

2020  
IMPACT REPORT


# Give a Child a Voice



**CASA**

Court Appointed Special Advocates  
FOR CHILDREN

SAN FRANCISCO CASA



“I am so happy that my youth is starting to recognize the amazing things she’s accomplished and the incredible person she is.”

– Stacey, CASA Volunteer

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## OUR VISION

Every child has a safe and loving home and is given the opportunity to thrive. Through advocacy and mentorship, the San Francisco Court Appointed Special Advocate Program empowers community members to stand up for a foster child and champion their rights in court.

## OUR MISSION

San Francisco CASA transforms the lives of abused and neglected foster youth by providing one consistent, caring volunteer advocate, trained to address each child's needs in the court and the community.



Dear Friends of SFCASA,

Youth in foster care are often isolated from the only family, friends and communities they know. Their needs can fall through the cracks of the systems meant to protect and educate them. If that's the norm, you can only imagine the situation this spring as we were all forced to adapt to rapid changes and immense challenges.

Thanks to your support, SFCASA and our 318 volunteer advocates sprang into action in March and haven't stopped since. Our volunteers did what they were trained so well to do. They found creative ways to communicate and build relationships despite distances and ever-changing restrictions. They helped youth explore their strengths and interests and addressed challenges with persistence and determination. They provided a sense of consistency and stability amid unprecedented change.



What a learning experience this year has been. While forced to transition to virtual training, we've learned new techniques that will improve our volunteer training long-term. We've learned how to stay in touch with youth across distances, which is critical as most of our youth are placed outside the Bay Area. And we've all recognized how important relationships are to our everyday mental health.

A CASA volunteer -- a consistent and caring adult, an advocate willing to stand up for a foster child -- is a true gift in a time of isolation. Your support ensures more foster youth will experience that consistent support and advocacy.

Thank you for trusting us with your investments and making a direct impact on our community's youth.

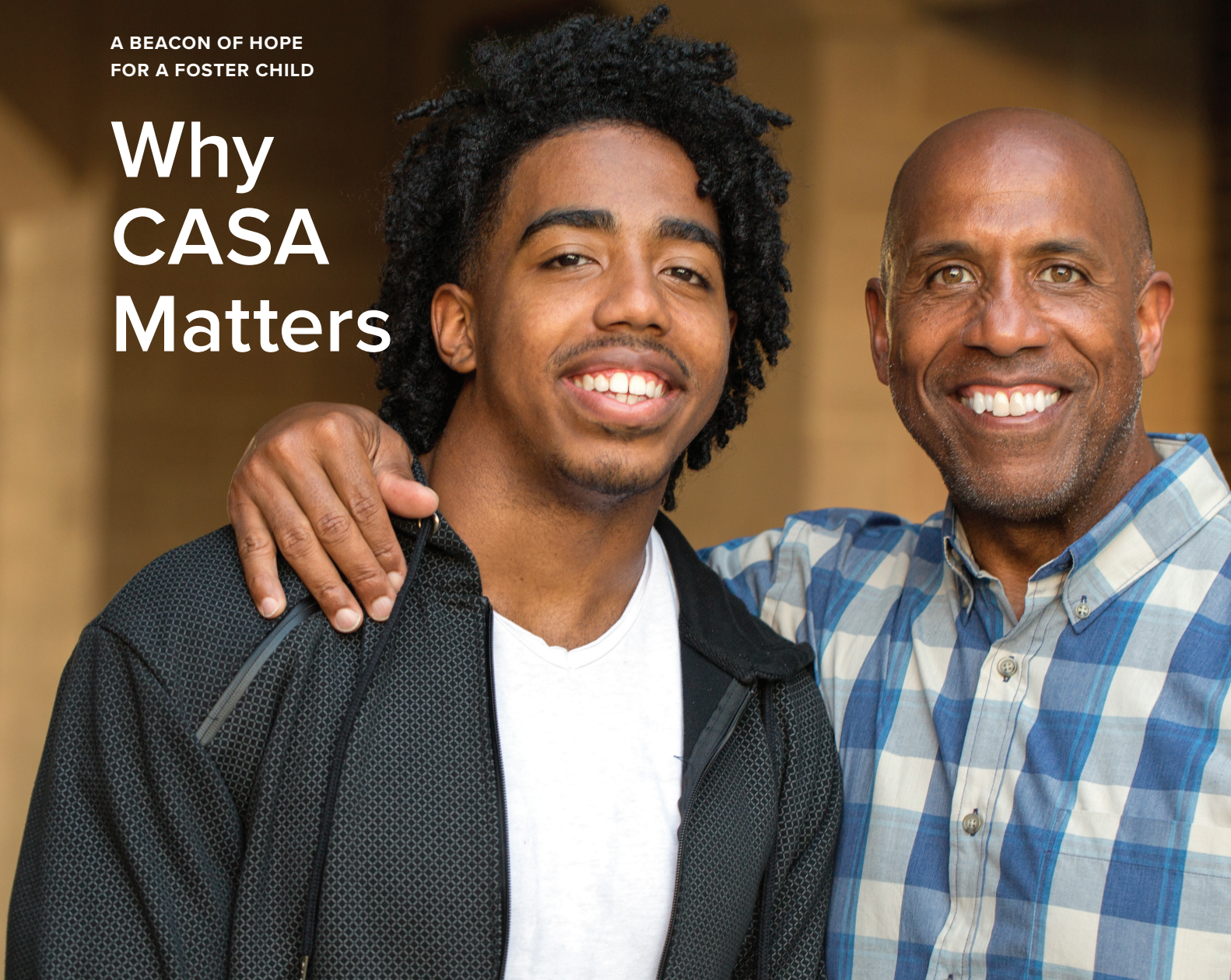
Warm regards,

Lisa Pearson  
*Chair, Board of Directors*

Paul Knudsen  
*Interim Executive Director*

A BEACON OF HOPE  
FOR A FOSTER CHILD

# Why CASA Matters



**CASA volunteers make sure the needs of San Francisco foster youth aren't slipping through the cracks. That job was never more universally needed than during the COVID-19 pandemic.**

During the pandemic, foster youth have been particularly vulnerable to the stress and uncertainty all of us have felt. Many didn't have access to distance learning materials, or privacy in the group homes where they now spent all of their time, or means to keep in touch with family and friends. In the days following the Shelter in Place ordinance, CASA Volunteers worked to fill these gaps.

They worked with SFCASA to provide grocery gift cards for families, laptops and iPads for distance learning, and sent care packages with activities and educational supplements. They worked with schools and social workers to ensure that individualized education plans were enforced and graduation credits were aligned. They provided a respite for foster families who were overwhelmed by the pandemic, and ensured a consistent, caring adult was present for our youth in this incredibly uncertain time.

# 5 Key Actions of a CASA

COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES HELP CHILDREN NAVIGATE THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM:



## ADVOCATE

Speak up for the best interest of a child



## SUPPORT

Provide a stable and caring relationship



## INVESTIGATE

Gather important information



## REPORT

Organize and present details



## RECOMMEND

Offer ideas that will improve the situation

### THREE KEY OUTCOMES

# Safety

# A Forever Home

# Well-Being



# Case Study Story

**Immediately after swearing-in as a new advocate this past June, Ricky was ready to be matched with a young person. Fortunately, Ricky is Spanish-speaking and could be matched with Angelo, who speaks very little English.**

However, due to the continued impacts of the pandemic, Ricky was unable to meet Angelo right away. Instead, he spent a month reaching out to Angelo’s team to learn more about the child and his family and better prepare to meet Angelo and his parents. Coincidentally, Angelo would be celebrating his 5th birthday at the end of the month and Ricky thought it would be a great idea to help Angelo celebrate by accessing SFCASA’s partnership with Cake4Kids. The week after Angelo’s birthday, Ricky was finally able to meet him and his mother. On their first visit, as soon as Angelo saw Ricky, he ran to him with open arms for a big hug. The following week Ricky surprised Angelo with his own car themed cake and a birthday gift card from SFCASA.

Ricky supported Angelo’s time-sensitive kindergarten enrollment in less than 24 hours and then proceeded to meet with Angelo’s mom to help her set up his new virtual schooling and learn to use the virtual class features. Then, during the first week of school, Ricky supported Angelo’s mom to meet his teacher, school social worker and school counselor—all of whom would be available to Angelo and his mom to help with distance learning and other needs. Ricky is also supporting Angelo’s mom to access food assistance through a school program as well as working with her to identify alternative housing and medical insurance.

Within a few short months of service, Ricky has exercised incredible positive impact through his rapport and trust-building with Angelo, his parents and other care team members. He will be a vital resource as Angelo and his family navigate reunification during a pandemic.

ACCORDING TO CHILDREN'S ATTORNEYS AND SOCIAL WORKERS, CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH A CASA VOLUNTEER ARE MORE LIKELY TO:



Receive needed services in a timely manner



Be enrolled in an appropriate educational setting



Participate in extracurricular activities



Have long-term connections to siblings, relatives or other support people



Be on track to graduate high school on time



Enroll in post-secondary education

# CASA by the Numbers

NUMBER OF CHILDREN SERVED

313 / 900

ACTIVE CASA VOLUNTEERS

318

HOURS OF ADVOCACY EFFORTS

13,684

YOUTH-SERVED RACE AND ETHNICITY





A BEACON OF HOPE  
FOR A FOSTER CHILD

# The Need

**The COVID pandemic has exposed the cracks in an already overburdened child welfare system. CASA Volunteers make sure the needs of our youth are prioritized and consistently met.**

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the challenges already faced by foster youth, their families and their resource families. Unemployment and reduced income, school closures, limited access to resources, and increased social isolation have increased client needs. Many youth lack access to computers and Internet access needed for virtual learning, as well as a quiet place to do their work. Students with learning difficulties or behavioral issues have been unable to get the support they need. Caregivers have been overwhelmed with the sudden need to provide 24/7 care and are struggling to make ends meet. CASAs have worked hard to address these challenges, from providing Internet access for distance learning and groceries for struggling families, to planning virtual activities with isolated youth to remind them they aren't alone. The support of CASA advocates is more important than ever as the pandemic continues.



PERCENTAGE OF POSITIVE SAFETY OUTCOMES

66%

Jordan was living in a group home in Merced. He aspired to join the Navy and needed to get in shape to prepare for their physical fitness exam. He didn't feel comfortable running on the streets of his neighborhood and couldn't afford a gym membership.

His CASA, Gail, was able to apply for a grant from Philanthropic Ventures Foundation to purchase a used treadmill for Jordan. As a result, he's been able to work out in the safety of his own home and work towards his lifelong goal of joining the Navy.

Gail's seemingly small act had a life-changing impact on Jordan's future, and has enabled him to chase his dreams.



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# How You Can Help

## HERE ARE WAYS YOU CAN HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIFE OF A CHILD

There are a number of ways you can get involved with SFCASA and make a real difference in the life of a child in foster care. Whether you donate, volunteer, or help spread the word, you can help these deserving children.

- Attend an info session to learn all about the roles and responsibilities of a CASA Volunteer
- Host an info session at your place of business, religious or community center to spread the word about SFCASA
- Make a contribution to SFCASA, become a Champion for Children Monthly Donor, or make a planned gift to support the work our advocates do
- Follow SFCASA on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube and share our posts to spread the word
- Consider becoming a Resource Family (formerly known as foster families)

# Financial Summary

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2020, WITH COMPARATIVE TOTALS FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2019.

DERIVED FROM AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

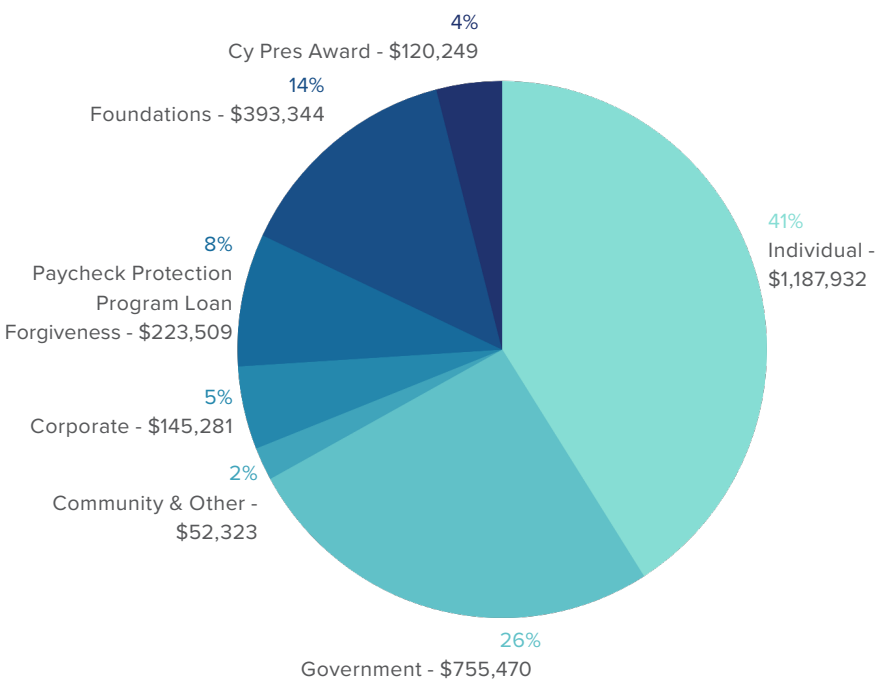
## Statement of Financial Position

	FY2019–2020	FY2018–2019
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Total Checking/Savings	\$3,186,456	\$2,236,188
Total Accounts Receivable	114,062	562,261
Total Other Current Assets	73,030	29,814
Total Current Assets	3,373,548	2,828,263
Total Fixed Assets	35,319	52,978
Total Other Assets	4,350	4,853
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$3,413,217</b>	<b>\$2,886,094</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>		
Liabilities		
Total Accounts Payable	\$7,935	\$18,716
Total Credit Cards	13,414	6,469
Total Other Current Liabilities	106,932	45,444
Total Liabilities	128,282	70,630
Equity		
With Donor Restrictions	977,658	1,293,587
Board Designed (Without Board Restrictions)	175,000	175,000
Without Donor Restrictions	2,132,277	1,346,877
Total Equity	3,284,935	2,815,464
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Equity</b>	<b>\$3,413,217</b>	<b>\$2,886,094</b>

## Statement of Activities

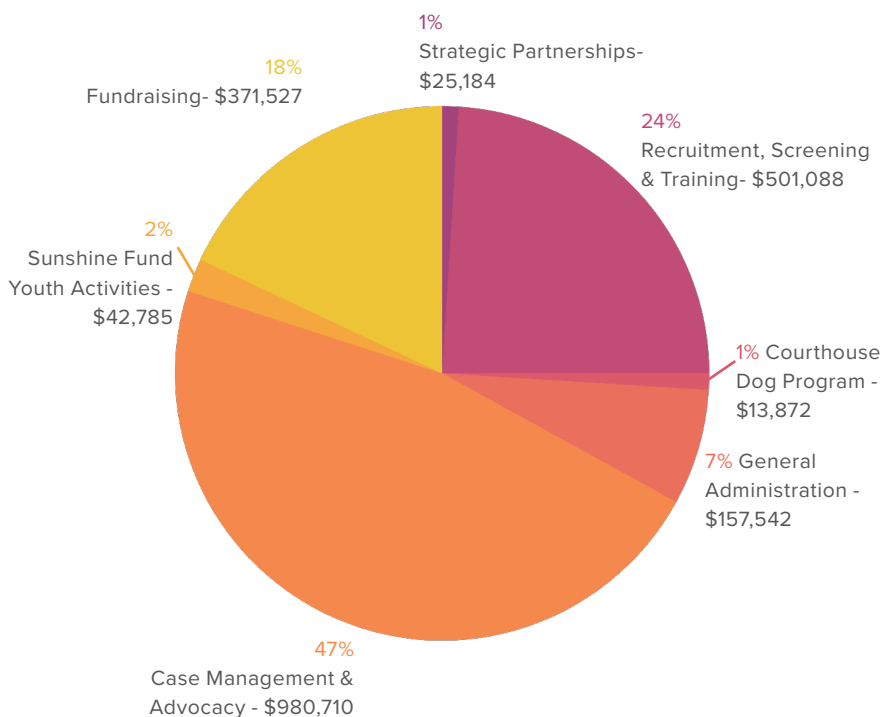
	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	FY2019–2020	FY2018–2019
Ordinary Income/Expense				
<b>INCOME</b>				
Contributed Revenue				
Government	\$755,470	\$0	\$755,470	\$657,009
Foundations	164,828	200,168	364,995	536,000
Community	8,522	5,000	13,522	29,668
Individual	789,946	101,359	900,304	402,230
Corporate	145,281	0	145,281	72,727
Cy Pres	120,249	0	120,249	0
Special Events, net	0	0	0	755,942
Total Contributed Revenue	1,993,295	306,526	2,299,821	2,453,577
Total Other Revenue	262,311	47	262,357	13,488
Released from Restrictions	622,503	(622,503)	0	0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$2,878,108</b>	<b>(\$315,930)</b>	<b>\$2,562,179</b>	<b>\$2,467,065</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>				
Program	\$1,563,639	\$0	\$1,563,639	\$1,325,781
Management & General	371,527	0	371,527	139,783
Fundraising	157,542	0	157,542	361,683
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$2,092,708</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$2,092,708</b>	<b>\$1,827,247</b>

## FY19-20 Operational Revenue by Category\*



\*Includes revenue released from current and prior years

## FY19-20 Operational Expenses by Category



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Thank you to our board members who completed service in 2020: Allison Eisenhardt, Lisa Spinali, and Jennifer Young Perlman

## Staff

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 Gabby Bayol - *Case Supervisor & Juvenile Justice Coordinator*  
 Theodora Liebhart - *Case Supervisor*  
 Victoria Rennie - *Case Supervisor*  
 Leticia Palacios - *Case Supervisor*  
 Christina Lee - *Case Supervisor*  
 Jessica Yost - *Administrative Assistant*  
 Nemo - *Court Dog*

Thank you to longtime Executive Director Renee Espinoza, who left SFCASA in 2020.

# Individual Donors

SFCASA is grateful for the continued support of our individual donors. In an unexpected year without our Fostering Change Gala, our donors stepped up to ensure our youth had the advocates they needed.

## \$50,000 +

Anonymous

## \$25,000-\$49,999

Allison and Aneel Bhusri

Heather Hughes and John Botti

## \$10,000-\$24,999

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Meredith Benedict  
Tiffany Bindoo  
Laura and Charles Bisesto  
Caitlin Blythe  
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Matthew Brady and Maureen Green  
Pierre and Maria Breber  
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David Yau

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SFCASA could not do our work without the consistent backing of our corporate and organizational donors. We are so thankful to have these esteemed organizations on our side, in this challenging year and beyond. Thank you for your continued and increased support.

## \$100,000 +

Davis Wright Tremaine, LLP  
Governor's Office of Emergency Services  
Silver Giving Foundation

## \$50,000 - \$99,999

Department of Children, Youth, and Their Families (DCYF)  
George H. Sandy Foundation  
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# Our Volunteers

CASA Volunteers are the heart and soul of the organization. Advocates in blue below have more than ten years of dedicated service, while volunteers in red have five or more years of advocacy.

Anne Ackerman	Regan Catanzaro	Jena Donlin	Pamela Hawley
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Rachel Balik	Tristen Chang	Alice Eastman	Teresa Hoover
Erica Barbanel	May Chang	Jennifer Edell	Raakin Hossain
Monica Bathija	Joya Choudhuri	Ali El-Awady	Shelly Howard
Marta Bayol	Neal Chuenprateep	Melanie Emmons	Sydney Howell
Wendy Bear	Nancy Chung	Margaret Englesbe	Wilson Hsieh
Dana Behan	Alagia Cirolia	Kristy Farrell	Lynn Huang
Barbara Bella	Marissa Clapp	Hannah Fenton	Caroline Jing
Meredith Benedict	Hilary Clark	Leah Fine	Carolyn Johnston
Beth Berliner	Luke Clark Tyler	Eamon Foley	Rajbir Kaur
Megan Black	Vicki Clewes	Angelina Forte	Gail Kavanagh
Felicity Blance	Tom Colin	Nancy Fowler	Alex Kean
Elyse Blatt	Casey Comings	Nichole Gabriel	Robert Keehan
Matthew Boden	Mara Conheim	Lynda Gammell	Erin Kellerhals
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Honni Marks  
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Gwen Peake  
Antonio Pereira  
Hilary Petee  
Sarah Pfingsten  
Deborah Pierce  
Jon Piper  
Hallie Pond  
Will Portnof  
Jen Poza  
Teera Price  
Kristine Quiroz  
Nikki Radov  
Adithi Rajagopalan  
Puja Rao  
Cailin Ravina  
Catherine Reilly  
Wolf Rendall  
Matt Riley  
Michael Riley  
Maggie Roberts  
Alice Robinson  
Gerardo Rodriguez  
Allison Roeser  
Christine Rogers  
Bethany Rogers  
Mark Roh  
Monique Rojas  
Cecilia Romero



Bella Rowe  
Ayushi Roy  
Annie Rummelhoff  
Loui Sagastume  
Sina Salem  
Rachel Salinas  
Pushpa Samuel  
Mark Sanford  
Bonnie Sarchet  
Amanda Schapel  
Susan Scheer  
Lara Schiffrin-Sands  
Rachel Schindler  
Cassandra Schnupp  
Bonnie Schwartz  
Joe Sciortino  
Michael Scott  
Rachel Seftel  
Meredith Seiberlich  
Vanessa Seidler  
Lillian Seu  
Esha Shah  
Georgia Shaw  
Lauren Sidle  
Sibley Silcox  
Violet Sinclair  
Evan Smith  
Tara Soltow  
Kelly Sparks  
Annie Steele  
Rachel Steinberg  
Edward Steinman  
Jennifer Sterbenz  
Hannah Stombler-Levine  
Dan Storz  
Blyth Strachman  
Kate Sturla

Chloe Sugarman  
Nina Swanson  
April Swenson  
Jaime Szeftc  
Bill Tankovich  
Camilla Taufic  
Marcy Taylor  
Pete Taylor  
Blair Tilghman  
Janine Trame  
Julie Tursi  
Ganna Tymko  
Christine Unruh  
Ava Van der Meer  
Stanley Van Velsor  
Colin Varn  
Natalya Vaynberg  
Caroline Vissers  
Evelyn Wang  
Danielle Waters  
Rebecca Weissburg  
Uma Welingkar  
Jessica Welsh  
Katherine Wheeler  
Oliver White  
Lauren White  
Alisa Williams  
Hannah Joy Wirshing  
Elle Wohlmut  
Kate Woodruff  
Lorraine Woodruff-Long  
Joy Xi  
Beryl Yan  
Grace Yang  
Heidi Young  
Quincy Yu  
Fereshteh Zahedi

EVENTS

# Youth Holiday Party

SFCASA's youth holiday party was back for another year of holiday fun! Advocates and youth decorated cookies, played bingo, had their faces painted and posed for the picture booth. They shared a delicious meal with festive holiday treats, and walked away with gifts, handcrafted keepsakes, balloon animals and plenty of memories. Even Nemo was there, sporting his holiday best!



Clockwise from top: One of our youth gets the star treatment with a team of hairstylists working on her hair; An advocate and youth working on crafts together; Nemo poses for photos; Yummy treats from Cakes4Kids; Cookie decorating!

## San Francisco Conservatory of Music Benefit

SFCM graduates Sarah Nadreau and Taylor Chan enchanted guests with their renditions of operatic classics, musical theater tunes, and beloved Gershwin hits during their benefit concert. With impressive wardrobe changes between each set and an array of musical stylings, it was certainly a night to remember.



Mezzo-soprano Sarah Nadreau and pianist Taylor Chan performing during the San Francisco Conservatory of Music benefit.



A packed house of advocates, board members, staff and community partners enjoy the party.

## Advocate Appreciation Party

Cioppino's hosted another fabulous Advocate Appreciation party this year! The delicious Italian spread accompanied CASA Superlative awards, fun door prize drawings, and remarks from judges, social workers, and attorneys who see the impact our advocates have every day.



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San Francisco CASA  
2535 Mission Street  
San Francisco, CA 94110

415-398-8001

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[www.sfcasa.org](http://www.sfcasa.org)



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San Francisco CASA is a member of the National CASA/GAL Association and the California CASA Association.

This publication was supported by funding awarded by the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Victim Assistance Formula Grant Program (2018-V2-GX-0029) through the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES).

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