

SFCASA VOLUNTEER ADVOCATES CONTRIBUTED 14,193 HOURS TO SUPPORT 253 FOSTER YOUTH

VISION AND MISSION STATEMENT

The San Francisco Court Appointed Special Advocates (SFCASA) **vision** is that every child has a safe, loving home and is given the opportunity to thrive. Our **mission** is to train community volunteers to serve as officers of the court to advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children in the foster care system.

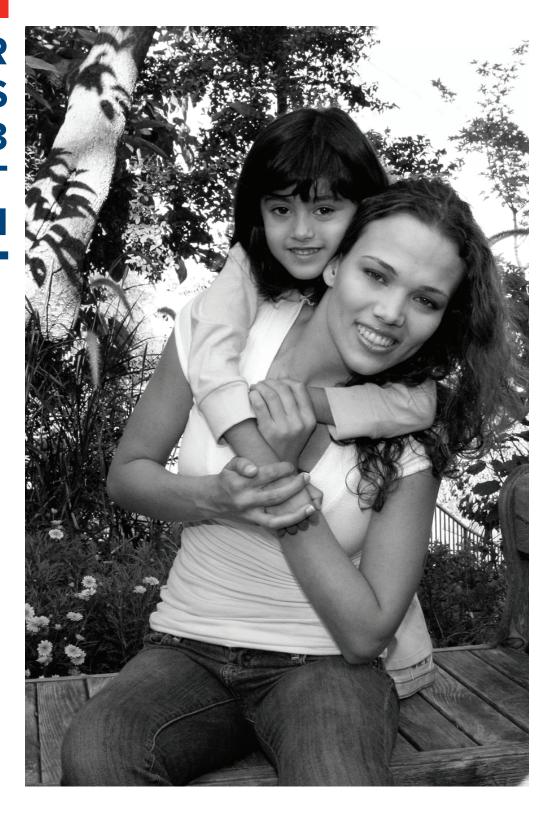
CONTACT INFO

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415-398-8001

http://www.sfcasa.org

A special thanks to our annual report staff: Tim Etheridge, Editor Julie Pang, Designer



Dear Friends of SFCASA



For more than two decades, SFCASA has played a vital role in improving quality of life among San Francisco's foster youth. It has been a year of change for SFCASA and you have been there for our children in foster care. Together, as volunteers and donors, we have ensured that foster children in San Francisco can count on a CASA to fight for their interests and you have made a real difference.

While we started the year with a determination to address SFCASA's financial challenges, we were also determined to maintain our vital services and even improve our support of our volunteer advocates. We are thrilled to share that we finished the year with a budget surplus and have begun to build a modest reserve fund that can help us weather future challenges. We moved our offices, saving significant resources for our programs, and we secured the resources to hire an additional Case Supervisor in order to support more CASAs in the new fiscal year. Our incredible staff Bethany Davidowski and Erika Dirkse completely renewed the 46-hour advocate training.

In the 2013-2014 year, **238 volunteer** advocates gave **14,193** hours in dedicated service to **253** vulnerable

With gratitude,

Lisa Spinali, Chair, Board of Directors

Renée Espinoza, Executive Director

youth. A record 415 guests joined us for the Fostering Change Gala in May. And we celebrated with 13 client youth who graduated from high school that same month!

There are still 740 foster children and youth in San Francisco without a CASA, who remain mostly invisible to the general population. These children are frequently moved from placement to placement, school to school, and reassigned to different social workers, teachers, counselors, and attorneys along the way. More than half are in long-term placement and will not return to their parents. They will be separated from their siblings and placed outside of San Francisco. On average, they are placed in seven different homes and nine different schools by the time they reach 18 years old. The need is as great as ever.

Having someone who is a consistent, caring adult, willing to stand up for a foster child, to be a voice for them in a confusing system is a true gift. **This is what your donations provide.**

We thank you for trusting us with your investments. Your support sustains our work as we strive to provide a CASA to every child in San Francisco's foster care system.

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ELSA AND CAITLIN

In 2011, after a company restructuring, Elsa found herself back on the job market. She decided to restructure her own life through volunteering and discovered SFCASA.

Caitlin was 15 years old when she and Elsa met in 2012. Caitlin's family came to the United States from South America seven years prior. She, and her two younger siblings, had been removed from their home six months earlier. She and her younger sister were in a placement in San Francisco. At first, Caitlin was very shy and quiet with Elsa.

Soon they started to talk about school, family and her new life. Caitlin worried about her younger siblings. As the eldest, she felt responsible and protective of them. She worried about her mother who faced emotional challenges, and her stepfather who did not

have a job. She was also concerned about her brother who was in an out-of-county placement. Her sadness and confusion about her family made it difficult to concentrate on school and enjoy being a teenager.

Although Caitlin was reserved, she was still a teenager and quickly mastered her cell phone, realizing how easy it was to communicate with Elsa via texting—which was the start of a real relationship. Her texting was prolific on a variety of subjects: sports, school, culture and current events. Caitlin turned out to be a talented artist. Not just with oils and canvas but with her cell phone camera. She used texts and photographs as a way to remember new experiences.

After Caitlin put together a summer photography project, consisting of

distinctive buildings that caught her eye, Elsa showed the photographs to an architect friend who was impressed. When they went to Court, they took her artwork and photographs to show the judge who was also impressed with her artistic abilities.

Caitlin decided she wanted to be an architect and Elsa took her to see the Wattis School of Architecture. She knew she needed to be successful in high school if she were to get into college and that became her incentive for better grades. With Elsa's help, she also applied for a scholarship for a precollege architecture program.

A child can grow up fast in the foster care system and though Caitlin once thought her family would be together again soon, she is now in a permanent placement while her sister is in another.

Her stepfather and brother returned to South America. Her mother has moved on with her life. Caitlin now looks at her family differently. She commented that she only wants one man in her life. Her mother had four children with three different fathers. She does not want that for herself.

This once painfully shy teenager has become more outgoing.

Elsa is hopeful Caitlin will fulfill her dreams. She used to talk about emancipation at 18 but now realizes that college, independent living and limited funding would be a tough challenge. She understands that living with her foster family at least till she turns 21 would help her succeed in college. It's a decision that is fast approaching because she will turn 18 this fall. Luckily, her CASA will support her all the way.



3 MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH WERE ACCEPTED INTO THE COMPETITIVE UC BERKELEY PRE-COLLEGE SOAR PROGRAM.



MICK AND KEVIN

Four years ago Mick Remondino, a finance executive, was looking for a way to give back. He'd always enjoyed working with children so he asked around and discovered SFCASA. After completing the 3-month preparation course, Mick was ready.

At the time, Kevin, 10, was living in a high needs group care setting in San Francisco-his parents had been absent for a year. Instead of relying on a government description of Kevin, Mick reached out to Kevin's social worker and therapist to paint his own picture before the initial meeting. What he learned was that Kevin was a very sweet, energetic kid with an amazing imagination and endless abilities. Mick couldn't wait to meet him.

Their first meeting in 2010 was in a group setting. Wearing a huge smile, Kevin did a front flip for the whole crowd! After only an hour together, Mick asked if he could see him every Sunday for a couple of hours. The answer was yes!

During two months of regular visits, the two started to bond. They engaged in many activities: riding bikes, tag, and fantasy sword fighting among others. Still, Kevin wasn't comfortable enough to trust Mick and open up.

Life is full of uncertainties, but in foster care, undertainties are the norm. Mick's goal was to get Kevin to a place where he ealized there could be consistency and stability in his life. During the first eight months of their relationship, one adoption had fallen through - leaving Kevin not only without a permanent placement but also without an educational surrogate. So Mick stepped in to make educational decisions on his behalf. Kevin's mother also moved back to the area, and after a long absence he received a letter from his father — which bothered him greatly.

As is often the case with children... uncomfortable, difficult changes manifest themselves in challenging behaviors. Kevin began testing boundaries, acting out at school and threatening a teacher—for which he was expelled. Working with Kevin's principal, therapist and staff at the residential facility, Mick devised a plan to get Kevin back in school and back on track.

It was at this point that Kevin realized he had a group of people supporting him no matter what. His mom became more of a helpful presence. It also seemed as if the residential program was giving him a way to work through his anger. Things were starting to look up.

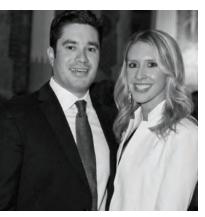
In the late summer, a foster care search began. By August, an amazing family came along to become Kevin's foster family. It was obvious from the beginning that Kevin's new dads were in it for the long haul. They always had their sights on adoption and put a lot of time into building a relationship with Kevin. They also took time to have a personal relationship with his mom, as they wanted her to remain in Kevin's life. They could tell how much Kevin cared for her.

At the end of October 2011, Kevin officially moved in with his new family and Mick helped him deal with the transition. Before Kevin moved from his old school, Mick had one final meeting with the principal and teachers to make sure everything was in order. They talked about how far Kevin had come in the last 6-9 months and the principal expressed his thanks for Mick's role.

Once Kevin's adoption was final, Mick was no longer an official CASA but still sees Kevin and his parents on a regular basis and couldn't be happier for them. Here's to a loving, forever family.

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Tim Abraham Florence Ahlouche Michelle Armstrona Monette Aujay



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Kathleen Lynaugh Ana Maciel Denisse Mancia Braun

SFCASA GATHERED MORE THAN 25 ORGANIZATIONS, FORMER FOSTER YOUTH, AND ADVOCATES TO IMPROVE SERVICES FOR YOUNG ADULTS IN EXTENDED FOSTER CARE.

Jaimi Martin Meg Martin Allie Martinez Georgi Maule-ffinch Mark Mayo Sheila McCarthy Ryan McCown Pam McKulla Scott McMillen Megan McTiernan Kevin Meehan Jubilee Menzies Yvonne Milham Patricia Ann Miller Puppet Mills Paolo Miranda Annie Mitchell Christine Molzner Reuben Montemagni De Moore Michael Morris William Most Heather Murphy Rachel Murphy Carly New Beers Philippe Nguyen Robert Novelli Anne Nyffeler Peter Osbrink Kathryn Padilla Tara Pandarinath Kristin Pelsis

Jeffrey Perry Alex Pichette Jan Platt Rajiv Prabhakar Jennifer Prior Lucy Quacinella Debbie Rakotomalala Catherine Reilly Mick Remondino Liz Ren Windy Riemer Heather Rikic Cecilia Romero Jeanne-Marie Rosenmeier Jackie Ross Renee Ross Abby Rovner Kate Rozzi Jennifer Ruiz Mary Ellen Ruiz Margaret Runge Madeleine Russell-Shapiro Michelle Ryan Nichole Santiago Ashlei Schulz David Shamszad Myndi Sheets Mary Shields Christina Shih Crystal Jade Siddigi Nicole Simoneaux

Michael Simpson
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Dawn Snyder
Penne Soltysik
Kelly Sopher
Heather Spearman
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Winn Taylor
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Valerie Tengco

Tom Terbell
Jaimie Thai
Catherine Thomas
Colette Thomason
Tam Tran
Stephanie Troxel
Christine Unruh
Rocky Unruh
Vivian Valencia
Kelvin Vareed
Antonia Vicente

Joanne Vidinsky
Julia Vitaro
Jean Walsh
Diana Warren
Amanda WhiteCrane
Yevgenia Altman Wiener
Paul Winsberg
Lisa Yu
Alison Zampino
Avril Zielin-Brodey
Heather Zona

59 NEW VOLUNTEERS COMPLETED THE 46 HOUR ADVOCATE TRAINING



STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2014 (UNAUDITED) WITH COMPARATIVE TOTALS FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2013

	July 2013 - June 2014	July 2012 - June 2013
INCOME	,	•
Contributed Revenue		
Government	66,503	76,350
Foundations	215,154	236,500
Community	22,431	40,024
Individual	195,089	195,311
Corporate	107,346	40,947
Events	409,083	254,014
Total Contributed Revenue	1,015,606	843,146
Total Other Revenue	287	2,517
Direct Costs of Event	(88,780)	(64,141)
Net Assets Released	128,572	121,250
Total Income	1,055,685	902,772
Cost of Goods Sold	(648)	4,291
TOTAL Gross Income	1,056,333	898,481
EXPENSE		
Program Services	619,681	718,993
General & Administrative	49,057	95,940
Fundraising	212,409	127,847
	881,148	942,780

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

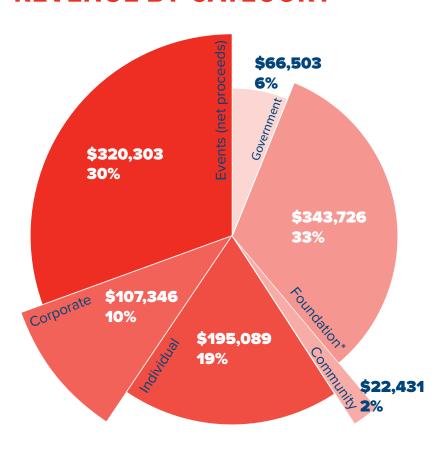
AS OF JUNE 30, 2014 (UNAUDITED) WITH COMPARATIVE TOTALS FOR JUNE 30, 2013

	June 30, 2014	June 30, 2013
ASSETS		
Total Checking/Savings	394,236	110,220
Total Accounts Receivable	274,616	98,221
Total Other Current Assets	20,609	9,999
Total Current Assets	689,461	218,440
Total Fixed Assets	3,897	6,050
Total Other Assets	5,620	8,523
Total Assets	698,978	233,013
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Total Accounts Payable	9,886	4,782
Total Credit Cards	4,976	5,045
Total Other Current Liabilities	19,760	103,024
Total Current Liabilities	34,622	112,852
Total Liabilities	34,622	112,852
Total Equity	664,355	120,161
Tatal Liabilities & Equity	698,978	233,013
		255,015

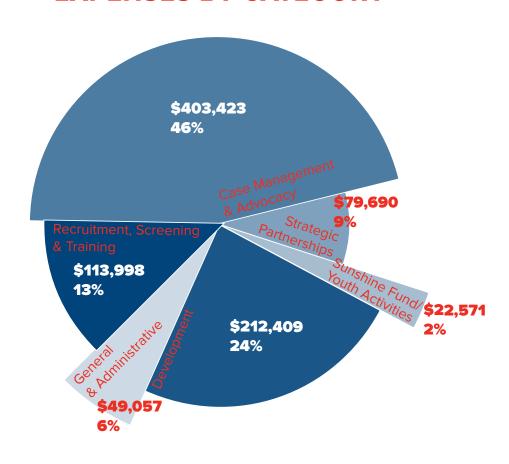
13 SFCASA CLIENTS GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL IN SPRING 2014.

SFCASA ADVOCATES SUBMITTED MORE THAN 500 COURT REPORTS, ASSISTING JUDGES IN THEIR DECISION-MAKING.

SFCASA FY13-14 REVENUE BY CATEGORY



SFCASA FY13-14 EXPENSES BY CATEGORY



THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

Individuals

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Mark Lampert & Susan Byrd

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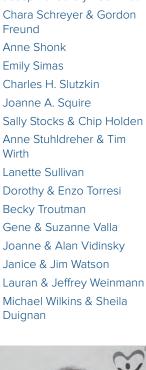
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Lanette Sullivan

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May and Stanley Smith Charitable Trust

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National CASA Association

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First Republic Bank

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\$1,000-\$2,499

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Jackson National Life
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Kappa Alpha Theta Alumnae Chapter

Kappa Alpha Theta at USF Kinder's California Barbecue

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