

SAN FRANCISCO COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE PROGRAM

2010 SFCASA Board of Directors Luncheon

April 8, 2010 Four Seasons Hotel, San Francisco, CA



Dr. Milton A. Gordon

2010 SFCASA Honoree

Outstanding Service to Children
and the Community

Dr. Milton A. Gordon became president of California State University, Fullerton in August 1990. He has led CSUF into prominence as one of the nation's largest and most inclusive senior institutions of higher learning. Among Dr. Gordon's accomplishments at Cal State Fullerton are strengthening student recruitment and retention programs; opening a new state-of-the-art science laboratory center; a major library expansion; becoming the first university of the CSU system to install a totally fiber infrastructure which will improve the use of technology throughout the campus; dedicating new stadiums in the Titan Sports Complex; and forming new partnerships with public and private entities in the community. Currently, Dr. Gordon is overseeing a university planning process which has established missions and goals for the university into the 21st century. Additionally, he is responsible for supporting the California Corporate Board Registry.

Dr. Gordon is receiving the Outstanding Service Award this year due to his commitment to, and passionate belief in, the Guardian Scholars program that began at CSU Fullerton. The Guardian Scholars is a comprehensive program that supports former foster youth in their efforts to gain a college education. As wards of the court, foster youth emancipate at age 18 and are forced to make difficult transitions to adulthood—often without traditional family support. By awarding full scholarships, the Guardian Scholars program provides the opportunity to change individual lives and make dreams come true.

Dr. Gordon's other awards include the 1999 César Chavez Community Service Award by the Hispanic Bar Association of Orange County, 1998 Manager of the Year Award by the Orange County Chapter of the Society of Advancement of Management, 1998 Orange County NAACP Citizens of Distinction Award, 1994 Tree of Life Award from the Jewish National Fund, and Honor Milton A. Gordon Day, September 22, 1992, at Chicago State University.

The SFCASA Program: Facts at a Glance

Foster Children in San Francisco

- Approximately 1,200 of San Francisco's children (ages 0-18 years) are victims of abuse and neglect and are living in foster care.
- Sixty-five percent of these children are in long-term placement: in all likelihood, they will not be returning to parents.
- Our City's foster children spend an average of five years in foster care and are moved frequently from one home to another—an average of five times. They frequently change caregivers, social workers, attorneys, schools, physicians, therapists; in this way, they lose cultural and community connections. Their healthcare and education are often disrupted or curtailed.
- Fifty percent of the children in foster care are placed outside of the county; separated from siblings, who are sent to different placements.
- San Francisco's foster children tend to be learning disabled, to suffer emotional disturbances because of impermanency and exposure to violence, and to have chronic and often untreated health and developmental problems.
- California's children in foster care attend an average of *nine* different schools by age 18.
- They are frequently absent from school and subject to disciplinary referrals.
- Approximately 75% perform below grade level, and 40% fail to graduate from high school.
- Within two to four years after emancipating from foster care, approximately 51% will be unemployed, 40% will be on public assistance or incarcerated, and 25% will be homeless.
- These children are high risk for failure in school, substance abuse, incarceration, homelessness, and early death.

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SFCASA Program Services

- SFCASA client children are referred to the Program for services only through the juvenile court system—by a judge, Human Services Agency Child Welfare Worker, or Panel attorney representing a child involved in dependency proceedings. Currently more than 120 children are waitlisted for assignment to SFCASA volunteers: *these are children deemed by the court and by court professionals to be most urgently in need of special advocacy.*
- By helping to find safe and permanent homes for client children and by addressing these children's educational, healthcare, and other urgent needs, SFCASA volunteers promote clients' healthy emotional development and minimize the consequences of abuse and neglect.
- SFCASA volunteers become sworn court officers trained to work one-on-one with abused and neglected children in foster care, assessing individual need, reporting directly to the court, advocating for necessary services, and serving as advocates and trusted mentors.

The SFCASA volunteer is often the only caring and consistent adult in the life of a child.

- Each volunteer makes an 18-month commitment to advocate for a child, sees the child each week, and reports to the court at six month intervals.
- The average volunteer serves on a case for approximately 2.5 years. Some of our volunteers have served on a single case for 6 years or more.
- SFCASA volunteers are rigorously screened, complete 40 hours of training and 12 hours annually of in-service education, and each works under the supervision of his or her assigned SFCASA professional Case Supervisor.
- SFCASA volunteers are qualified under California's Education Code to serve as Surrogate Parents For Education Purposes if no family member is able to represent the client child's interests in an Individualized Education Plan proceeding.
- SFCASA began operations in 1991 with its first class of 11 volunteers and is the only agency operating in San Francisco providing court appointed volunteer advocacy and mentorship exclusively to this group of high-risk children and youth.
- The total number of children served by SFCASA in 2008-2009 was 327. On any given day, the number of children being served is 200-230.
- During 2008 - 2009, SFCASA recruited, screened, and trained 132 new volunteers and provided approximately 14,299 hours of advocacy and mentoring to San Francisco's children in foster care.
- SFCASA provides specialized advocacy services tailored to the needs of infants and toddlers, many of whom are medically fragile and developmentally delayed; to pre-emancipation youth (14+); and to emotionally disturbed children.
- Each SFCASA Case Supervisor provides supervision and support for a maximum of 35 volunteers, typically serving a total of 40 children.
- The SFCASA volunteer is often the only caring and consistent adult in the life of a child.

Administrative Information

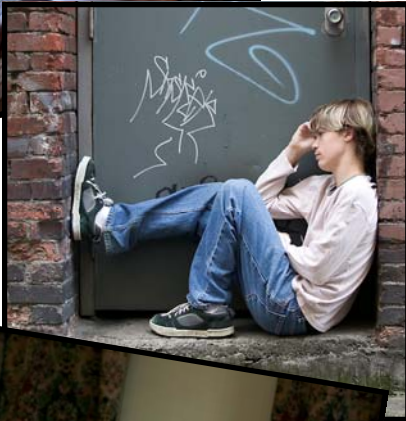
- SFCASA, a 501(c)(3) non-profit agency established in 1991, is supported by government and foundation grants and by corporate and individual gifts. We receive no guaranteed funding from any source.
- SFCASA staff consists of 10 100% FTE and two part time employees providing support services to approximately 190 volunteers on any given day.
- SFCASA activities comply with National CASA Association Program Standards, with Judicial Council of California Rule #5.655, and with local rules of court.

What Can One CASA Do?



One year old Sam was hospitalized for two months for a brain injury—the result of abuse inflicted by her father.

Sometimes, an SFCASA volunteer is a child's only visitor.



Eddie is the son of a single dad.
Eddie's Dad is in prison.

An SFCASA volunteer can model healthy behaviors, and find programs that help youth end the cycle of incarceration.



Jennise has never had a birthday party.

An SFCASA volunteer can bring joy to a child.



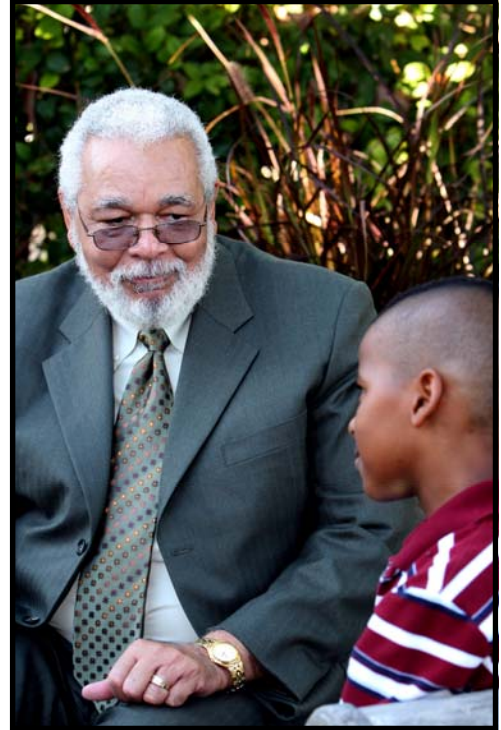
When Anthony spoke up about the sexual abuse he's endured since childhood, his entire family abandoned him.

An SFCASA volunteer is one person a foster child can always count on.

What a Gift to SFCASA Provides:

- **\$50,000** provides professional case supervision of 30 SFCASA volunteers (each SFCASA Case Supervisor manages a caseload of 30 volunteers serving 30 – 40 children).
- **\$40,000** trains 25 new SFCASA volunteers (SFCASA holds four 40-hour Volunteer Training sessions per year).
- **\$25,000** provides professional case supervision of 15 volunteers (serving 15 – 20 children).
- **\$15,000** supports recruitment of 100 new volunteers (SFCASA volunteers are recruited from all of San Francisco's diverse communities).
- **\$3,500** provides SFCASA advocacy to one child for a year.

Your generosity will change a child's life.



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- | | |
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2008-2009 SFCASA Major Funding Support

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 Judicial Council of California
 San Francisco City Attorney
 National CASA Association

Foundation

Hedge Funds Care
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And SFCASA's many generous individual donors

The 2010 SFCASA Board of Directors Luncheon Contribution Form

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Address: _____

Phone: _____

I/We sponsor the 2010 Luncheon by providing support at the following level:

\$10,000 Platinum Sponsor

- Premium table for 10.
- Guardian Sponsor listing on SFCASA website, in press releases, event materials, and in e-newsletter.
- Name announced from podium at luncheon.
- Name/Logo included in event slide-show.

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- Name/Logo included in event slide-show.

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I/We wish to remain anonymous.

Payment Method:

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SFCASA is an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Our IRS EIN is **94-3039028**.

Please return this form with your check or credit card information by mail or fax:

SFCASA

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***\$3,500 provides SFCASA volunteer advocacy and mentoring one child for a year.
Your generosity will change a child's life.***