It is my honor to present this report on the twelve months of our Fiscal Year 2017-2018, between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018, a year that launched a major transformation of the California CASA Association. On November 1, 2017, Sharon Lawrence became our CEO after more than 20 years as leader of Voices for Children in San Diego/Riverside counties—one of the nation’s largest and most successful CASA programs. With her arrival, our Board of Directors has joined her in setting our sights high. Our state has more foster children than any in the nation, and thus we have an enormous responsibility to help make life better for these abused, neglected boys and girls. Each one of them deserves the life-changing advocacy that only a CASA volunteer can provide.

I am grateful to the California CASA Association staff and to my fellow Board members for their uncompromising leadership and their visionary willingness to tackle every challenge we face. I am also deeply appreciative of each foundation, corporation, individual, and government agency that has stepped forward with generous contributions and grants to help make this vision a reality.

It truly does “take a village” to raise a child, even more so when that child is living within the overburdened, underfunded foster care system in our state. Thus, I save my most profound thanks for the 8,400 California men and women who serve as CASA volunteers and who are changing lives, one child at a time. California CASA salutes you!

James Hatter
Chair, Board of Directors
GROWING AND CHANGING
TO SERVE EVERY CHILD

Dear Friends,

Every child deserves to grow up in a warm, loving home. They deserve stability and protection from harm. They should never be made to deal with adult issues or know the devastation of being victimized by abuse, neglect, or abandonment. But every day and in so many unthinkable ways, California children are suffering. California CASA exists to strengthen the 44 local CASA programs operating in 51 of our 58 counties statewide. Our advocacy for resources, our trainings, and our policy work are done with a single focus: supporting our CASA network so they can provide the life-altering services of CASA volunteers to our foster children.

In the pages that follow, you’ll read about some exciting accomplishments of our Association and inspirational stories about how our local programs are making a difference. I am pleased to report that California CASA saw several important victories during FY2017-2018. We worked hard to clear a path for CASA programs to receive Victims of Crime Act funds funneled from the federal government to states, which until recently had not been possible, since children in foster care were not deemed “victims” per the state’s definition. However, we were able to change that definition in 2016 and CASA programs in California were awarded $7,716,640 over five years. In 2017, California CASA led an initiative to secure an additional $4,000,000 in VOCA funds for local programs. We assisted with application submittals and in June 2018, all 44 programs were awarded grants of $78,000 or $102,000 depending on program size. This was an exceptional achievement by California CASA. We also advocated that Governor Jerry Brown’s proposal to the Judicial Council include a $500,000 increase in funding for local CASA programs. This victory represents a 23% increase to $2,713,000.

I am proud that our effective advocacy in 2018 resulted in the passage of Senate Bill 925. This legislation was initiated by California CASA. Within less than a year, the bill, authored by Senator Jim Beall (CA-15), moved through the legislature and resulted in CASAs now being mandated participants in the critical Child and Family Team meetings with foster youth, family members, and social workers.

I wholeheartedly believe that CASAs can help change the world ... one child at a time. And I know that there will come a day when we can provide a CASA to every child in California foster care who needs one. Like each of you, I wish that compassion was the only currency needed to propel our dreams forward and bring the impossible within reach. But our ambitious vision to Serve Every Child in California will test us, challenge us, and push us harder than ever before. We’ll need to launch new programs, hire more professionals, raise more funds, expand marketing, and persuade legislators and government officials of the power and cost-efficiency of CASAs as integral to the child welfare system. We must keep going and keep growing until we reach every California child who needs our help. It won’t be easy. But I fervently believe that together, we can do this.

To the network’s Executive Directors, Boards, CASA volunteers, advocacy professionals, local CASA staff, administrative support teams, and everyone in between, I thank you for your dedicated service, which is allowing children to rediscover the wonder of our world and to imagine life’s possibilities. I’m honored to be your CEO and work alongside you in advancing this important cause. This is an exciting time for California CASA and our network, but I know that we’re just getting started. Thank you for making it all possible!

With my heartfelt gratitude,

Sharon M. Lawrence, Esq.
CEO, California CASA

“If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder without any such gift from the fairies, he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement, and mystery of the world we live in.”

– RACHEL CARSON
We must keep going and keep growing until we reach every California child who needs our help.

There are more abused, neglected children in California foster care than any state in the nation. They range from newborns to young adults up to age 21, nearly equally divided by boys and girls, and almost all of them removed from their biological families because of abuse, abandonment, or neglect. They can be found in large and small cities, towns, and communities up and down the state, and are united by their need for a safe, permanent place to live and at least one trusted adult to help them through the traumas of the foster care system.

687,000
U.S. Foster Children

11.2%
Percentage of U.S. Foster Children Living in California

Welcome to California
Foster Children 77,000

The Need

The Impact of Foster Care on Society

What happens when foster youth “age out”? 

50% Graduate High School

3% Graduate 4-Year College

25% Experience Criminal Justice System after leaving Foster Care

40% Experience Homelessness within 18 months of leaving the system

50% Are Unemployed by age 24

38% Receive Public Assistance by age 21
California CASA aims to share experience, wisdom, and expertise with the entire network of local programs through targeted trainings, so that every region has the tools they need to do the best job possible for their CASAs and foster youth.

## CASA Advocacy: A Cost-Effective Solution

On average, it costs only $2,000 to $2,500 per year to recruit, train, and supervise a CASA volunteer to serve a foster child. Compare that to the enormous societal costs without the kind of advocacy, mentorship, and support that only a CASA can provide. For example, it costs an average of about $81,000 per year to incarcerate an inmate in prison in California, according to the Legislative Analyst’s Office.

### In California, These Services Were Delivered in 2017:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foster Children Served</td>
<td>13,214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active CASA Volunteers Statewide</td>
<td>8,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Hours Contributed by CASA Volunteers</td>
<td>585,358</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Value of Service Hours by CASA in One Year</td>
<td>$14,130,542</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Independent Sector rate of $24.14/hr.

## The Network

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Local CASA Programs In California’s network</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff Members Employed by local CASA programs statewide</td>
<td>451</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counties Served by CASA programs</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California’s children in dependency currently served by California’s CASA Network</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

California CASA

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*CALIFORNIA CASA FY2017/2018 IMPACT REPORT*
California CASA is focused on providing support to every local program from the farthest northern counties among the redwoods at the border of Oregon to the southern and easternmost counties bordering Mexico, Arizona, and Nevada. Karen Finan, Program Director, is the lead staff member who ably manages services to the entire network, along with Janel Brown, Data and Technology Manager, and the other members of the staff. Supporting a network in a state that covers 800 miles from north to south entails a considerable amount of travel and electronic communication, as well as periodic convenings to bring together local program leaders to exchange ideas.

**TRAINING**
An essential purpose of California CASA is to share experience, wisdom, and expertise with the network of 44 local programs through targeted trainings, so that every region has the tools they need to do the best job possible for their CASAs and foster youth. Among the trainings in FY2017-2018: Creating a Trauma-Informed Workplace, Tracy Fauver, Executive Director of CASA of Yolo County, 9/22/17; Recent Trends in Dependency Law, Georgina Dews and Allison Cruz, 2/7/18; Recent Laws and Advocacy for Foster Youth Receiving Psychotropic Medications, Anna Johnson, 5/18/18; Cultural Humility, Beverly Kyer, 6/6/18; Alphabet Soup: Understanding the Benefits for Children in Foster Care, Angie Schwartz, 6/29/18; National CASA’s “Train-the-Facilitators” training on new NCASA volunteer training protocol (program hosted by California CASA), 6/10 and 6/11/18.

**CONVENING**
Bringing together local CASA staff to network and share experiences is an important role for California CASA, especially given the vast geography of our state. In FY2017-2018, three convenings took place: Far North Region (Mt. Shasta), 9/27 and 9/28/17; Central Region (Monterey), 11/16 and 11/17/17; and the annual statewide convening of Executive Directors (San Diego), 12/18/17.

**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**
On an ongoing basis, California CASA staff and consultants stand ready to provide technical assistance to the local programs on such topics as program management, training, recruitment, marketing, fundraising, human resources, and finance. There were 1,375 hours of such assistance provided to the network in FY2017-2018. One important service is legal counsel, provided by two attorneys, Allison Cruz and Georgina Dews, who are engaged by California CASA and available to all local programs that need legal advice. In addition, Sharon Lawrence, an attorney, has provided legal counsel as appropriate along with the Honorable Carol Isackson, who is a retired juvenile court judge.

**PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATIONS PROJECT**
This important multiyear project was funded by the Kaiser Permanente Northern California and Southern California Community Benefit Grants Programs, and helped California CASA address the serious issues surrounding foster youth and over-medication. In FY2017-2018, three trainings were held (one in Northern CA and two in Southern CA), addressing laws regarding psychotropic medications for foster youth and the CASA role in upholding those laws. These included: Mental Health and Medication history: reviewing files for trauma history (Oakland; Bakersfield and Ventura) and interviews with 13 CASA programs, including staff, volunteers, and judges in Kern, Contra Costa, San Francisco, Sacramento, Los Angeles, Santa Clara, San Joaquin, San Bernardino, Marin, Yolo, Alameda, San Mateo, and Ventura counties; and a psychiatrist in Contra Costa.

**SOCIAL MEDIA**
California CASA is active on social media and spreads its messages to the network through templates for monthly letters to the editor or Op Ed pieces on topical issues for foster youth, as well as content for network use on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. In January 2018, the San Diego Union-Tribune published an Op Ed by Sharon Lawrence regarding the Perris, CA child abuse incident in which numerous children were found to be living in untenable conditions. Thanks to generous funding from the van Löben Sels/RembeRock Foundation, we also continued our collaborative marketing project in the far northern parts of our state: Del Norte, Siskiyou, Modoc, Shasta, Tehama, Butte, Glenn, Humboldt, and Mendocino Counties. Through radio, print, and television ads in Spring 2017, we saw increases in awareness and volunteer recruitment.
One of the important roles of California CASA is to engage our network on pressing issues as well as to inspire and influence legislative and policy changes that impact foster youth. This work is ably implemented by California CASA’s CEO, Sharon Lawrence, Esq.; Senior Policy Advisor, The Hon. Carol Isackson (ret.); and Lily Colby, Esq., Policy and Program Coordinator. California CASA is “at the table” in Sacramento and beyond and in FY2017-2018, participated in dozens of policy meetings, collaborating with attorneys, social workers, former foster youth, and other advocacy groups on bills, budget proposals, and implementation concerns. The California CASA Advocacy Advisory Panel (CCAAP) was formed to leverage the network’s knowledge, strength, and connections to improve children’s lives, help programs learn more about state politics, find how best to engage with the legislative process, and to be effective advocates for legislative change.

The biggest state government victory for California CASA in FY2017-18 was our work with the California Office of Emergency Services to secure $4 million in Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funds, which ultimately resulted in grants of $78,000 or $102,000 to each of the 44 local CASA programs. In addition, the Governor added $500,000 annually into the Judicial Council funds distributed to local CASA programs.

The passage of SB925 (CASAs in Child and Family Teams Bill) was the result of identifying a key issue within the CASA network: the fact that CASAs were unable to receive notice or attend Child and Family Team meetings on a regular basis in every county. These meetings involve the most important people in a foster youth’s life and help determine such things as support services, medical needs, or where a child will live. Many youth wanted and needed their CASAs at these meetings to support them. In response to the need, California CASA sponsored SB925 (authored by Senator Jim Beall representing Silicon Valley), which ensures if a child has a CASA volunteer in his or her life, the CASA will be part of their Child and Family Team unless the youth objects. Thanks to the network’s effective advocacy, the bill moved swiftly and unanimously through the legislature, and was signed by Governor Jerry Brown. It took effect January 1, 2019, and will have positive impact on foster youth and CASAs throughout California.

In 2017, California CASA and the statewide network of local programs worked together to support nine bills sent to the Governor’s desk regarding the needs of youth in out-of-home care, and eight of those were signed into law. For example, SB233 ensures caregivers are able to access educational records and receive training on foster youth educational rights. Another, SB12, allows more community colleges the opportunity to provide everyday supports to former foster youth attending their campuses, streamlines the Pell grant foster care verification process, and requires case plans for foster youth age 16+ to name who will assist the youth with college and financial aid applications.

California CASA also weighed in on important budget proposals, such as supporting efforts to expand CalGrants to allow more foster youth in college to access these funds. California CASA also supported two budget items aimed at improving outcomes for youth at risk of being incarcerated, with the goal to reduce the foster care-to-prison pipeline and address the underlying needs of foster youth.
California CASA organizes valuable webinars and trainings on subjects such as case law, statutes, and new trends in dependency law including psychotropic medications and accessing benefits for foster youth and their resource families. It also participates in legislative advocacy and various activities in Sacramento and elsewhere to raise public awareness of how CASAs contribute to the foster care system and the well-being of foster youth throughout California.

California CASA honors and thanks State Senator Jim Beall (CA-15) for his tremendous work passing SB925, which benefits foster youth and their CASAs. After passage of the bill, Senator Beall said, “Some describe CASAs as the ‘ears and eyes for children in foster care.’ CASA volunteers ensure a child’s interests are not overlooked in dependency courts or that they are not left to languish in the child welfare system. CASA presence at the Child and Family Team meetings enables them to share crucial insights and information about the child, and gather information that can improve the CASA reports to the court.”

In 2018, the Orange County CASA program partnered with State Senator Moorlach to organize the passage of a resolution supporting the value of CASA volunteers. CASA Appreciation Day was celebrated in Sacramento on May 14, 2018, with representatives from Orange County CASA there to mark the occasion along with California CASA staff.

“California CASA keeps the network of programs up to date with legislative child welfare policy changes and genuinely cares when we reach out for support.”

- CASA OF TULARE COUNTY
Doug first decided to become a CASA after reading an article in the L.A. Times about the opportunity. “I was retired, so I was having a great time playing a lot of golf and doing some traveling. After a while, I started to feel so focused on just myself and I decided it was time to do something different.” At only 15 years old, Ant’Torian had already faced disappointments and challenges that many adults never will. He didn’t know what to think of Doug that first day they met. “When I first heard they were going to assign Doug, I wasn’t really sure of it. Other people always said they cared about me, but they never showed it. I was angry, and I kept to myself most of the time. I couldn’t trust anymore.”

During the six years Ant’Torian had been in foster care, he had been placed in five different homes. The instability took its toll and the boy was no longer showing up to school or participating in his classes. By the time Doug became his CASA, Ant’Torian was under review with the Student Attendance Review Board, which could have had legal ramifications for him. As his CASA, Doug became the educational rights holder, serving as the point-person for all decisions around Ant’Torian’s academic and developmental needs. Because Doug was a constant in the boy’s life and was able to gain a broad understanding of his unique needs, he knew that Ant’Torian needed some major changes—not just a suitable and supportive school environment, but also a safe home placement. With the help of his lawyers at the Children’s Law Center, Doug advocated for Ant’Torian to transfer to a new high school with a college and career-ready model that is perfect for him. Within a month of Doug being assigned to his case, Ant’Torian was moved from a group home into a foster home and began developing a supportive relationship with his new caregivers.

Ant’Torian began succeeding in school, discovered a passion for art, and even started to embrace a new outlook on life. He saw that his CASA Doug was different from so many other adults who had walked in and out of his life. Ant’Torian reflects, “Doug really did care. He was there because he just wanted to help me and to be my mentor and friend.” Doug noted, “So many times before, if Ant’Torian would act out, he would just be moved to a new foster home or group home. No one was really sticking with him long term. He knows that whether he’s having a good day or a bad day, I’ll still be here for him tomorrow.”

Ant’Torian describes Doug’s influence and impact in his life as transformational. Today, he is looking forward to graduating high school and he plans to study business in college. He also dreams of traveling the world and helping others. With a bright future ahead of him that he could not have imagined before, Ant’Torian wants other kids to hold on to hope as best they can. “I want other kids in the system to know that while there are going to be a lot of people who will let you down, there are also others who are going to come along to help you.”

“My CASA Doug has helped me with school and my relationships with others, but also, he taught me to care about myself. Before Doug, I didn’t care about what would happen to me. He taught me that I could create, that I could build something, that I could even make a difference for other people. He helped me understand that there is more to life than just living.”
It was later that he saw an ad on the back of a bus recruiting CASA volunteers. He completed the training and soon was assigned his first case. “I saw the court side of things and realized the value of an average community member stepping in to help an abused child.” Little did Paul know that he would eventually lead the organization he served as a volunteer. A few years after his case closed, Paul called the Executive Director for a phone number, and she then encouraged him to apply for her position because she was retiring. “I interviewed with the Board of Directors and now I’ve been the Executive Director of CASA of Tulare County for almost three years.”

Paul has great admiration for his dynamic professional team and volunteer CASAs. “They are the heroes and the strength of our community. I believe in them and encourage them to think outside the box. I don’t want anyone to be afraid to see how far we can take a new idea.” CASAbilities is a promising program that resulted from this culture of creativity and collaboration. “The idea emerged in an unexpected place. A group who were incarcerated at North Kern State Prison organized a fundraiser to benefit our kids. They were talented artists and had the idea to have the prison guards sell their work. They ended up raising $3,200 in just a few weeks!” Paul decided to visit the prison to show his gratitude. He went through a multitude of security checkpoints to find himself in the exercise yard. “Before I knew it, about 50 men gathered around me to learn more about what a CASA does.” Paul was taken aback by one individual’s impassioned response, “Where was the CASA when I was a kid? If I had that, I wouldn’t be here today!”

That was a powerful moment for Paul. “It makes you realize that the people in prison are not really that different from our kids. The fact is that foster care is too often a pipeline to prison and that’s why we developed CASAbilities. We want to break the cycle and I believe we can do this with CASAs.” CASAbilities is designed to promote academic success among foster youth. The program ties in with local school Pathways Programs, which offer curricula in a range of areas including welding, mechanics, farming, and more. CASAs work directly with the foster kids to help them visualize their career paths. Paul noted, “By tapping into their passion and providing the resources they need, we’re seeing higher graduation rates.”

A few years after the case closed with family guardianship, Kathryn joined Child Advocates of Placer County, where she worked as Program Manager alongside Executive Director Don Kleinfelder. “I was there for ten years and we got to do some incredible things. It was a small, grassroots program, but we had such amazing staff, volunteers, and community partnerships that we were able to serve 90% of the kids in our county. The county wanted us to offer other services and we ended up expanding services to include youth mentoring, a K9 for Kids program, and a family mentor program, to name a few.”

In March 2018, Kathryn became the Executive Director of Child Advocates of El Dorado County. “There are just so many success stories here. Recently, our Case Supervisor showed me a story in a local magazine about a little girl getting a heart transplant. It all started with her CASA passionately advocating for her medical needs. We know that CASAs are changing lives every day, and in this case, her CASA literally helped save her life. Our CASAs are able to do these extraordinary things because we have such dedicated staff that are supporting them every step of the way.”

Kathryn appreciates the value that California CASA, under the leadership of Sharon Lawrence, brings to her local program. Like so many in the network, Kathryn’s budget is modest and she welcomes the technical advice, marketing help, and even funding opportunities such as the recent VOCA grant made possible by California CASA. Kathryn is also grateful for the professional mentorship. “Sharon spent a lot of time with me during my first couple months in this role. She understands first-hand exactly what is demanded of all of us to do this important work. She told me that when we’re faced with a challenge, just remember that everything we’re doing is for the kids. We’ll find a way. We can do this.”
For Alex, his role as a CASA program Executive Director has been especially life-changing. “I feel encouraged to see that there are people out there who want to make an impact on the lives of children in foster care. It gives me hope that we can have influence and take a strategic and tactical role in improving how children are growing up in the system.” He notes that the consistency of a caring CASA can be particularly important for Native American children. “We have to think about how traumatic it is for the child whose whole identity is established through their tribal customs. They have not only been placed with strangers, but they’ve been taken away from their tribal nation too. They are in a confusing and difficult situation in what may feel like a foreign country. We have CASAs who are educated in the tribal customs of the Quechan nation, and they’re CASA advocates in both state foster care and in tribal court.”

Alex believes that individualized advocacy is essential. “These kids have so many adults in and out of their lives insisting on what’s best for them. The child’s voice can get lost. But we train each CASA to really get to know the child, which allows that child to be a stakeholder in their own life.” Alex notes that while he is proud of his professional team and CASA volunteers for the extraordinary support they provide to children in foster care, the unfortunate reality is that program continuity and growth doesn’t come easily. “We’re in one foreign country. We have CASAs who are educated in the tribal customs of the Quechan nation, and they’re CASA advocates in both state foster care and in tribal court.”

Christine notes that older youth in foster care are a particularly vulnerable population. “We all know that health and wellness come about by having caring people and a community that supports you. Teens in foster care often spend years in this overburdened system and they are drowning in an ocean of loneliness. It’s so important for them to have a CASA.” Christine says that one of the things that make her Del Norte program special is its ability to meet each individual child where they are. In partnership with the Child Abuse Prevention Council, CASA of Del Norte launched the “Your Brain…Your Choice!” workshop for teens. The five-week series uses BioSocial Cognition theory to help youth process the events that have shaped their lives while empowering them to make healthy decisions. The two agencies also host “Positive Response,” a collaborative training offered to CASA staff, CASA volunteers, foster parents, social workers, and biological parents. The training helps all involved to understand how the child’s life circumstances impact their behaviors and emotions.

Christine says that high quality workshops like this are possible thanks to her strong Board of Directors. “They are a real working Board that provides amazing fundraising support. We only have two and a half staff positions, so the dedication of our Board allows us to be focused on our CASA program and the children.” She notes that despite this support, securing enough funds can be an ongoing challenge. “There were severe drug problems in the area and a lot of the kids were seeing the effects of that among their families and friends.” When Christine decided to sell her business, she knew that she wanted to continue working with kids who needed help. She accepted the position of Volunteer Coordinator at CASA of Del Norte in 2008 and today, Christine serves as the Executive Director, based in Crescent City—one of the furthest northern towns in California.
“The truth of the matter is that we don’t listen to children as well as we think we do. The CASA is that voice of reason; that powerful force that redirects our attention to what is important to the child. We know that with the right support, children in foster care can be extremely resilient.”

— YALI LINCROFT, WALTER S. JOHNSON FOUNDATION

Yali Lincroft, Program Director, Walter S. Johnson Foundation, and Vice President Philanthropic Services, Whittier Trust, is a long-time children’s advocate and policymaker. In 2018, she was awarded the Bernard Osher Philanthropist of the Year award from the Network for California Community Colleges, the Secretary’s Award for Public-Philanthropic Partnerships from HUD/Council on Foundations, and the White House Champions for Change award for her advocacy for children in the foster care system. Yali is motivated to help children because she understands that there are so many variables needed to give them hope and help them succeed. “The path to permanency is crucial, but normal markers of childhood are important, too, and that’s often the first thing that’s forgotten in the system.” Yali believes that CASAs are especially important in this regard. “We know that CASAs are able to step in where other infrastructure is lacking. That consistent source of support during a very difficult time amplifies that child’s voice.”

The Walter S. Johnson Foundation is a strong supporter of the CASA model. The Foundation made the first grant that started the CASA program in Washoe County, NV, and has generously funded the California CASA Association since 1998. “We’re proud to support this organization. At the Walter S. Johnson Foundation, we consider not only what will happen today, but also the possibilities that tomorrow will bring and sustaining that into the future. California CASA is aware of where the need is particularly high, and with philanthropic support I think the association has a bright future.”

On the subject of philanthropy, Yali reflects on some of the challenges nonprofits are currently facing. “Sometimes I get frustrated when pressure is put on nonprofits to always create something new or reinvent a program. Many funders tend to chase after new buzzwords and in turn, make their grantees do that. It frustrates me when people have to bend over backwards instead of focusing on the fundamentals of good-quality programs and good volunteer coordination. Infrastructure matters. Having computers matters. Data collection matters. And indirect costs matter too. I believe that supporting those ‘boring’ things can propel an organization forward.”

Yali notes, “It’s a partnership; a real relationship. California CASA fits within my definition of a key player by being in nearly every county throughout the state. By supporting CASA at the state level, efforts can be coordinated among the local chapters to create that broad impact.”
FINANCIAL SUMMARY FISCAL YEAR
2017-2018

In FY2017-2018, California CASA balanced its budget thanks to the generous support of individual and institutional donors and careful financial management by staff, under the oversight of the Board. In FY2016-2017, a special event, “Lifting Hearts,” was held, which resulted in cash and in-kind revenues of $95,500, and thus the larger total revenue. The event netted approximately $40,000. Lifting Hearts was not held in FY2017-2018; however, the organization was able to reduce expenditures and secure new support that resulted in a small surplus. Growth is on the horizon, with a $1.4 million budget approved by the Board for FY2018-2019, of which 40% was in hand by the first quarter of the fiscal year.

California CASA's independent audited financial statements in FY2017-2018 and FY2016-2017 were conducted by R.J. Ricciardi, Inc. Certified Public Accountants, San Rafael, California.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

REVENUES

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<th>Source</th>
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<td>Individuals</td>
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<td>Foundations</td>
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<td>Special Events</td>
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<td>Contributed Goods &amp; Services</td>
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<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
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EXPENSES

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Change in Net Assets:

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<td>Net Assets at Year End</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Change in Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>$2,015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>FY2017-2018</th>
<th>FY2016-2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current Assets</td>
<td>$394,220</td>
<td>$298,049</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Assets</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$4,094</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td>$394,220</td>
<td>$298,049</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>FY2017-2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current Liabilities</td>
<td>$270,998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted Net Assets</td>
<td>$121,207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>$394,220</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WITH THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS

The California CASA Association is grateful to the foundations, companies, individuals, and government agencies that support our work each year. Their generosity and vision sustain our operations and the vital projects benefiting the entire state network of 44 local CASA programs, each of which provides support to thousands of CASAs and foster children. Most important, our donors help bring us closer to the day when all California children who need a CASA will have one. These boys and girls deserve no less. The contributions below reflect cumulative support between July 1, 2017 and December 31, 2018; the list is in alphabetical order within categories.

CHAMPIONS
Anonymous Friend of CASA
The Hon. Patricia Bressee (rel.)
Shelley and Steve Brown, Reddere Foundation
(Silicon Valley Community Foundation)
Katy and Dale Carlsen
Kevin Gardner and Paul Morrell
The James Irvine Foundation
The Walter S. Johnson Foundation
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Community Benefit Grants Program
Kaiser Permanente Southern California
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First Presbyterian Church
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Nina Green
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Guy and Tracy Jaquar

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Dennis J. and Susan Loseau
Patricia Miljanich
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Wende Nichols-Julien
Jeffrey Nolan
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Jaime Price
Erica J. Richter and David G. McNellis
Ginni Ring
Kris Snodgrass
Westley Martin Stringfellow
Wonderful Giving
YourCause/Chevron Matching Employee Funds

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Nancy Goddard
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Fritz Hui
Harvey and Gay Kaplan
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Andrea Lamari and Austin Walne
Lesbian Equity Fund
LeLand Mar
Cindy Miracle
Judy and Larry Moyer
Lynda and Joe Peering
Sue Schafner
Alison Shore and Steve Lopez
Howard and Susan Slayen
Mary Smith
Tim Tendick
Bill Wickersham

We have listed donors of $100 or more, but we are grateful to everyone who has invested in California CASA, at whatever level. In this honor roll, we have made every effort to ensure accuracy. If you find an error or omission, please accept our apologies; for corrections, contact Janel Brown, (510) 663-8440 or jbrown@californiacasa.org. Thank you for your support!

CALIFORNIA CASA
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FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018

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Vice Chair
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Adam Wallace, C.P.A.
Treasurer

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Kim Moore
Wende Nichols-Julien, J.D.
Keating Rhoads
Sarah Delaney Rosendahl
Robert Smith

We are very grateful for the service of these additional Board members during FY2017-2018: Nathan Lee, Patricia Miljanich, and Tony Papa.

“No one stands so tall as when they stoop to help a child”

– ABRAHAM LINCOLN

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FA2017/2018 IMPACT REPORT

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GET INVOLVED: HOW YOU CAN HELP

Our vision is that every foster child in California has access to the service and support of a CASA volunteer. Through our support of the state’s network of 44 local CASA programs, we can do it! Here are ways you can help:

+ Become a volunteer and change a child’s life; find your local CASA program on our website.
+ Join our online network on Facebook & Twitter and help create awareness about the work we do.
+ Introduce us to individuals, foundations, or companies that can help our cause.
+ Support California CASA! Make a secure donation online via www.californiacasa.org or by mail to California CASA, P.O. Box 70675, Oakland, CA 94612-0675.
+ Make a gift in honor of someone special, or to celebrate a birthday or anniversary.
+ Donate stock, bonds, or mutual funds to California CASA for special tax benefits.
+ Make California CASA your AmazonSmile beneficiary whenever you shop on Amazon.
+ Corporate matching gift programs can double your support to California CASA.
+ Host a house party to raise funds for California CASA.
+ Leave a legacy of hope—name California CASA as a beneficiary in your will or trust.
CALIFORNIA CASA
SERVING OUR NETWORK

COUNTY SERVED
ALAMEDA
AMADOR
BUTTE
CALAVERAS
CONTRA COSTA
DEL NORTE
EL DORADO
FRESNO
GLENN
HUMBOLDT
IMPERIAL COUNTY
INYO
KERN
KINGS
LAKE
LASSEN
LOW S AN BENO ITO
MARIN
MARIPOSA
MENDOCINO
MERCED
MODOC
MONO
MONTEREY
NAPA
NEVADA
ORANGE
PLACER
PLUMAS
RIVERSIDE
SACRAMENTO
SAN BENITO
SAN BERNARDINO
SAN DIEGO
SAN FRANCISCO
SAN JOAQUIN
SAN LUIS OBISPO
SAN MATEO
SANTA BARBARA
SANTA CRUZ
SHASTA
SILICON VALLEY (Santa Clara)
SISKIYOU
SOLANO
SONOMA
STANISLAUS
TEHAMA
TULARE
VENTURA
YOLO

NAME OF LOCAL CASA PROGRAM
Alameda County CASA
CASA of Amador and Calaveras County
CASA of Butte and Glenn Counties
CASA of Amador and Calaveras County
CASA of Contra Costa
CASA of Del Norte
CASA of El Dorado County
CASA of Fresno/Madera Counties
CASA of Butte and Glenn Counties
CASA of Amador and Calaveras County
CASA of Eastern Sierra, Inyo and Mono Counties
CASA of Kern County
CASA of Kings County
CASA of Mendocino and Lake Counties
Lassen County CASA
CASA of Los Angeles
CASA of Fresno/Madera Counties
Marin CASA
CASA of Mariposa County
CASA of Mendocino and Lake Counties
CASA of Merced County
Modoc County CASA
CASA of Eastern Sierra, Inyo and Mono Counties
CASA of Monterey County
Napa CASA, A Voice for Children
CASA of Nevada County
CASA of Orange County
Child Advocates of Placer County
Plumas CASA
Voices for Children
Sacramento CASA Program Inc.
CASA of San Benito County
Child Advocates of San Bernardino County
Voices for Children
San Francisco CASA
CASA of San Joaquin County
CASA of San Luis Obispo County
CASA of San Mateo County
CASA of Santa Barbara County
CASA of Santa Cruz County
CASA of Shasta and Tehama Counties
Child Advocates of Silicon Valley
CASA of Siskiyou County
CASA of Solano County
CASA of Sonoma County
CASA of Stanislaus County
CASA of Shasta and Tehama Counties
CASA of Tulare County
CASA of Ventura County
Yolo County CASA

“History will judge us by the difference we make in the everyday lives of children.”
– NELSON MANDELA
CALIFORNIA CASA

Founded in 1987, the mission of the California Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Association is to ensure that children in our state’s foster care system have both a voice and the services they need to secure a stable future. We meet this goal by strengthening California’s network of 44 local CASA programs and by advocating for child welfare policy and practice that will improve the lives of children living in foster care.

We impact the scope, quality, and reach of the CASA network by providing needed technical assistance, training, and resources; evaluating CASA programs throughout California to ensure quality and uniformity of services; sharing best practices in CASA advocacy; communicating with elected officials and advocating for impactful, child-centered legislation and policy; and identifying funders and pursuing strategic alliances to leverage and expand CASA resources statewide.