITY/OTHER.....	7%



83,546 volunteer hours were logged at a value of \$2,081,944.



# 2019 BY THE NUMBERS

964  
children had a  
CASA volunteer



677  
CASA volunteers  
served our children

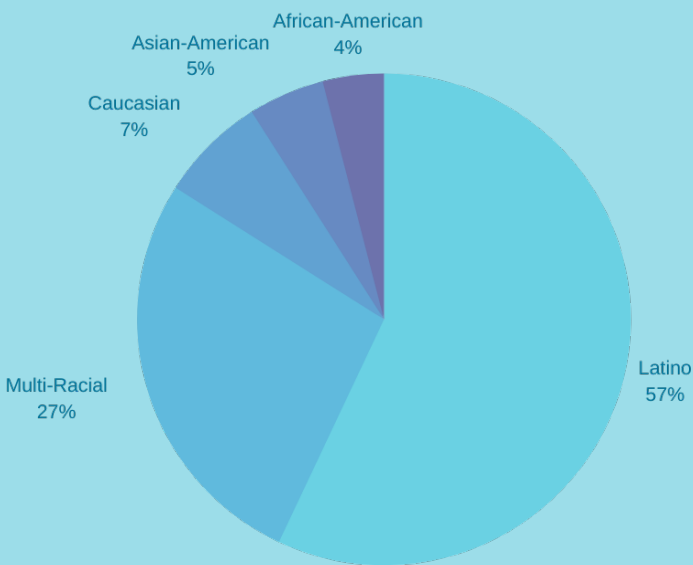
76%

of our 3 to 5 year old children were enrolled in preschool compared to 23% of all preschool age foster children in Santa Clara County.

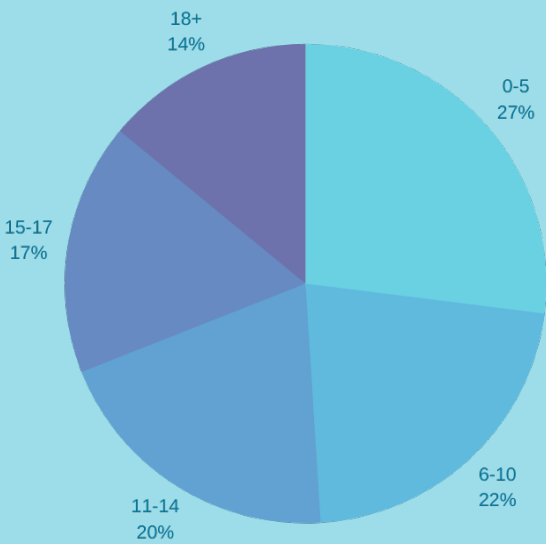
98%

of our high school seniors completed high school compared to less than 50% of foster teens in California.

## Ethnicity of Children



## Ages of Children



## Gender of Children

52% Female, 47% Male, 1% Gender Non-Binary

# SUPPORTING CHILDREN TO REUNIFY FAMILIES

Last year, 27% of the children Child Advocates served through a CASA were under the age of 5. Advocating for an infant or toddler often means getting to know parents as they navigate the dependency court system that is overseeing their child's welfare. That was the case for Leah Michelle Taylor, a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) to brothers Niko, now 6, and Landon, age 2.

Niko and Landon were placed in the dependency system because of their parents' drug addictions. After completing a court-mandated program, parents Matt and Melissa regained custody of their boys. Leah was assigned as a CASA to Niko and Landon to provide critical support just after the parents regained custody and were still under the Court's jurisdiction.

"Being without my kids was the hardest thing for me to go through, but it was a life-changing experience that needed to happen," says Melissa. "Leah was very supportive of our family. When she took the boys to the park or library, it gave me time to go to an AA meeting, or to do laundry. Leah never judged us for our past. She was there for our kids and to be their voice."

Leah decided to advocate for the two boys after she learned during CASA training that a growing number of children in the dependency system are between the ages of 0 to 5 years old.

"I knew there was a big need to serve younger kids as well as siblings so these were the areas where I wanted to have an impact," says Leah.

During the year she was their CASA, Leah says Niko and Landon were very welcoming and accepting. They also taught her about the value of being present. "One of the most important things you can give a child is your time and attention."

According to Melissa, she and Matt have also learned the same lesson. "Our lives are so



Mother, Melissa, pictured with sons Niko and Landon.

93% of CASAs felt they have made positive difference in their child's life.

different now. We don't fight anymore. We get along and we laugh. We take the kids on outings. We deal with our problems. When I was using drugs, I never appreciated spending quality time with my children. Now I cherish every moment. I love being sober, I love being a mom, and the kids are happy. Our life today is amazing."

*Child Advocates prioritizes the confidentiality of the children we serve and their families. Real pictures and names are only used when deemed necessary and after consent is provided.*

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THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS WHO MAKE HOPE A REALITY FOR THE CHILDREN WE SERVE.

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## MISSION

To provide stability and hope to children who have experienced abuse and neglect by being a powerful voice in their lives.

## VISION

Every child has a positive view of the future and the opportunity to become a productive, healthy adult.



“ Leah never judged us for our past. She was there for our kids and to be their voice.

- Melissa, mother to Niko & Landon



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