

2019-2020

ANNUAL REPORT



LEADERSHIP

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FY 2019-2020

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MISSION

To be there for every foster child in Silicon Valley who has experienced abuse, neglect and/or abandonment.

VISION

A Silicon Valley where every foster child has the nurturing support and resources needed to thrive.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE

FOSTERING GROWTH
DURING A PANDEMIC

At any given time during the year, there are close to 1,000 children in the Santa Clara County Dependency system. We serve about 600 of them, which means there are always hundreds of children waiting to be paired with a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA Volunteer). This is unacceptable.

This quandary made it to the top of our list as we began to plan for Fiscal Year 2020. **If we believe every foster youth should thrive, then it's imperative that they not wait for a CASA Volunteer.** And, when paired with a CASA, their outcomes should be on par with that of their peers in Silicon Valley.

Meeting this challenge is difficult, but even during a pandemic, we're committed to taking it on. When the pandemic hit, we immediately conducted a Needs Assessment of our children. With our funders' support, we took action providing essential needs such as food, clothing, rent assistance, laptops and wifi access and school supplies. For emotional support we provided activity kits filled with books, games and fun learning activities. All the while, continuing to submit our CASAs' Court reports and facilitating their virtual appearance in Court.

We've also continued to execute our growth plan to serve more children, more meaningfully.

- We made our volunteer opportunity more appealing and accessible by: rebranding the organization; launching a new website designed for volunteers and donors; reworking our CASA training curriculum; and making our CASA training available virtually.
- We created 8 new specialty areas for our CASA program, developed relationships with key community partners, got access to community resources and created workshops on child development topics. We also developed a web portal for Virtual Advocacy during COVID-19.
- We hired more staff with strong child development experience, improving our CASA to staff ratio and ensuring every CASA gets the support they need to better serve their child.

The results of these actions are already evident. We're training more CASA Volunteers per class than ever before. Our current CASAs are utilizing their new resources and have expressed appreciation for the increased level of support, especially during this pandemic.

The children we serve will have better outcomes because of these changes. But there are only so many children we can serve today. With our continued partnership, we assure you, we will serve more children, more meaningfully.

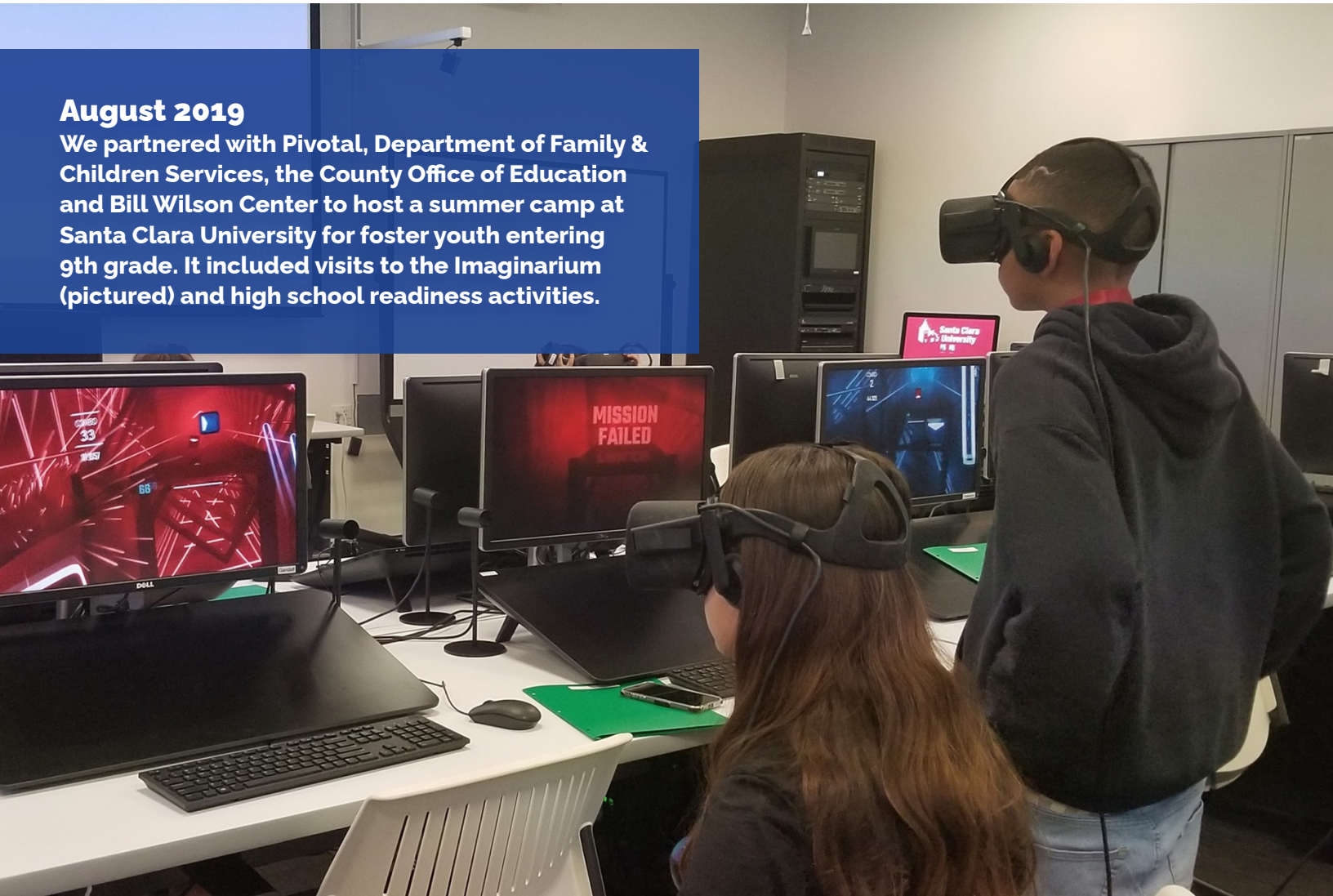
Together we will LIFT UP all of our foster children.



Mala Jairam
Board Chair FY2019-2020



Frederick J. Ferrer
Chief Executive Officer



August 2019
We partnered with Pivotal, Department of Family & Children Services, the County Office of Education and Bill Wilson Center to host a summer camp at Santa Clara University for foster youth entering 9th grade. It included visits to the Imaginarium (pictured) and high school readiness activities.

FINANCIALS

ACTIVITES
FY 2019-2020

REVENUE

Gifts & Contributions	\$1,846,279
Special Events	\$380,724
Government Funding	\$1,354,885
Other	\$108,631
Total Revenue	\$3,690,519

EXPENSES

Program	\$2,685,577
Management & General	\$250,396
Fundraising	\$294,409
Total Expenses	\$3,230,382


FINANCIAL POSITION
FY 2019-2020

ASSETS

Current Assets	\$1,772,015
Property & Equipment	\$93,591
Other Assets	\$2,556,787
Total Assets	\$4,422,393

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities	\$737,420
Net Assets	\$3,684,973
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$4,422,393

 **83 cents** out of every dollar donated goes to services that directly support the advocacy of foster youth in Santa Clara County.



CHILDREN ASSIGNED A CASA
VOLUNTEER

940

ACTIVE CASA VOLUNTEERS

650

HOURS CONTRIBUTED BY
VOLUNTEERS

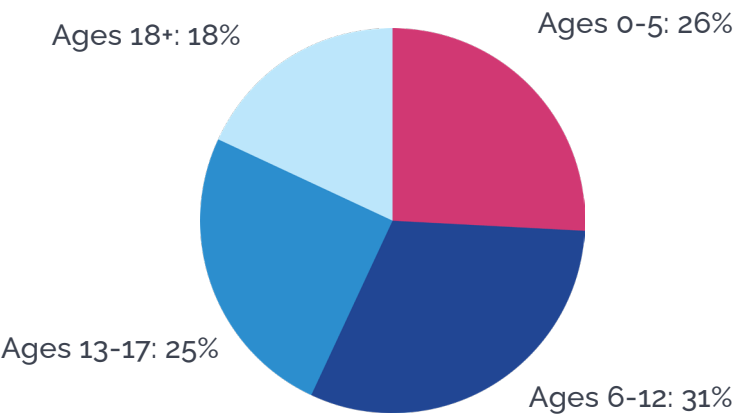
74,799

VALUE OF VOLUNTEER HOURS

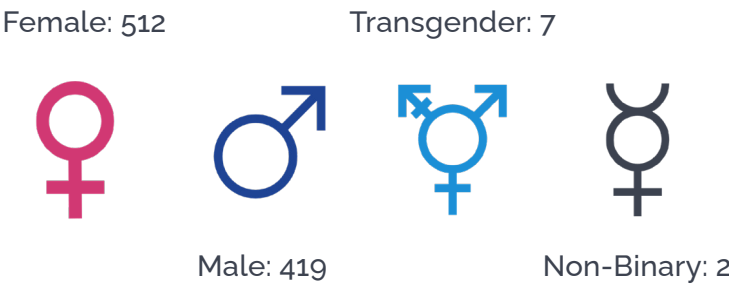
\$2.2M

FY 2019-2020 BY THE NUMBERS

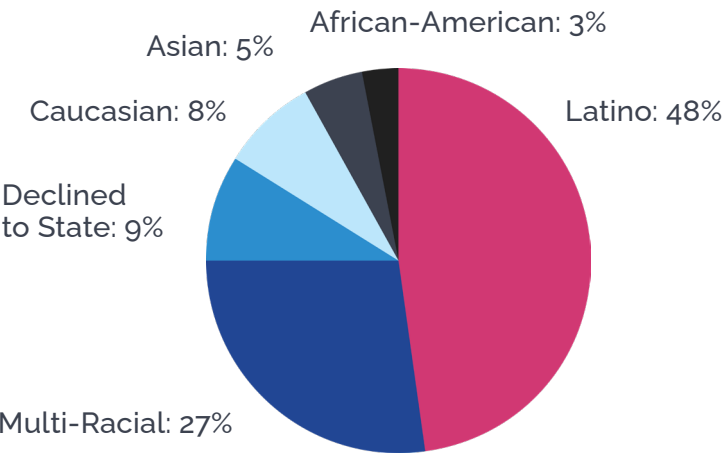
AGE OF CHILDREN



GENDER OF CHILDREN



RACE/ETHNICITY OF CHILDREN



“When they share their excitement about a game, or laugh with you, or ask questions, you know they are experiencing a sense of safety and trust.”

Dave Numme
Dedicated CASA Volunteer



THE POWER OF SHOWING UP

Disclaimer: The following story is based on Dave Numme's experience as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Volunteer. Some details about the foster child he serves have been altered in an effort to keep the child's identity anonymous.

“There's that awkward first meeting. You meet this kid, you pick him up at home, foster mom says, ‘ok off you go.’ You get this kid in your car and it's weird; you're wanting to say all the right things and the kid doesn't know who you are or what's going on, other than you're this person now in thier life. But you say, ‘I don't know you, you don't know me but I'll tell you what, let's just go to Chuck E. Cheese, that's what we're going to do.’ And all of a sudden, it's like great, we're off to the races.”



In the spring of 2019, Dave Numme found himself looking for something to do that would give him some fulfillment, give him a sense of service. That's when he recalled a former boss of his that spoke highly about his experience as a CASA Volunteer. After a quick Google search, Dave found Child Advocates of Silicon Valley and he was on his way to becoming a CASA.

After completing the CASA pre-service training, Dave took on his first assignment right away; Alex, a 10-year-old boy who deals with anger and trust issues from having experienced physical abuse and emotional trauma. Like most CASA Volunteers, Dave was ready but anxious. With help from his CASA Mentor, Dave chose Chuck E. Cheese as their first visit with one goal in mind, just show up. And that's exactly what he did, show up, play games and eat pizza.

Dave recalls, “I came away from that first meeting with the realization that, I really didn't have to do anything other than show up. That's all I had to do. Show up, pay attention, care and be interested. I'm not there to fix him. I'm not there to solve his problems. I'm not there to be a therapist. Maybe I'll be his friend, his adult friend. But ultimately, I wanted to build trust.”

The more Dave showed up for Alex, the more they built trust. Trust in one another played an instrumental role in a very important decision for Alex.

Having struggled academically since a young age, Alex was a few grade levels behind when he met Dave. After meeting with Alex's Child Family Team and school administrators, they devised a plan to get Alex back on track academically. Dave knew the plan would only work if Alex was on-board, if it was his choice.

“What was really necessary was for Alex to agree to the plan,” said Dave. “If he was on board, the desired outcomes were possible. Our trust allowed us to discuss his fears openly, dispel them and make a pact that I would be there to support him.”

It hasn't been easy but Alex is working hard at improving academically and Dave is right by his side supporting him at every turn. Earlier this year when the COVID-19 pandemic hit and schools moved to distance learning, Dave knew Alex would need his own laptop to stay on track academically. Dave contacted his CASA Mentor at Child Advocates and within no time Alex had a new laptop and everything he needed to learn remotely. Pandemic aside, things are going well for Alex. School is hard but he's working at it and he recently learned that he will soon be reunified with his family. Naturally, Dave doesn't take credit for any of this, but one thing is certain, the relationship they built benefited them both.



“You know, Child Advocates asks you to spend two hours a week with your child and to try to keep your case until it closes, that's the commitment they're looking for, but it pulls you in; I was doing about 40 hours a month. Every time I would spend time with Alex it would turn into a 6-hour, 8-hour adventure. It didn't have to but it did. And it was great.”



April 2020
We distributed over 50 new, donated laptops and activity bags to help our foster youth succeed at distance learning.

OUR ADVOCATE DONORS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Serving our foster youth and children is only made possible by the compassion and generosity of our funders and donors. We are grateful to the many private foundations, corporations, government partners and community members who trust us with their contribution to invest in the future of our community's most vulnerable children.

The following donor listings represent the immense community support for the work our CASAs do on the behalf of our foster children.

***This list reflects donors who generously gave from July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020. If you find an error, please accept our apologies and contact us at Development@childadvocatessv.org so we can correct our records.*



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info@childadvocatessv.org
408.416.0400
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SHOW UP. STAND UP. LIFT UP. FOR FOSTER YOUTH



July 2019

With help from Cisco, Applied Materials and Banana Republic volunteers, we gave our CASA Store - filled with new clothes, shoes and school supplies for foster youth - a merchandising makeover.