

The Child Advocates of Silicon Valley Magazine

LIFT UP

NOURISHING

*Foster
Youth*

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*Service and
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A HOLIDAY

Full Of Joy

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2026 SPRING

SHOW UP. STAND UP. LIFT UP.

FOSTER YOUTH

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.

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*This list represents the full roster of board members as of February 2026.

A GAME CHANGER FOR POSITIVE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES

Every child is one caring adult away from being a success story. For the foster youth we serve, that caring adult is their Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA). For 40 years, we've known that having a CASA Volunteer is the intervention a foster youth needs to reduce the impacts of having experienced trauma. We've also known that being a CASA presents some particular challenges. **For safety reasons, CASAs cannot take the youth to their home, or introduce them to family and friends.** This makes it difficult for CASAs and youth to do enriching activities like cooking, art projects or puzzles. There is also an added challenge of the cost of admission to doing activities out in the community.

I heard this message loud and clear when I first came to Child Advocates of Silicon Valley. **That's why I've spent the last seven years galvanizing community partners to SHOW UP for foster youth.** In 2021, we announced a first of its kind community-wide partnership with eight local organizations who began offering resources, programming and entertainment events to youth and their CASAs, at no cost to them.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS: THE ORIGINAL EIGHT

Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority
Happy Hollow Foundation
Children's Discovery Museum
Red Ladder Theatre Company
San Jose Public Library
FIRST 5 Santa Clara County
YMCA Silicon Valley
Jasper Ridge Farm

Since then, we've added even more partners: Animal Assisted Happiness, Veggielution, San Jose Earthquakes, Local Color, Allera Sports, the San Francisco 49ers, WWE Superstar Bayley and more. We also expanded our annual events like Pumpkin Patch, Fiesta Mi Gente, Kidstravaganza and greatly enhanced our CASA Village Holiday Parties and gifts. **These partnerships and events are great for many reasons, most importantly, they help youth heal.**

When our foster youth come to us, more than 75%

have endured four or more adverse childhood experiences (ACE's). Evidence shows that if you have that many and don't do something significant to intervene, you will have lifelong challenges. So it makes sense, proven by neuroscience, that **what youth need are Positive Childhood Experiences (PCEs).** There are seven areas shown to reduce levels of toxic stress and actively combat the effects of experienced trauma: *supportive relationships, physical activity, balanced nutrition, mindfulness, healthy sleep practices, mental health care and access to nature.* All of our events and partnerships are designed to give our foster kids Positive Childhood Experiences.

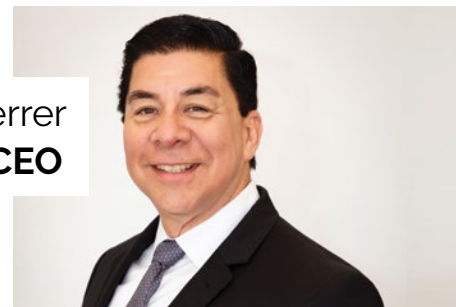
I am excited to share that **our ability to offer PCEs to the youth we serve just got better.** Last year, I informed you that our Board launched a \$10 million capital campaign to purchase a new building. Well, a property became available that we couldn't pass up and **this past fall we moved into our forever home.**

We are in the throes of the capital campaign, while simultaneously creating our new Center for foster youth, which will include The Store, a library, community room, cyber space, bistro, art studio, STEM maker-space and more. **Our youth and their CASAs now will have a place that they can call their own, where PCEs can be shared in abundance.**

Our ability to offer foster youth all the services and resources we do, afford highly qualified staff who support CASAs and youth, purchase a forever home and construct The Center, is only **made possible because of your continued support.** In the coming months, I look forward to sharing how your generosity made this game changer possible.

Together, we will **LIFT UP** every foster youth in Silicon Valley.

Frederick J. Ferrer
CEO





SHOWING UP FOR THE LONG RUN

CASA Daniel's unwavering commitment provides guidance, advocacy, and support to Non-Minor Dependent Corey.



A Life of Service and Protection

As a retired fire captain paramedic, Daniel has dedicated his life to service. He began as a volunteer, rising to fire captain over a 27-year career, while also supporting youth programs and teaching life-skills classes at a local middle school.

His work as a firefighter served as a catalyst for his interest in working with youth and led him to look for more opportunities to expand his volunteer roles even after retirement.

He was first introduced to the foster care system and the opportunity to become a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) by his sister, a CASA in Chico, California. Hearing about her experience and the impact she's made pushed him to learn more about the program and join himself.

"I realized that I had a gap in my life, and I really wanted to get back into community service more. I've got this great thing, and I just want to share the bounty that I have," said CASA Daniel.

Over the years, Daniel realized there was a need for male volunteers in the community. As a CASA, he is able to create fun experiences, while being the reliable male role model that his foster youth can lean on.

"One of the big things about being a CASA that really was meaningful to me is that I have a role besides just connecting with the child," shared Daniel. "I have a responsibility for helping them in court, and having that larger role for the kids feels very special to me."

Creating a Village of Support

Almost two years ago, Daniel became a CASA to a teenage boy named Corey. While they are not always in communication, Daniel has made it a point to be there for Corey whenever needed.

With the help of his CASA Supervisor, Daniel stays up to date on any issues Corey may be facing, so that he can step in and help Corey at any moment. Whether it's **SHOWING UP** for him in court or helping him secure supplies and necessities, Daniel is there for his foster youth in simple yet impactful ways.

"I'm really grateful for my CASA Supervisor, she's always keeping me up to date about what's going on, which has been really nice. Even when there has been distance between us, just getting some updates about Corey makes me feel connected," said CASA Daniel.

One of their most memorable moments together was getting to attend "Feast with the Niners", where they had a VIP experience meeting, dining, and shopping with the San Francisco 49ers—Corey's favorite team.

"They paired us up with two 49ers, who stuck with us the whole time. He just loved it," said Daniel. "They spent all this extra time with him—they really focused on him and shopped the whole 30 minutes together. He really enjoyed interacting with these young men, and it made a big difference. I was so touched by the generosity of the 49ers. It was a highlight for me."



November 2025

The 49ers hosted fifteen families, including our youth, for a holiday shopping and grocery haul.

I feel like this could be a phase where it might be even more valuable to him, you know, when he's not as connected in the system as he was.

Giving Up is Not an Option

Most recently, Corey has looked to Daniel for help preparing for future job interviews. This process has Daniel thinking about Corey's future, and finding ways to better equip him with resources and skills he can use once he ages out of the system.

As a Non-Minor Dependent (NMD)—a youth between the ages of 18 and 21—Corey will soon be leaving the system and embarking on life on his own. One way Child Advocates is helping set up NMDs like Corey for success is through the new **Essential Life Skills** Program, which teaches valuable skills like budgeting, shopping, cooking and applying for housing and more.

Daniel is committed to staying connected with Corey for as long he wants, to **SHOWING UP** for him whenever he needs support, and being a part of his village as he transitions to adulthood.

"I'm sticking with him," says Daniel. "I feel like this could be a phase where it might be even more valuable to him, you know, when he's not as connected in the system as he was."





Help us Embrace our Foster Youth in Silicon Valley

Your donations help us recruit, train and support over 300 CASA Volunteers like Daniel, who support more than 350 local youth every year. It is our job to embrace foster youth and give them the support they need to feel loved and cared for. Help us today by making a difference in their life.

November 2025
49ers players joining our youth,
making the season a little brighter.

**Aliases were used to protect the privacy of both the foster youth and CASA. None of our kids are pictured in the 49ers event photos.*

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A proven recipe for **NOURISHING FOSTER YOUTH**

Because of your continued support, we are able to serve a heavy dose of Positive Childhood Experiences (PCEs) to the children we serve, especially during the holidays. Below are examples of the key ingredients - aka PCEs - that our youth experienced this past holiday season.

INGREDIENT 1

Supportive Relationships

Throughout the year, and especially during the holidays, supportive relationships provide youth with a sense of belonging and community.



INGREDIENT 2

Mental Health Care

At our annual holiday party, youth enjoyed arts and crafts that celebrated the season, helping build confidence while creating joyful moments.

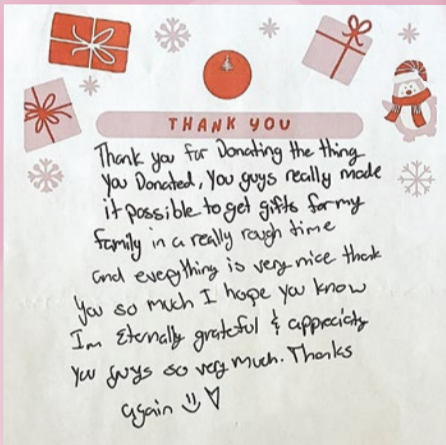




INGREDIENT 3

Mindfulness

At our Holiday Party, youth practiced mindfulness by writing what they're grateful for, creating space for reflection and appreciation.



INGREDIENT 4

Balance Nutrition

Throughout our events, youth have access to balanced nutrition that provides nourishment and energy for the day's activities.



INGREDIENT 5

Access to Nature

Youth decorated a holiday tree with handmade Kintsugi-inspired ornaments, celebrating all of their accomplishments throughout 2025.



Why Positive Childhood Experiences Matter

According to the California Surgeon General, exposure to PCEs in these seven key areas can reduce levels of toxic stress and actively combat the effects of experienced trauma: supportive relationships, healthy sleep practices, physical activity, balanced nutrition, mindfulness, mental health care and access to nature. Thank you for an amazing 2025 holiday season!

A Season Full of Joy for Foster Youth

MADE POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF YOU

We are overjoyed by the incredible support we received during the 2025 holiday season. Generous organizations, partners and countless individual donors contributed a total of \$87,000 in gifts and cash donations. These contributions directly support the children, teens and young adults we serve.



CASA VILLAGE

The week of December 8th, The Center magically transformed into "CASA Village," a holiday workshop full of festive toys and decor. CASAs and their youth, sometimes joined by the youth's family, stopped by to shop at the CASA Store, pick up personalized gifts and take part in arts and crafts designed for meaningful moments of connection. Children, teens and young adults located outside of the county were still able to celebrate with us from afar, all receiving special deliveries in the mail. This year's gift bags were made possible by the generosity of community members and partners who participated in our 2025 Holiday Toy Drive.





Red Ladder Theater reading to our youth during our Holiday Party.

ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTIES

We celebrated the holidays with two joyful parties for foster youth ages 0–12 and teens 13+, bringing together more than 100 youth and CASA Volunteers.

Kids enjoyed crafts, games and storytime, while teens designed caps and crocs, painted and played games.

Each youth received gifts, creating positive childhood experiences that foster connection and healing for our youth.



NorStar Volleyball Club and Thrive Sphere Athletics Foundations donated jibbitz and crocs for our teens to customize during our party.



BAYLEY'S HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE

This year, WWE Superstar Bayley teamed up with us once again to host her annual toy drive, and the turnout in support of foster youth was amazing! Thanks to Bayley's support and the incredible energy of her fans, we collected more than 1,500 high-quality gifts valued at over \$55,000, along with more than \$7,000 in cash donations.

Bayley's fans truly SHOWED UP for foster youth. More than 300 supporters attended the toy drive event in person, while hundreds more donated through our Amazon wish list, with gifts arriving from across the country and around the world. Guests also enjoyed free coffee from Lucky Truckin Coffee and delicious food from The Halal Guys, making the day even more special for everyone who came out to support our youth.

Thank You to Our Holiday Donors

Google

CM Property Management

Teddy's for Tots by Cali

Sons of Sicily

Hicklebee's Childrens Books

San Jose Women's Club

Help One Child

Saint Nicholas Greek
Orthodox Church

California Highway Patrol

Fremont Learn to Be

Family Giving Tree

Republic Services

NorStar Volleyball Club

Watchpoint

Thrive Sphere Athletic Foundation

Women's Networking Alliance



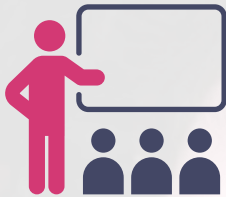
Child Advocates CEO, Frederick Ferrer (left), and WWE Superstar Bayley (right) showing gratitude to mailed in toy donations.

SHOW UP NOW!

Today, there are **over 150 kids waiting** to be paired with a CASA Volunteer.

Every one of these children is **one caring adult away from being a success story.**

Ways you can support



Sign up for an info session to learn about becoming a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Volunteer.



Attend one of our **upcoming events** (*see page 14*)



Spread the word with friends and family about our need for more CASA Volunteers.

Corporate & Community Partners

Thank you to our recent government, corporate and community partners whose compassion and generosity enables us to LIFT UP foster children in our community.



UPCOMING EVENTS



April 25, 2026
Corinthian Grand Ballroom
San Jose, CA



August 31, 2026
Boulder Ridge Golf Club
San Jose, CA



October 18, 2026
San Jose Marriott
San Jose, CA

Sponsorship opportunities are available.

Please contact us for more information.

Development@childadvocatessv.org • 408.573.5679



1800 Hamilton Ave, Suite #200
San Jose, CA 95125

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GET INVOLVED

DONATE

Make a financial donation today to support our CASA Program and the children we serve.

SHOP | VOLUNTEER | FOLLOW

There are multiple ways to get involved and help foster kids. Scan the QR code to find the opportunity that works best for you.



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