

Organization Information

Legal Name

Voices for Children

DBA (if Applicable)

N/A

Program Name/Title

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program

Brief Program Description

Voices for Children (VFC) fills a critical gap in the foster care system by providing children with Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteers who serve one child at a time and learn the child's needs, identify beneficial services, and advocate for them in court, healthcare settings, school, and elsewhere.

Service Area

Bonsall

De Luz

Fallbrook

Rainbow

Number of residents that directly benefit (participant/client) from this program.

17

What language(s) does this program accommodate:

English

Spanish

Target Population - Age

	Percent of program participants	Number of participants
Children (infants to 12)	71	12
Young Adults (13-17)	23	4
Adults (18-60)	6	1

	Percent of program participants	Number of participants
Seniors (60+)		
We do not collect this data (indicate with 100%)*		

Target Population not collected - Age

NA

Target Population - Gender

	Percent of program participants
Female	47
Male	53
Non-binary/other	
Unknown*	

*Target Population - Gender

NA

Target Population - Income Level

	Percent of program participants
Extremely Low-Income Limits, ceiling of \$32,100	100
Very Low (50%) Income Limits, ceiling of \$53,500	
Low (80%) Income Limits, ceiling of \$85,600	
Higher Than Listed Limits	
We do not collect this data (indicate with 100%)*	

*Target Population - Income Level

NA

What demographic group does this program predominately serve:

Youth - other setting

Program/Services Description - Social Determinants of Health

Education Access & Quality (Early Childhood Education and Development, Enrollment in Higher Education, High School Graduation, Language and Literacy)

Healthcare Access & Quality (Access to Health Care, Access to Primary Care, Health Literacy)

Program Objectives & Measurable Outcomes

The goal of the project will be to provide CASA advocacy services to 18 children in foster care from the Fallbrook Regional Health District and monitor the cases of the children in the Fallbrook Regional Health District who do not require CASA advocacy. To achieve this goal, VFC will accomplish the following objectives in fiscal year (FY) 2025–26:

Objective No. 1: By June 30, 2026, VFC will match 18 children from the Fallbrook Regional Health District, including six funded through this grant, with CASA volunteers who will advocate on their behalf. At least 18 children will receive individualized advocacy from a CASA. This will be measured through an order from the court documenting the assignment of each CASA to the case of a child from the Fallbrook Regional Health District. VFC will track our progress by uploading court documentation of CASA assignments to each child's case profile in CASA Manager, our database and case management system. Thus far, VFC has matched at least 18 children from the Fallbrook Regional Health District with their own dedicated CASA volunteers. Each child has benefited from their relationship with a caring and consistent adult.

Objective No 2: By June 30, 2026, VFC will recruit and train 18 new CASA volunteers. At least 18 prospective CASA volunteers will complete Advocate University, VFC's intensive CASA training program. This will be measured through internal volunteer records, which will document completion of training requirements. VFC will track each CASA trainee's progress in CASA Manager. Thus far this fiscal year, VFC has recruited, screened, and trained 145 new CASA volunteers. These CASA volunteers are now advocating on behalf of vulnerable San Diego County children in foster care.

Objective No. 3: By June 30, 2026, VFC will provide Juvenile Court judges with comprehensive reports at each regularly scheduled hearing, typically held every six months, on behalf of CASA-served children in foster care. At least 18 court reports will be submitted to judges on behalf of children in foster care, enabling judges to make more informed decisions about the children and their needs. This will be measured through the San Diego County Juvenile Electronic Library System (JELS), the program that court reports are submitted through. Thus far in the fiscal year, at least 14 court reports have been filed on behalf of Fallbrook Regional Health District children in foster care.

Please upload an Impact Story (Word doc or pdf preferred).



VFC CASA Success Story.pdf

FRHD Acknowledgment

Other

FRHD Acknowledgment



VFC Impact Report Supplement.pdf

Program Budget



VFC 25-26 Q3 budget.xlsx

Please type the name of the person submitting this report.

Brian Hutchins

CASA Ginny: An Infant's Survival

CASA Ginny was assigned to Mia*, a 7-month-old infant, in early September 2025. Born at just 23 weeks, Mia entered the world facing overwhelming medical challenges and testing positive for amphetamines, methamphetamines, and opiates at birth. Her mother later admitted to active methamphetamine use and a 15-year history of weekly substance use. Due to her extreme prematurity and chronic lung disease, Mia has spent her entire life thus far in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU). Early on, medical professionals feared Mia would need lifelong ventilation and were uncertain whether she would survive beyond four months.

CASA Ginny, a 12-year CASA veteran, was assigned to Mia when she was just six weeks old. Now nine months old, Mia has made remarkable improvements in her medical condition. Throughout her hospitalization, CASA Ginny has been by her side every week—often several days at a time—holding her, comforting her, and serving as a consistent human connection while Mia's parents were no longer involved. Ginny frequently reads to her, including a letter written by Mia's aunt encouraging her to grow and live. She provides weekly updates to Mia's social worker and attorney and carefully coordinates with nurses and doctors, asking thoughtful questions to ensure the entire team has the most accurate picture of Mia's development. With special permission from the social worker, Ginny even washes Mia's clothes weekly to care for her in ways that go beyond medical treatment. According to the hospital social worker, Mia's survival beyond her initial four-month prognosis can be partially attributed to Ginny's consistent presence. During a court hearing in early February 2026, Mia's attorney publicly thanked CASA Ginny, and the judge herself noted how impressed she was by Ginny's advocacy after reviewing the court report.



Despite overwhelming medical challenges, Mia has shown remarkable resilience—and CASA Ginny has gone above and beyond to surround her with the love and attention she needed to survive. Ginny reports that Mia has made significant progress, and doctors now predict she will be discharged from the NICU within the coming weeks. Mia's social worker has already identified a loving set of caregivers ready to welcome her once she leaves the hospital. Ginny has shared her excitement to continue advocating for Mia as she transitions into her placement. During every visit, Ginny reminds Mia that she is brave, strong, and deeply loved. Her commitment exemplifies the profound impact a CASA volunteer can have on a child's life—and the life-changing difference made possible through your support.

**Names and images have been changed to preserve confidentiality. Mia has not yet experienced the outdoors—but she will soon, thanks in part to CASA Ginny and your support.*



Voices for Children

November 18, 2025 · 🌐



We are grateful for the continued support of the **Fallbrook Regional Health District**, whose generosity enables Voices for Children to empower CASA volunteers to advocate for children in foster care. ❤️

Your support makes a meaningful difference in the lives of vulnerable children in North San Diego County, helping them heal from trauma and access the resources they need to thrive.

#ThankYou #ChildAdvocacy #CASA #VoicesForChildren #FallbrookCares #CommunitySupport #FallbrookHe... See more



You and 9 others

4

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California Governor's Office of
Emergency Services
William M. Gillies III Charitable Fund
at Morgan Stanley GIFT

\$200,000+

Anonymous (2)
Focusing Philanthropy

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Joan* and Irwin Jacobs ✨
The JEM Project
Thomas Lafleur
MG Properties Group
Qualcomm Incorporated
San Diego County District
Attorney's Office
Karen and Michael Stone/The
Michael and Karen Stone
Family Foundation, Inc.
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Family Charitable Fund at
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San Diego Foundation
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Jill Skrezyna and Alex Sun
Vanguard Charitable
Lany and Alex Zikakis

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and The Honorable Thomas
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ADP TotalSource
David Barragan
City of Chula Vista
City of Vista
Kathy Dunlap and F. Thomas
Dunlap/Dunlap Family Charitable
Fund at Fidelity Charitable
Ann Parode Dynes/Ann Parode
Dynes Fund at San Diego
Foundation 🌱

Fallbrook Regional Health District

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Katherine and Michael Nicoletti
Helen and Kenneth Rosevear
St. Germaine Children's Charity
Wyndham Hotel Group, LLC

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AlphaCore Capital LLC
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Patricia Cohen
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(CEP & NRP)
Day for Change
Frank Denison Revocable Trust
Stacy and Joshua Eckels
Gina and Ray Ellis
Sarah and Robert Esch
P. Randolph Finch Jr., Esq. and
Cambra Finch
Finch, Thornton & Baird, LLP



IMPACT REPORT FY2024-2025
SAN DIEGO COUNTY SUPPLEMENT



Voices for
Children

45 Years of Speaking Up for San Diego's Children

For 45 years, Voices for Children (VFC) has been a powerful advocate for children in San Diego County's child welfare and juvenile justice systems. Through its Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program, VFC ensures children in foster care have a consistent, caring adult by their side — someone who listens, speaks up, and stands up for their needs.

What began in 1980 by law student Kathryn Ashworth and social worker Elizabeth Bacon has grown into one of the nation's most comprehensive CASA programs. Initially focused on providing judges with vital case information, VFC expanded rapidly in response to surging numbers of children entering foster care. The organization introduced innovative approaches: regional case management, flexible volunteer training, and data-driven practices, all aimed at reaching more children with greater efficiency and focus.

VFC now serves children from birth through age 21, thanks to public and private support. Specialized services include advocacy for infants and toddlers, early assignment of CASAs to new cases, and support for young adults in extended foster care. In recent years, the CASA model expanded into the juvenile justice system, providing consistent, compassionate advocacy for youth navigating complex challenges.

Last year alone, over 1,206 children received personalized support from more than 800 trained CASA volunteers. These dedicated advocates participated in court hearings and Child and Family Team meetings, collaborating with professionals to ensure each child's voice was heard. CASA volunteers are equipped to address issues like trauma, behavioral health, disrupted education, and family instability, always with the goal of safe, permanent, and loving homes.

VFC's work aligns with kin-first culture, reflecting a modern, child-centered approach

that prioritizes family preservation and timely reunification. CASA volunteers are recognized as essential partners in the child welfare system, earning the trust and praise of numerous community partners. To deepen our local impact, VFC has staff support in every juvenile court and provides region-specific support for CASA volunteers, ensuring children receive effective, culturally competent advocacy across all communities, including rural and border regions of San Diego County.

Collaboration is at the heart of VFC's success. The organization plays a key role in more than a dozen committees and task forces, informing policies and practices that shape the future of child welfare. None of this would be possible without the tireless commitment of volunteers, staff, partners, donors, and community leaders working together to protect and uplift our most vulnerable children.

As we look to the future, VFC remains committed to expanding access to high-quality advocacy. Every child deserves a trusted adult by their side, and with your support, we can ensure no child in San Diego County faces the child welfare or juvenile justice systems alone.

THIS YEAR IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY

July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

- **1,206** children received a CASA volunteer
- **880** community members served as CASA volunteers
- **426** children in foster care received a VFC staff advocate
- **61** children received a CASA through Voices for Children's Juvenile Justice Program, one of the most established programs in the nation

PROGRAM IMPACT: FROM ADVERSITY TO ACHIEVEMENT

When a child enters foster care, their world can feel uncertain and out of their control. But when a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) steps in, new possibilities take shape. CASA Will became that advocate for “Jack”, and together, they turned a vision for the future into a life-changing reality.

Jack was placed in foster care as a teenager, carrying with him not just the weight of past trauma, but also an extraordinary drive to succeed. From their first meeting in early 2022, CASA Will connected with Jack over art, Boba tea, and a shared love of movies. CASA Will quickly became a trusted adult in Jack’s life and an essential source of educational support and stability. After Jack moved to a residential and educational campus for youth in foster care, he began to thrive socially and academically. By the end of the year, CASA Will was appointed as Jack’s co-educational rights holder, allowing him to play an even more active role in supporting Jack’s learning goals and academic progress.

In the spring of 2023, Jack shared his desire to transfer to a more rigorous academic environment. He expressed that he was not feeling challenged in his current coursework and dreamed of attending a school that offered advanced learning opportunities, ideally with a performing arts program. Jack had big aspirations, including graduating from high school, attending college, continuing his education abroad, and one day moving to South Korea. CASA Will took his aspirations seriously. He researched alternative high schools, asked questions, attended meetings, and explored every option to support Jack’s vision. Together, they identified a local arts and sciences high school with a rigorous academic program focused on college readiness and creative expression.



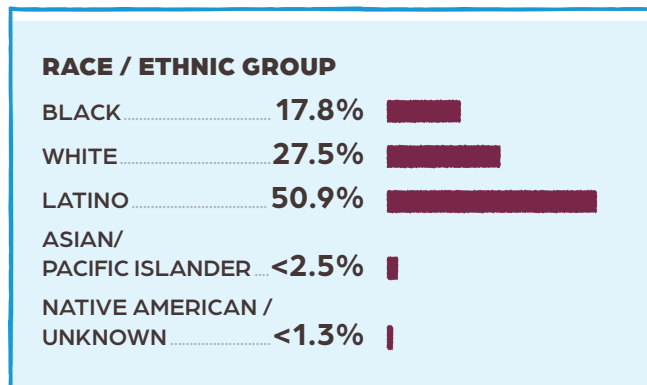
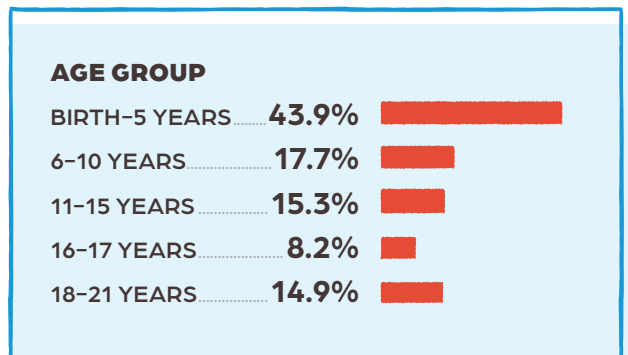
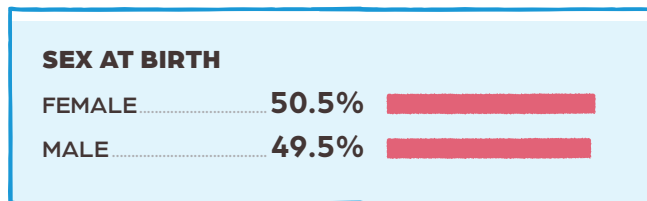
Jack was accepted, but they faced a new obstacle: getting permission to attend an off-site school and coordinating daily transportation. When the request for transportation was denied less than two weeks before the start of the new school year, Jack was crushed but not defeated. CASA Will immediately took action, informing Jack’s attorney, and with the support of the San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program (SDVLP), a special court hearing was held. The Court ruled in Jack’s favor, recognizing that this educational path was in his best interest.

Since that pivotal moment, Jack’s achievements have been remarkable. He graduated in June 2025 with a 4.06 GPA and was accepted to several universities, including his top choice, the University of Southern California. He enrolled in the fall and is currently participating in extended foster care as he transitions to college life with the continued support of his CASA, Will.

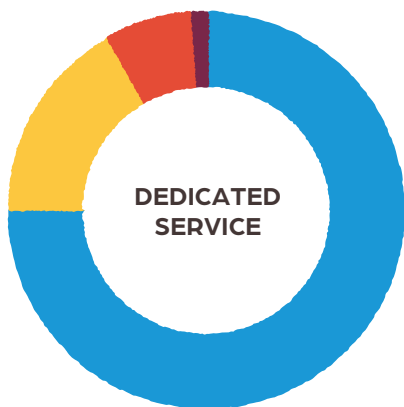
Jack’s journey demonstrates the powerful impact a CASA can have, not just as a supportive adult but as a relentless advocate for a young person’s voice, goals, and future. When a CASA listens, believes, and does everything in their power to help a child reach their potential, dreams once thought impossible can become true.

OUR COMMUNITY'S CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY ON JULY 1, 2025



Inspirational Volunteerism



- 0-4 YEARS: 76%
- 5-9 YEARS: 17%
- 10-19 YEARS: 7%
- 20+ YEARS: <1%

THE GIFT OF TIME

87,000
HOURS VOLUNTEERED

STEPPING UP

224
Dedicated community members became CASAs this year, completing Advocate University, Voices for Children's comprehensive training program for new CASA volunteers.

Source: Webster, D., Lee, S., Dawson, W., Magruder, J., Exel, M., Cuccaro-Alamin, S., Putnam-Hornstein, E., Wiegmann, W., Saika, G., Courtney, M., Eastman, A.L., Hammond, I., Gomez, A., Gomez Hernandez, F., Guo, S., Agarwal, A., Berwick, H., Lu, F., Hoerl, C., Yee, H., Gonzalez, A., Ensele, P., Nevin, J., & Michel, J. (2024)

CCWIP reports. Retrieved Aug 20, 2025, from University of California at Berkeley California Child Welfare Indicators Project website. URL: <https://ccwip.berkeley.edu>



Our Volunteers

Our CASA volunteers are the heart and soul of our mission. Coming from all backgrounds and walks of life, they share a commitment to speaking up for our community's most vulnerable children. The following individuals served during FY24–25 and have been dedicated Voices for Children volunteers for five or more years.

45+ YEARS

Kathryn Ashworth

20+ YEARS

Stacy Bond
Genevieve Knych–Rohan
Kim Neilson

10+ YEARS

Kavita Agarwal
Brenda Aguas
Melanie Allen
Paul Arenson
Aneesa Baker
Patricia Billins
Jessica Blankemeier
Robert Borthwick
Bonnie Burke
Karen Bush
Ginger Chasteene
Sally Cohenour
Sue Cox
Lis Dukesherer
Heather Duncan
Barbara Eikner
Cecilia Fernandez
Nynke Fortuin
Joe Gieda
Mariana Giraldez
Valerie Herrera
Jane Herrick
Amy Hoffman
Jenna Hough
Sharon Humphreys
Hilary Isakow
Kelley Jhung
Mary Ann Jones
Janet Katz
Kathe Klare
Joseph Knece
Eva Lagudi–Devereux

Marc Lawrence
Brandee Leath
Mark Lewis
Jere McInerney
Sonya McMahon
Phyllis Meredith
Bruce Meyer
Bob Morris
Suzanne Norris
Jeff Noyes
Sally Ogilvie
Katherine Randazzo
Tim Riley
Marcia Sachs
Geri Sander
Jenny Sharratt
Elizabeth Spillane
Ellen Springall
Kamla Topsey–Tilley
Michelle Vollrath
Laura Weston
Jennifer Wilbur
Barbara Winicki
Don Wood
Doug Woods

5+ YEARS

Cynthia Adams
Carina Affinito
Lois Andrews
Annie Atencio
Margaret Banez
Nigel Barker
Christy Bartlett
Wendy Bassett
Janet Bergland
Jim Beverett
Pam Beverett
Rachel Bilodeau
Dave Braggs
Reginold Branch
Dave Broad
Rita Burke

Margret Burroughs
Yi–Liang Chen
Jose Contreras
Veronica Cox
Laurel Cummings
Dina Dagy
Debbie Datria
Mike Davies
Katie Demorest
Maggie DuRoss
Peggy Easterling
Kelly Eherenfeldt
Erin Evans
Maren Fitzgibbons
Adelaide Flanagan
Vanessa Forsythe
Jennifer Freyer
Andrea Gandelman
Anne Gardner
Kate Gibson
Allan Ginsberg
Anna Glynne
Joan Goodman
Amelia Grattan
Karen Gross
Bonnie Grossman
Dinora Guadarrama
Sue Gwizdak
Virginia Hancock
Chris Haupt
Jamie Herde
Cori Herrera
Barry Hill
Petrea Hodge
Sara Holmes
Alyssa Hom
Juli Horka–Ruiz
Sylvia Hostetler
Stephanie Jimenez
Chalsie Keller
Laura King
Heather Kostyzak
Sherri Kredich
Sagary Krulce

Our Volunteers

Jen Kuklenski
Pete Lagasse
Dottie Ledesma
Myra Lerma
Lauren Leventer
Carole Levin
Shelby Lloyd
Jaimi Lomas Haney
Karen Lopez
Simon Lynn
Connor Madden
Elizabeth Mariscal
Craig Marschinke
Sandra McKay-Billion
Jackie McQuarrie
Patricia Millan
Erik Miller
Stacie Mittelman
Matt Morscheck
Dana Murphy
Dina Nagib
Shannon O'Connor
Maria O'Donnell
Seda Onek
Lee Ann Otto
Devina Pacheco
Brie Peixoto
Luis Peña
Audrey Porcella
Lisa Potter

Ann Powell
Emily Ramirez
Brandon Randolph
Sheila Reilly
Mary Reynolds
Suzanne Richardson
Linda Richardson Lowman
Randy Riley
Shannon Rodrigue
Kimberly Rodriguez
Star Roop
Jesus Sanchez
Luke Schlimme
Eli Schneider
Deb Schrakamp
Gwen Schwimmer
Alice Sealy
Leah Semann
Erin Sensibaugh
Iisha Sethi
Janet Shanberge
Teri Sharp
Sarah Shekhter
Kim Shores
Bill Shovers
Joe Shultz
Jean Skobljar
Patricia Smith
Michael Snare
Beth Sneyd

Charlene Stanley
Cary Stillwater
Diane Stockton
Cathy Suhovecky
Leslie Swerbilow
Lina Thomas
Jen Tipton
Jaleesa Torres
Evan Tucker
Carl Tulberg
Kathy Urbanic
Kelly Valencia
Jeanell VanDusen
Joyce Waller
Brendan Walsh
Rebecca Warbrick
Jennifer Watkinson
Chris Watson
Lauren Weidner
Katherine White
Lexi Wiggins
Kelly Wilkinson
Marla Williams
Deanna Winslow
Lori Wraase
Peter Yang
Katrina Young
Wendy Zwicker



CASA VICTORIA A. | Became a CASA: 2024

When 15-year-old "Rosalia" entered foster care in 2024, she was facing upheaval—placement changes, loss of family connection, and the everyday struggles of being a teen. CASA Victoria stepped in with a steady presence and empathy. From driving Rosalia to appointments to listening through tears, Victoria built trust and showed what true advocacy looks like. Through conflicts, honest conversations, and joyful outings, Rosalia knew she wasn't alone. At a recent meeting, Rosalia shared: "CASA Victoria is the one person I can call... she makes me feel safe and okay again."



Our Supporters

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Lany and Alex Zikakis

\$15,000+

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City of San Diego CPPS

City of Santee CDBG
Compu-Care Management &
Systems, Inc.
Corient
County of San Diego District 3 (NRP)
Gigi and Ed* Cramer
Carolyn and Gerald Davee
Nancy and George Davis
Megan and Sergio Delgado
Kelly Capen Douglas and
Jeffrey Douglas
Nancy Banning Doyle and
David Doyle
Michele Drake
Cameron Eckstein
Justina and Lindsay Estrada
Leah and Edward Estrin
Drs. François Ferré and
Magda Marquet
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🌱 *San Diego Foundation*

✨ *The Jewish Community Foundation*

* *Deceased*

If you have any questions or corrections to your listing, please contact us at giving@speakupnow.org



CASA BART M. | Became a CASA: 2024

Assigned to "Derrick" in 2024, CASA Bart quickly realized that true advocacy meant supporting not only Derrick, who is neurodivergent and mostly non-verbal, but also his hardworking mother. He secured in-home care that eased her burden and strengthened family stability. CASA Bart also built a meaningful bond with Derrick through consistent visits, including his favorite activity—riding the trolley and enjoying chicken nuggets from McDonald's. CASA Bart's advocacy is grounded in the belief that recognizing and valuing everyone involved in a child's life is essential, as their efforts multiply when they feel appreciated.

Our Supporters

IN-KIND SUPPORT

We are grateful to the following donors who made in-kind contributions between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025.

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The following were honored by their loved ones with gifts between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025.

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USS Midway Museum
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Xtreme Youth

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FRHD CHC GRANT BUDGET REPORTING FORM

Agency Name:

Voices for Children

PROGRAM NAME:

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program

The main categories align with the budget submitted with your application. Aggregate totals are all that should be reported under each heading.

1)	A	INDIRECT EXPENSES:	PROGRAM COST	REQUESTED FROM FRHD	<i>AMOUNT USED Q1</i>	<i>AMOUNT USED Q2</i>	<i>AMOUNT USED Q3</i>	<i>AMOUNT USED Q4</i>
		TOTAL INDIRECT EXPENSE	\$20,316.00	\$0.00				
	B	PERSONNEL EXPENSES - PROGRAM SPECIFIC	PROGRAM COST	REQUESTED FROM FRHD	<i>AMOUNT USED Q1</i>	<i>AMOUNT USED Q2</i>	<i>AMOUNT USED Q3</i>	<i>AMOUNT USED Q4</i>
		TOTAL PERSONNEL EXPENSE	\$39,096.00	\$15,000.00	\$3,375.00	\$3,375.00	\$3,375.00	
	C	DIRECT PROGRAM EXPENSES	PROGRAM COST	REQUESTED FROM FRHD	<i>AMOUNT USED Q1</i>	<i>AMOUNT USED Q2</i>	<i>AMOUNT USED Q3</i>	<i>AMOUNT USED Q4</i>
		TOTAL OTHER EXPENSES	\$2,758.00	\$0.00				
	D	TOTALS	PROGRAM COST	FRHD Funds Awarded	Total Amount Q1	Total Amount Q2	Total Amount Q3	Total Amount Q4
			\$62,170.00	\$13,500.00	\$3,375.00	\$3,375.00	\$3,375.00	\$0.00

 Total funds expended to date: **\$10,125.00**