CASA volunteers add the color...
... that brings a foster child’s case to life.
February 2013

DEAR FRIENDS,

On behalf of all of us at Voices for Children, thank you. Whether you are a donor, a volunteer, or a caring citizen concerned about the plight of foster children, we are very grateful for your generosity of time, funds, and spirit.

Your support enables us to advocate on behalf of the thousands of abused and neglected children living in San Diego County foster care. It is through the dedication and commitment of our Court Appointed Special Advocates—our CASA volunteers—that we are transforming the lives of innocent children caught in the complex bureaucracy of the foster care system. These children have suffered horrific trauma by those who were supposed to care for them and love them the most, and the impact of such betrayal lasts a lifetime, shadowing them well into adulthood. It erodes their physical health and mental well-being and can devastate self-confidence, resilience, trust, and hope.

CASAs from Voices for Children provide that hope. They speak up for their case children’s needs in San Diego County’s Juvenile Dependency Court, providing context, detail, and history so that judges can make the best possible rulings to ensure the well-being of each boy and girl. As one judge put it, “I sometimes think of a child’s coloring book when I consider the work of CASAs. The case files I receive are full of generalized reports from social workers and lawyers—they provide an outline of a child. But it is the CASA report that brings the child to life in my mind, that fills in the lines with color, making his or her personality and specific situation vivid, clear, and unforgettable.”

This Annual Report for fiscal year 2011–2012 profiles several CASAs. These “ordinary” citizens are just a handful of the more than 800 individuals who made space in their lives and hearts to volunteer with Voices for Children. They “fill in the lines with color” as they speak up in Court for their case children, let the judge know what makes each child unique, and help ensure the very best decisions.

Your belief in Voices for Children makes this transformation possible. Your involvement helps bring to life the hopes and dreams of the girls and boys entrusted to our care. Ultimately, our goal is to Serve Every Child, so that each foster child in San Diego who needs a CASA volunteer will have one. Your support has taken us one step closer to making our dream a reality.

With our appreciation,

Lauree Sahba
Chair, Board of Directors
FY 2011-2012

Rochelle Bold, Esq.
Chair, Board of Directors
FY 2012-2013

Sharon M. Lawrence, Esq.
President/CEO
Voices for Children
Every child deserves a richly hued childhood full of laughter, love, and light ...

... a full-color life with a safe home and a caring family that will help him or her thrive. Voices for Children has worked to fulfill this goal for San Diego County’s youngest citizens since 1980. We speak up for individual children who have been traumatized by parental abuse, neglect, or abandonment and, for their own protection, have been placed into foster care.

Foster care itself is an overburdened, underfunded system of well-meaning people with far too many cases to address and too few resources to properly serve foster children. Voices for Children, through its volunteer network of hundreds of Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs), provides “the system,” especially the Dependency Court, with additional hands, eyes, ears, and legs to ensure that foster children receive the attention they need.

Last year, our CASAs reported more than 55,500 hours volunteered—hours spent preparing reports, appearing in Court, and taking their case children on outings. They took continuing education classes, worked closely with their staff supervisors, and attended meetings and interviews to gather details from the many stakeholders in their foster children’s lives. The hard work and advocacy of the 800+ CASAs for 1,343 foster children paved the way for many promising futures.
MISSION:

Voices for Children transforms the lives of abused children in San Diego County by providing them with volunteer Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs).

VISION:

Voices for Children believes that every child deserves a safe and permanent home, and to that end, will provide a CASA to every child in the foster care system who needs one, monitor every Court file in the system, and advocate to improve the lives of San Diego County’s foster children.

PURPOSES:

• We provide the highest-level training, supervision, and continuing education for volunteers who advocate for the best interests of foster children and provide vital information to judges.
• We annually review and monitor the case files of every child in San Diego County foster care.
• We increase public awareness about the foster care system.
• We advocate for legal policies and practices that enhance the quality of life for foster children.

ORGANIZATIONAL CORE VALUES:

• We cherish children and put them first, always.
• We are grateful for our selfless and dedicated volunteers.
• We work hard and stay humble.
• We believe in the difference we can make by doing our job well.
• We set high standards for ourselves and constantly strive to improve.
Painting a Full Picture

Tania Jabour, a Humanities instructor at High Tech High, became a CASA volunteer when she was in her mid-20s. At the time, she had a hard time facing difficult or uncomfortable tasks.

“In my service as a CASA, I have learned to persevere and take challenges head-on,” Tania said. “As much as I have learned what my case child is capable of, I have also learned what I am capable of.”

When Tania was initially assigned to Briana’s case, Briana was in crisis. Briana came into the system when she was eight years old due to physical abuse from her mother. During her time in foster care, she has been in and out of at least 15 placements and has struggled with mental health and behavioral issues. “Her therapist told me that the situation was hopeless—there was too much damage,” Tania said. Tania refused to believe this.

“As Briana worked hard to achieve her goals, I came to believe that a foster home was the best placement option for her, so I advocated to her attorney, social worker, and judge that she be moved from the group home to a foster home,” Tania said. Though Tania’s plan was met with a great deal of resistance from some of the professionals working on Briana’s case, Tania continued to advocate for what she thought was best for the child.

“The facts in some of the reports presented to the Court did not provide enough background information for the judge to understand why Briana was struggling,” Tania said. “My reports helped the judge understand her situation more fully.”

After months of negotiating and countless meetings with various professionals and agencies, Briana was moved out of her group home. “Through the hard work of my case child and the coordinated efforts of the entire team, we found her a fantastic foster home and she has been thriving there,” Tania said. “She’s a successful student and a responsible young woman, and she uses coping skills to manage her anger and frustration.”

Tania concluded, “The work a CASA does with and on behalf of the child during dependency can—and frequently does—set the child up for long-term success.”
“A child’s life is never black and white—life is not formulaic—the basic facts do not always tell the whole story.”

THE CASA EXPERIENCE:
The most important thing I’ve learned is that it can take just one stable, trustworthy, supportive adult to change a child’s life.
The Work of Voices for Children

33 years ago ... Kathryn Ashworth, a USD student, researched the foster care system for a law school assignment that, ultimately, changed her life and the lives of thousands of foster children. Her paper and its ideas impressed social worker Elizabeth Brainerd Bacon.

So in 1980, the two women developed a plan: to help judges make informed decisions that are in the best interests of each foster child. They set up a desk in the hallway of the San Diego County Juvenile Court. They recruited friends and Junior League members to review files of children who had been placed under Court jurisdiction because of parental abuse or neglect. A volunteer model called “Court Appointed Special Advocate,” or CASA, had been created a few years earlier in Seattle. They joined the National CASA Association and, in 1983, began training CASAs.

Bacon passed away in 2003, but Ashworth continues to volunteer as a CASA. She has advocated for many, many foster children over the years; her last case child was successfully adopted in time for his second birthday.

Attorney Sharon M. Lawrence joined Voices for Children as Executive Director in 1997. Lawrence’s background and her outstanding leadership and determined dedication to helping abused children over the past 16 years has allowed Voices for Children to thrive. With numerous honors for both Lawrence and the organization, Voices for Children has upheld its reputation as one of the most innovative and respected CASA organizations in the country.

For years, the Presiding Judges of Juvenile Court, including The Honorable Cynthia Bashant, current Presiding Judge, have asked Voices for Children to provide CASAs to more children. In response to their requests, Lawrence and the VFC Board of Directors have doubled the agency’s budget in recent years to recruit, train, and monitor more life-changing CASAs. As part of a long-range strategic plan called Serve Every Child, Voices for Children is committed to its goal of providing a CASA volunteer to each foster child who needs one.
We recruit, screen, and train men and women to be Court Appointed Special Advocates, and match each CASA with a foster child or sibling group from our waiting list. Supervised by VFC staff, our CASAs then work with their case children, often until the case is resolved. On average, our CASAs work with 1.5 children over the course of a year, but some CASAs work with as many as eight children at a time.

The San Diego Superior Court designated Voices for Children as the only agency to provide CASAs to foster children in San Diego County. VFC, the Court, and dependency judges have built trusting relationships based on mutual respect. This collaboration has been key to our ability to positively impact the lives of thousands of foster children.

Each CASA volunteer partners with a professional, trained coach—a VFC Advocacy Supervisor. Together, they develop strategies for guiding children out of foster care and into permanent homes. CASA volunteers do not receive compensation for their tireless work. This surprises foster children and makes them feel much more appreciative and loved, since most of the other adults in their lives are paid to take care of them.

Voices for Children does one thing and we do it exceedingly well: We provide CASA volunteers to foster children.
Serve Every Child is Voices for Children’s response to the foster care crisis—a way to bring hope to the victims of abuse and neglect.

Children in foster care should not have to wait until the California budget issues are resolved and the Court and child welfare systems are fully funded. We cannot let them languish while we discuss systemic reform. Every day, every week, every month is a lifetime to a child, especially to those who are alone, without relatives or family friends willing or able to care about the direction of their case.

The repercussions of spending years in foster care further damage children who are already devastated by parental abuse and neglect. These traumas negatively affect their physical health, mental well-being, school success, and just about every aspect of a child’s life, and this often continues into adulthood. A large proportion of individuals incarcerated in California spent at least some time in foster care, just one sign of the devastation child abuse and neglect can have on our society.

Our Board of Directors has passionately committed its energy and resources to these children. They endorsed Serve Every Child in 2006 and recommitted to the vision in 2010. Voices for Children will grow to provide CASAs to 3,400 foster children by 2016—the projected estimate of how many abandoned children are truly alone and in need of a CASA to stand by and speak up for them. This ambitious goal represents a tripling of the number of children served with CASAs since launching this initiative.

With the help of caring, compassionate volunteers and donors in our community, we will achieve our vision to provide the life-transforming services of a CASA to every child who needs one in San Diego.

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**The CASA Experience:** I found great satisfaction witnessing the progress made by my case child’s mother that resulted in the Court reunifying her with my case child, her son, Michael.

John “Chas” Moriarty brings decades of experience in education and child development to his CASA service. “It amazes me the coping skills that these children must develop with the constant change in their environments. One of my case children has been in 16 placements in eight years. I can see why they get lost in the educational system.” Like many advocates, Chas holds the “educational rights” of his case child, but he has gone even further by volunteering in his case child’s classroom.
In the field of foster care, the word “CASA” does not mean “house” in Spanish. It is an acronym for Court Appointed Special Advocate. CASAs are ordinary, everyday men and women who do extraordinary volunteer work.

Court Appointed Special Advocates are specially trained to advocate for individual foster children. This advocacy occurs primarily in the courtroom, where CASAs provide detailed reports and insights for the judges making decisions. They provide the judges with a picture of the whole child—as one judge said, “adding color to the case.” Additionally, CASAs advocate in the classroom by monitoring the child’s education and requesting necessary services and in the community, where they ensure that the child’s unique needs are understood and met.

As stable, caring adults in a foster child’s life, CASAs informally mentor their case children. They teach their children basic life skills, such as social etiquette, budgeting, and goal planning. CASAs also act as role models for their case children—an example of stability and promises kept.

Throughout the United States, there are nearly 1,000 CASA programs serving foster children. Voices for Children was founded just three years after the first CASA program was launched in Seattle in 1977. Today, Voices for Children is one of the nation’s largest and best-managed nonprofit organizations doing this kind of work for foster children. Each CASA program operates independently—some as agencies of the Court and others as independent nonprofit corporations—but we all operate under the same standards set by the National CASA Association and we all have the same goals: the protection, safety, and well-being of foster children.
Our staff and volunteers face tragedy every day. We ask, “How could anyone do this to a child? Who wouldn’t want to love and cherish this precious life?” Yet nearly 5,600 children spent time in San Diego County’s foster care system during the year that ended June 30, 2012. For whatever reason, their parents failed to care for them and protect them from abuse. The cases are often horrific and always very sad. The County of San Diego steps in, removes the child from danger, and does its best to care for these children during their time in the foster care system. For some children, this time can extend through their childhood, until they “age out” at 18 or 19. Those are the most heartbreaking cases.

Voices for Children provided 1,343 of these foster children with CASA volunteers in 2011-2012, with 565 of these children served by CASAs for the first time. We also prepared written case-file assessments every six months for 5,104 children in the system. Case assessments ensure that our staff knows what is happening in the cases, especially for the most at-risk children, and help us triage our waiting list of children in need of CASAs. The charts, on the opposite page, describe the gender, ages, and ethnicities of the children served by CASAs last year.
The CASA Program

The supervision of CASAs in their management of children’s cases is the crux of Voices for Children’s work, whether striving for a reunification with healthier birth parents, an adoption into a “forever family,” guardianship, or helping a child make the most of long-term foster care. Many components and specialties comprise the Voices for Children CASA Program.
**Case Management**
Together with their Supervisors, CASAs explore resources and gather information about each child’s case. CASAs prepare written reports and appear in Court to help the judges determine and implement what is best for each child.

**Education**
Due to frequent placement and school changes, education is often a trouble area for foster children. Yet it is also critical to the future success and independence of foster children, so VFC trains every CASA in this crucial area. CASAs advocate at school and with teachers, administrators, and counselors for the educational services their case children need.

**Infants & Toddlers Program**
Abused infants and toddlers, age newborn to 5 years old, are the fastest-growing age segment of foster children. The children are especially prone to severe setbacks in their emotional, physical, mental, and behavioral development, and VFC strives to expedite reunification or adoption so the children can begin to heal in safety and stability.

**Early Assignment Program**
So often our CASAs have lamented, “If only I had been involved earlier ...” In Early Assignment, VFC quickly assigns CASAs to children newly entering the system, typically within two weeks of the Court’s first hearing. With this early intervention, fewer foster children will spend their entire childhoods in the system.

**Extended Foster Care**
Recent California legislation, the Fostering Connections to Success and Adoptions Act, extended the Court’s jurisdiction over foster teens. By meeting work and school requirements, “nonminor dependents” may continue with placements and services until age 19 (phasing to age 21), including the advocacy of a CASA focused on independent/transitional living skills.

**Case Assessment & Matching**
Case assessment staff and volunteers summarize the case files of each of the 5,000+ children in San Diego County foster care who have not yet been assigned CASAs. Each year, they prepare thousands of written reports and triage the waiting list of foster children who need CASAs. They match children from the waiting list with new CASAs or CASAs willing to begin new cases.

**Volunteer Recruitment**
Expanding the pipeline of potential CASA candidates involves extensive and wide-ranging marketing and recruitment efforts. VFC reaches out to the community and makes presentations at hundreds of service organizations, corporations, and community groups, telling them about the needs of foster children and the ways an individual can change the life of a child.

**Advocate University**
Advocate University formally trains volunteers for their responsibilities as CASAs, free of charge. Each recruit is extensively screened and carefully monitored during their 35+ hours of classroom and online instruction taught by VFC staff and foster care professionals. We formally celebrate their completion of training, after which the graduating CASAs are sworn in by a judge.
"The case children trust and have confidence in me because I’m bilingual and bicultural."
32 Children and Counting...

When Jorge Valerdi retired, he knew he wanted to serve the community. Little did he know that his work as a Voices for Children CASA volunteer would result in praise from officials on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border.

Jorge became a CASA in December 2002 and, to date, has advocated for 32 foster children. He specializes in cases that involve immigration and education issues and strives to improve the lives of Mexican-American foster children living in the United States. He has been relentless in his advocacy, doing everything possible with agencies in both countries to ensure these children receive the resources they need.

“Our community is definitely multicultural and we have to be very much aware of this so we can understand and recommend the best option for a case child when he or she has to be placed away from home,” Jorge said.

As a result of his incredible work with Voices for Children, Jorge was invited to Mexico’s House of Representatives, where he met with members of the Mexican Congress involved in immigration, human rights, and international relations commissions. Jorge shared with them his perspective on human rights for minors living near the border, and recommended availability of more services to immigrant mothers, procedures to give Latino parents the tools they need to help their children academically, and incentives for proactive health care.

Jorge currently has two active cases that involve four children. Former case children stay in touch with Jorge, some contacting him on Father’s Day to thank him for his advocacy on their behalf and others sending regular updates on progress they’re making toward their life goals.

One of the young men, Juan, had continued in extended foster care after he turned 18, under the provisions of new laws. At a subsequent hearing, Juan asked that his case be closed so that he could prove to himself, his family, and the Court that he was capable of living independently. “I advocated to the judge that this young man was indeed mature enough to make it on his own,” Jorge said. The judge considered the facts of the case and Jorge’s recommendation and closed the boy’s case. Juan has since made a successful transition into adulthood.
CASAs advocated for 1,343 foster children in 2011–2012. Their nuanced, observant, and powerful descriptions and detailed reports provided judges with crucial background and insights, helping the Courts make the best decisions about each foster child’s future.
Financial Results for FY 2011–2012

We are pleased to report that in a single year, Voices for Children increased total revenue by $304,853. This 10% increase between FY 2010–2011 and FY 2011–2012 primarily funded CASA Program expansion. Although one day we will have an endowment to support operations, currently Voices for Children must raise every dollar spent on our programs—every year.

Our services are provided free of charge to foster children, as are our training programs for volunteers. In FY 2011–2012, only 14% of our funding came from government sources, and in FY 2012-2013, this will drop to 2% due to the State of California budget crisis. Thus, Voices for Children is largely funded by private individuals, foundations, and corporations.

While it is our hundreds of volunteers who interact directly with the children, our work is labor-intensive. Well-managed, well-trained, and highly capable, our staff supervise and coach the CASAs and sometimes appear in Court and attend meetings. Other professionals recruit, screen, and train the volunteers and manage the fundraising and administrative side of VFC’s operations. Our fiscal year ended with a small deficit of $29,688—a non-cash loss attributable to depreciation expenses.

Statement of Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gifts and Contributions</td>
<td>1,541,877</td>
<td>1,525,563</td>
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<tr>
<td>Government Funds</td>
<td>450,600</td>
<td>420,184</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Events (net of expenses)</td>
<td>1,231,030</td>
<td>887,459</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contributed Goods, Services, and Facilities</td>
<td>63,620</td>
<td>95,894</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
<td>(2,874)</td>
<td>50,300</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue:</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,284,253</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,979,400</strong></td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>EXPENSES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program</td>
<td>2,595,256</td>
<td>2,123,895</td>
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<tr>
<td>Management and General</td>
<td>134,584</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>584,101</td>
<td>547,940</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses:</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,313,941</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,772,080</strong></td>
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| Increase in Net Assets:                        | ($29,688)  | $207,320   |
| Net Assets at Beginning of Year:              | 1,412,224  | 1,204,904  |
| Net Assets at Year End:                       | $1,382,536 | $1,412,224 |

AUDIT AND IRS FORM 990 - Independent auditors review our financial statements each year, preparing our audited financials and our tax returns. Access our audit and tax filings online at www.speakupnow.org.
VFC is on track with our Serve Every Child expansion plan. As noted, total revenues grew 10% in FY 2011–2012, increasing by $304,853 compared to the previous fiscal year. Please see the lists of donors that follow for acknowledgement.

GIFTS & CONTRIBUTIONS

Individuals, corporations, foundations, and service organizations make up this largest category, primarily through direct appeals and grant requests. Major grants include the Leichtag Foundation, Price Family Charitable Fund, Qualcomm Foundation, and Rivers of Hope Foundation. We received 3,379 total contributions from all sources in FY 2011–2012, an 18% increase over FY 2010–2011, a pattern that continued into FY 2012–2013. Most significantly, donor David Dunn stepped up in July 2012 to give $350,000—our largest single gift ever. Thus far in FY 2012–2013, the size of donations received is tracking ahead of FY 2011-2012. All donations support our CASA Program expansion to Serve Every Child.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Government funding in FY 2011–2012 decreased slightly from the previous year and the FY 2012-2013 totals fell dramatically when our largest government source was unable to renew its $350,000 grant. The County Board of Supervisors has approved Community Enhancement and Neighborhood Reinvestment grants and, in September 2012, we received our first federal grant in a collaboration with Foster Youth Services with the San Diego County Office of Education.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Net of expenses, our combined special events increased by 39% over the previous year and contributed 37% of revenues for 2011-2012. Our signature event, Starry Starry Night, broke records and, for the first time ever, grossed more than $1 million in September 2011, with a net of $776,000. (In 2012, Starry Starry Night netted $980,000.) Our 20th Annual Golf Tournament at The Farms Country Club in May 2012 netted $140,000. Makua, Friends of Voices for Children, netted $130,000 with their June 2012, Great Gatsby-themed dinner dance at Point Loma’s historic Rosecroft. Wine, Women & Shoes proved very popular, netting $110,000 and adding a fun, new, annual event to our calendar. The Nikki St. Germain Memorial Golf Tournament and smaller beneficiary events organized by community groups also contributed to this category.
2011–2010

Expenses

Voices for Children’s CASA Program expenses grew in FY 2011–2012, accommodating the increased staff to manage more CASAs who served 18% more foster children. Voices for Children had 38 employees as of June 2011, expanding to 46 employees by June 2012, growth strategically planned through our Serve Every Child vision.

Statement of Financial Position

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<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>6.30.12</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current Assets</td>
<td>1,710,623</td>
<td>1,796,113</td>
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<tr>
<td>Property and Equipment</td>
<td>141,860</td>
<td>175,619</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Assets</td>
<td>29,025</td>
<td>29,025</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,881,508</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,000,757</strong></td>
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<tr>
<th>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current Liabilities</td>
<td>498,972</td>
<td>588,533</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unrestricted Net Assets</td>
<td>1,266,317</td>
<td>1,256,968</td>
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<tr>
<td>Temporarily Restricted Net Assets</td>
<td>116,219</td>
<td>155,256</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,881,508</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,000,757</strong></td>
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RESERVES - As of June 30, 2012, cash and investments totaling $898,000 are set aside as an emergency fund for operational expenses.
Leadership

We are grateful to these community leaders for their efforts on behalf of children in need.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Voices for Children enjoys the dedication of an involved and compassionate Board of Directors, 100% of whom support VFC with generous contributions.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2011-2012
Lauree Sahba, Chair
David Bialis
Rochelle Bold, Esq. Treasurer
Vicky Carlson
Ann Parode Dynes, Esq.
Lisette Farrell
Anthony Farwell
Kevin Harris
Marina Marrelli, Vice-Chair
Scott Peters, Esq.
Dick Pfister
Beth Plavan, Esq.
Jill Skrezyna, Secretary
Robin Stark
Alan Talbott, Esq.
Haeyoung Kong Tang
Lise N. Wilson, Esq.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2012-2013
Rochelle Bold, Esq. Chair
David Bialis, Treasurer
Ann Parode Dynes, Esq. Secretary
Gina Ellis
Lisette Farrell
Anthony Farwell
Cynthia Purcell Garrett, Esq.
Kevin Harris
Maria Herman
Marina Marrelli
Hon. Scott Peters (through Dec. 2012)
Dick Pfister
Jori Potiker
Lauree Sahba, Past Chair
Jill Skrezyna
Robin Stark (through Dec. 2012)
Alan Talbott, Esq. (through Sept. 2012)
Haeyoung Kong Tang, Vice Chair
Michelle Weinger
Lise N. Wilson, Esq.

Makua, Friends of Voices for Children, is an auxiliary that has supported Voices for Children’s mission with more than $1 million in gross income raised since 2004. These dedicated women work year-round on behalf of San Diego County’s foster children. Their 2012 dinner-dance featured a Great Gatsby theme and netted more than $130,000 for Voices for Children. Makua’s next event, Back to the Beach, will be held on June 1, 2013, celebrating Makua’s 60th year of serving at-risk children in San Diego. www.makua.org

The Young Professionals Group, or YPG, was formed in 2010 to involve San Diego’s under-40 community in our work with abused and neglected children. YPG’s membership of 36 raises awareness and funds to serve the needs of foster children. www.VoicesYPG.org
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL
The Community Advisory Council (CAC) includes former Board members, supporters, and local leaders. Each is committed to Voices for Children’s *Serve Every Child* vision to change the lives of more foster children in San Diego County.

**COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL**
2011–2012

Tom Murphy and Joan Waitt, *Co-Chairs*
David Archambault
Kathryn F. Ashworth, Esq.
Joye D. Blount
Janice P. Brown, Esq.
Kate Collier
Ilia Terrazas-Dickey
Mindy Fletcher
The Honorable Nathan Fletcher
Dick Freeman
Craig A. Irving
David Marino
Patsy Marino
The Honorable James Milliken
Eleanor Navarra
Sheryl Scarano
Cecil H. Steppe
Katie Sullivan
Dale Yahnke, CFA, CFP
Pamela S. Wygod

**COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL**
2012–2013

David Archambault, *Chair*
Doug Arthur
Kathryn F. Ashworth, Esq.
Joye D. Blount
Janice P. Brown, Esq.
Ilia Terrazas Dickey
Mindy Fletcher
Nathan Fletcher
Dick Freeman
Craig A. Irving
Richard Kelly
David Marino
Patsy Marino
Susan McClelan
Dr. John Mendlein
The Honorable James Milliken
Tom Murphy
Eleanor Navarra
Sheryl Scarano
Cecil H. Steppe
Katie Sullivan
Joan Waitt
Pamela S. Wygod
Dale Yahnke, CFA, CFP

**Makua Executive Board 2012–2013**

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Kris Barry
Vice President
Kimiko Augustine
Annual Event Directors
Jonni Bailey, Cindy Garrett, Sherron Worthen
Membership Directors
Sue Skala
Treasurer
Nancy Allen
Recording Secretary
Robin Werner
Patroness Directors
Tomie Orosz
VFC Board Liaison
Cindy Garrett
Education Director
Nancy Wilks
Marketing Director
Jonni Bailey
Parliamentarian
Maria Herman
Current as of February 2013

**YPG Officers 2013**

Chair
Sean Giffin
Vice Chair
Alex Scoma
Treasurer
Katherine Johnston
Secretary
Emily D’Amico
Past Chair
Scott Yates

Current as of February 2013
Voices for Children’s Case Assessment Program reviewed and prioritized the case files of 5,104 children in 2011–2012, matching 565 of them with CASAs for the first time.
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An Outlet that Benefits Others

When her youngest child graduated from high school, Christie Ranney asked her husband to consider fostering or adopting a child. “He suggested I find ‘another outlet’ for my passion,” Christie said, laughing. That outlet came in the form of volunteering with Voices for Children.

Christie, who is often assigned to challenging cases because of her tact and professionalism, has recently accepted her twelfth case. A few of her cases have ended in adoption. She has helped the others prepare for independent, successful lives.

“The CASA program allows me to support children in a way that best addresses their challenges and their futures,” Christie said.

One of her case children, James, graduated from high school and enlisted in the U.S. Army after Christie helped get him involved with the Sea Cadet program. James is doing well in the service and is already a leader of his company. Christie also advocated to the Court that two of her case children (brothers Joey and Austin) remain at their same high school all four years and graduate with their classes on time. Their older brother, Kevin, living in Kansas, frequently writes to Christie to ask for guidance, as she has been the most important and consistent person in his life.

“What I find most challenging about my CASA work is the children’s education and their choices as they get close to aging out of dependency,” Christie said. “The severing of services when the kids are ‘aged out’ continues to be a major concern.”

Currently, Christie is working with a young girl with developmental delays who’s living with a foster family. Christie is not only an advocate for Sarah’s needs; she has become an important source of support for Sarah’s foster mother by helping her identify resources for the child. In addition to working directly with case children, Christie is a member of the Voices for Children Community Ambassador Program and donates many hours speaking to groups about her work as a CASA, educating potential volunteers about CASA service and the extraordinary experience of being a CASA for foster children.
"As a CASA, I bridge the gap between the real picture and what the judge sees on paper."

THE CASA EXPERIENCE:
What I enjoy most is building a relationship with the children and inspiring and motivating them to graduate from high school.
Volunteers

Approximately **850 men and women** volunteered for Voices for Children last fiscal year. Coming from many different backgrounds and experiences and representing all ages, these dedicated, determined women and men gave their wisdom, skills, time, and hearts to foster children who really need them. Currently, 88% of our volunteers are female but outreach is underway to recruit more male volunteers.

Collectively, Voices for Children’s volunteers reported more than 55,500 hours of time spent on their case children. Thus, while not all volunteers report all of their hours, this contribution of time is equivalent to at least $1.34 million, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. More than 300 new CASAs joined us in FY 2011-2012. Our goal is to recruit and train more than 450 in 2012-2013.

In January 2012, we launched Campaign 360, an initiative to leverage our supporters’ networks to raise awareness of VFC and the 360 children on our waiting list identified as urgently in need of a CASA. Not only did the effort help recruit a record number of volunteers, but many CASAs took on additional cases. During the 2011-2012 fiscal year, 565 foster children received CASAs.

Some of our publicity partnerships have had widespread impact. NBC 7 San Diego and its lead anchor, Mark Mullen, broadcasted four news features in April 2012. Ashford University funded promotion on NBC 7 San Diego as well. The result of this collaboration was a dramatic rise in volunteer inquiries and in the number of CASAs trained. The outreach educated San Diegans about the challenges our children face in the foster care system.
VOLUNTEER MILESTONES

When recruiting volunteers, Voices for Children asks for a minimum commitment of 18 months—no small request. Almost every volunteer fulfills this requirement, an extraordinary devotion for which we are deeply grateful. Many CASAs serve for multiple years. The list below acknowledges recent volunteers who have served for five years or more.

MILESTONES OF CURRENT VOLUNTEERS’ YEARS OF SERVICE

| 30+ years | Kathryn Ashworth, Esq. |
| 20+ years | Carmela Caldera, Pat Cunningham, Cheryl Greaves, Beverly Haines, Irene Wells |
| 15+ years | Mary Ann Beattie, Mary Limoges, Nan Lutes, Marta McCarty, Judith Pruyne, Nancy Rosenberger, Bertha Schultz, Connie Unger, Kathy Velasquez, Bobbie Young |
| 10+ years | Eleanor Bluestein, Elyse Boozer, Carmina Caballes, Kay Childs, Leslie Constantini, Ruth Ely, Araceli Engbrecht, Linda Fawkes, Cristina Garcia, Joan Gausepohl, Robert Gordon, Wendy Koen, Kim Lazaro, Connie Leigh, Elizabeth Leonard, Betty McDonald, Madeline Penner, Constance Pinkus, Jenna Price, Sharon Province, Christie Ranney, Patricia Santoro, Isobel Shapiro, Eleanor Sherrell, Sandra Sloan, Joan Slot, Suzanne Snyder, Virginia White, Barbara Witzell, Jorge Valerdi, Caitlin Raphael Griffin, Kathy Hailey, Melissa Hall, Jeanne Hancock, Harriet Hartli, Bobbi Herdes, Daniel Hilderbrand, Palma Holland, Patrick Hook, Mary Hughes, Carol Irwin, Linda Joliff, Lyle Kalish, Ellen Kane, Peggy Keigher, Genevieve Knych-Rohan, Deborah Larkin, Mickey Lester, Charmin Lindholm, Mel Lopez, Diane Ludwig, Karen Lurie, Cheryl MacDonald, Anita Mahaffey, Marin Marcus, Carole Martin, Melinda Martinez, Mary Jo Mathis, Stacy McDaniel, Sara McGaughey, Martha McGowan, Marta Meester, Diane Merlos, Kelly Metz-Matthews, Kris Moberly, Tonia Moore, Heather McCauley-Moriarity, Sue Munz, Kathy Myers, Jennifer Negre, Kimberly Neilson, Barbara Nelson, David Nelson, Deborah Olstad, Catherine Ott, David Paa, Bette Paynter-Foster, Jane Petering, Patricia Picha, Sally Pollack, Pat Preston, Theron Preston, Denise Prince, Judith Radke, Robert Randall, Barbara Rolando, Thomas Ryan, Carol Sands, Denise Serino, Jenny Sharratt, Beverly Smith, Stacey Smith-Bacon, Kate So, Elaine Stewart, Donna Suco, Carolyn Sullivan, Dennis Sullivan, Brooke Swayne, Mary Ann Tanner, Carol Tapert, Toni Tschann, David Tuffy, Marlee Valderhaug, Melinda Vasquez, Jodi Visosky, Sharon Whitehurst-Payne, Judy Wieand, Marwilda Wilson, Ti Wolpov, Bridget Wright, Natasha Yeakey |

A gift is pure when it is given from the heart to the right person at the right time and at the right place, and when we expect nothing in return.

— Bhagavad Gita
Stellar Supporters of Voices for Children

Our work with San Diego County’s foster children would not be possible without the generosity and support of many individuals, companies, and foundations. We are grateful to these donors who had cumulative contributions.

These donors had cumulative contributions of $15,000 or more through December 31, 2012, excluding in-kind donations.

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National CASA Association
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CASA GLYNNIS AGUIRRE

OCCUPATION: Retired Court Reporter

“The most meaningful aspect of my work as a CASA is being a source of inspiration for a child, being able to see a child transform and start believing in himself.”
When Glynnis Aguirre began working with her current case child, Alyssa, the teenager was struggling with severe behavioral issues that resulted in time at a treatment facility in Orange County. Glynnis’ commitment to Alyssa didn’t flag, and she traveled regularly to see the girl to ensure her education was not compromised. The teen graduated from high school with her peers, and she and Glynnis now reflect on the journey and the bright future ahead.
My case child, Mark, is a talented musician, and playing music has gotten him through some hard times. I advocated for him to attend music camp and he said it was an experience he’ll never, ever forget.”
Having served in the U.S. Air Force, Steve Warner knows how to work within bureaucratic systems. Steve has helped his case child follow his passion, music, but his primary focus is showing Mark how to navigate the everyday world, apply for jobs, and get the resources the boy needs as he transitions to adulthood. “It might sound simple, but my goal is to make sure he will always have a roof over his head. It’s a most basic, fundamental need.”
ANNUAL DONORS
Many thanks to these donors who contributed $1,000 or more between 7/1/2011 and 12/31/2012, excluding in-kind donations.

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Voices for Children deeply appreciates each donor’s compassion for the foster children of our community. Every contribution makes a difference, and we wish we had room to list the many other individuals and organizations that made donations up to $1,000 and in-kind gifts.

We have made every effort to ensure this list (which covers a period ending 12/31/2012) is complete and accurate. If you have found an error or omission, please contact Eric Pitarresi, Database & Stewardship Coordinator, at (858) 598-2243 or ericp@speakupnow.org.

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Denotes gift made through the San Diego Foundation. * Denotes deceased
We live in a world in which we need to share responsibility. It’s easy to say, ‘It’s not my child, not my community, not my world, not my problem.’ Then there are those who see the need and respond. I consider those people my heroes.

— Fred Rogers