



## **Press Conference Fact Sheet - June 24,2021**

### **About Child Advocates of Silicon Valley**

Child Advocates of Silicon Valley is an independent nonprofit 501(c) 3 organization created in 1986. We serve children aged birth to 21 years old who are placed in the Santa Clara County Dependency Court System for having experienced trauma in the form of abuse, neglect and/or abandonment. We are responsible for operating the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program in Santa Clara County according to the national guidelines, which entails recruiting, training and supporting CASA Volunteers. We are an affiliate of the National CASA Association. To learn more, please visit [ChildAdvocatesSV.org](http://ChildAdvocatesSV.org).

**Current number of foster children served:** 544

- Age 0-5: 131
- Age 6-12: 177
- Age 13-17: 141
- Age18+: 95
- Nearly 75% are children and youth identified as BIPOC (black, indigenous, and other people of color)

**Current number of CASA Volunteers:** 474

**Current number of foster children on our waiting list:** 230

### **About the Partners & Their Offerings to Child Advocates**

#### **Children's Discovery Museum**

A wonderful local resource that promotes unstructured play and creative space for children to foster essential life skills through their exhibits. Our partnership provides free memberships for CASAs and their foster child for a full year.

Number of CASAs/children that have already requested membership: 42

#### **Happy Hollow Park and Zoo**

An excellent local resource that connects children to nature. Children and youth can visit the zoo and explore the animal kingdom while learning about nature through play. Our partnership provides free memberships for CASAs and their foster child for a full year.

Number of CASAs/children that have already requested membership: 59

#### **FIRST 5 Santa Clara County**

When we were first sheltered in place, FIRST 5 helped us respond to the critical needs of our children, providing diapers and wipes, formula, and calming kits that helped our children and families reduce stress and create calming moments in an otherwise chaotic time. Our CASA's can get free calming kits, newborn welcome kits for their CASA kids' families. Families and CASAs also can access all FIRST 5 Family Resource

Centers and participate in all their activities. All FIRST 5 child development trainings are open to our staff and CASAs.

### **Red Ladder Theatre Company**

A nationally acclaimed, award-winning social justice theatre company dedicated to connecting our community's most vulnerable with their own creativity and empowering them to tell their own stories. Our partnership provides our CASAs and their youth the opportunity to work directly with actors who will guide them through activities that encourage them to explore issues that affect their daily lives.

### **San Jose Public Library**

Donated hundreds of books to keep our children entertained and learning while schools across the Bay Area were shut down. All children and their CASAs can get library cards and visit their local library and take part in all the library activities. Even as we transition back, the Public Library continues to donate books to our children regularly.

### **Jasper Ridge Farm**

A local resource dedicated to enriching the lives of children through interactions with animals. Their therapeutic animal-assisted programs utilize gentle farm animals and horses, to make a positive difference in the lives of children who face adverse childhood experiences. Our partnership with Jasper Ridge Farms and Community Horse Advocacy Programs of San Mateo County (CHAPS) provides riding lessons at no charge to our youth.

Number of CASAs/children that have already requested membership: 11

### **YMCA**

YMCA memberships explore and develop patterns of healthy physical activities that can enrich youth's health and well-being. Our partnership provides limited memberships to explore the YMCA. Child Advocates of Silicon Valley has partnered with the YMCA to provide limited memberships to explore the virtual YMCA workouts. CASAs and their youth will have access to these virtual memberships as long as they're available, which includes twice a month in person visits at their local YMCA. Child Advocates of Silicon Valley has partnered with the YMCA to create a series of recordings on health and physical activity. A CASA and their youth can view videos together on Nutrition and Physical Activities. Included in the Nutrition Video will be food preparation which will include prep time, cooking time and resources. The physical activity component of the videos will demonstrate patterns of movement such as dance and other exercise activities in YMCA of Silicon Valley's "Y Virtual Platform" with live and recorded classes.

Number of CASAs/children that have already requested membership: 25

### **Open Space Authority**

The Open Space Authority works to protect the quality of life in Santa Clara County by preserving open space and natural resources creating ecologically friendly outdoor recreation. Our partnership with the Open Space Authority includes open hiking paths and resources for our CASAs and their youth to enjoy. CASAs and their youth will be able to hike the open space and explore all of the natural wonders the preserved areas have to offer. Youth will be able to get out into the outdoors and exercise their mind, body and soul! Special events, only for our CASAs and their youth, are planned to take hikes, participate in photo shoots, and watch the bats as they come out.