

October 2021

Sign up for SFCASA Day at the Beach 2021!



Join us for a Day at the Beach in partnership with MeWater Foundation!

Monday, November 22nd, 11 AM - 3 PM in Half Moon Bay

Youth and their CASAs, **ages 6-14**, are invited for a day at the beach- learning to surf, boogie boarding, swimming, building sand castles, and more. Youth do not need to know how to surf or even swim, full winter wet-suits and boards will be provided and experienced volunteers will be instructing.

[MeWater Foundation](#) was founded in 2015 by mental health professionals and surfers as a way to share the magic of mother nature with youth and families who otherwise might not have access to the oceans, parks and mountains.

Contact Luna at Luna@sfcasa.org with any questions and to register. Some transportation assistance is available. We will be hosting another Day at the Beach for youth 14+, stay tuned!



SFCASA
Gift Requests and Party
Save the Date!



It's Time for Youth Holiday Gift Requests!

SFCASA has started planning for the holiday season, and it's time to submit your youth's holiday gift requests!

Please find creative ways to figure out what your youth would like for the holidays **without** asking them directly. SFCASA does our best to fulfill each gift, but we don't want to make any promises we cannot keep. We are once again asking for both gift and stocking stuffer requests. Gifts should be in the \$50 range, though some exceptions can be made. Contact your Case Supervisor with questions regarding the gift drive.

Gift requests are due by **Thursday, October 14th**. SFCASA is launching the gift drive on Friday, October 15th, and will run it through the Thanksgiving Holiday. We may not be able to accommodate late requests.

Remember, youth do not have to attend the party in order to receive a gift from SFCASA! Please submit a request regardless of party attendance

**SUBMIT GIFT REQUESTS
HERE**

Save the Date for the Youth Holiday Party!

The Youth Holiday Party will be held on **Saturday, December 11th** from **12pm-3pm** at the Firehouse at **Fort Mason**.

Fort Mason is obligated to abide by San Francisco regulations around proof of vaccination. This currently means that all guests age 12 and up must be fully vaccinated and provide proof of vaccination to enter the event. SFCASA has created a [vaccination guide](#) to help advocates navigate this topic. Please contact your Case Supervisor if you have additional questions. SFCASA will continue to monitor local regulations and updates around vaccines for youth younger than 12.

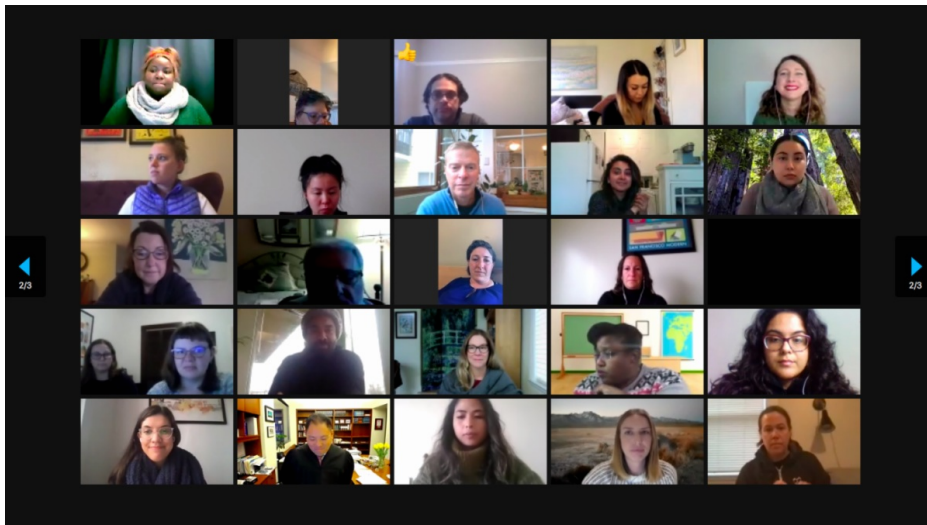
Note: in order to be fully vaccinated by the party, youth should receive their first dose by November 6th

SFCASA will provide more information and an RSVP form as we get closer to the event.

If you have questions about the holiday party, please contact Maggie Swanson at maggie@sfcasa.org.

Upcoming SFCASA CE Opportunities

Register now to hang out and learn with fellow Advocates while enhancing your Advocacy!



Juvenile Justice Booster Series

Probation 101 on Wednesday, October 6th, 2021, 6:00 - 8:00 PM on Zoom (2 CE Credits)

Probation 101 will offer a look into the role of the probation officer, the services they provide, and how Advocates can best collaborate with the Juvenile Probation Department. CASAs will learn best practices to partner with JPD and support their young person navigate the probation system. We welcome Acting Senior Supervising Probation Officer, Derek Hom; Deputy Probation Officer and Training Coordinator, Kwanza Morton; and Supervising Probation Officer, Mila Baranov.

Register [here](#).

Juvenile Justice Community Partners on Wednesday, October 27th, 6:00 - 8:00 PM on Zoom (2 CE Credits)

The Juvenile Justice Partners Panel will provide you with a clearer understanding of the roles of the various participants in the delinquency court process, enhanced by examples of how a CASA volunteer may most effectively work with each party to support the best interests and well-being of juvenile justice involved

youth. Please join representatives from the Superior Court of San Francisco, the District Attorney's Office, the Public Defender's Office/Conflicts Panel, and the SF Juvenile Probation Department.

Register [here](#).

Pulling it All Together and Getting Started on Wednesday, November 3rd, 6:00 - 8:00 PM on Zoom (2 CE Credits)

This training, focused on practical learning, will give Advocates serving JJ youth a deeper understanding of the role. SFCASA's Juvenile Justice Coordinator, Gabriela Bayol, will cover getting started on a case, tips around engagement and court report writing, what to expect from a JJ status review report, and using Advocate Link. We will also discuss strategies for education advocacy that may be useful for Advocates working with JJ youth.

Register [here](#).

Talking to Teens About Money on Monday October 18th from 6:00 - 8:00 PM on Zoom (2 CE Credits) with Dr. Natalia Estassi

Many adults have a difficult time talking to kids about money, the same way they might about sex or drugs. Many of the CASA youth you work with may have experienced financial hardships, traumatic histories, multiple placements and have never had the opportunity to save or hope to want to plan for their future. However, talking to kids about the value of money is essential for their survival in the real world. Explore the different do's and don'ts on how to help them on their way to financial independence. Discuss how to help them budget and save their money, how to wisely use credit and how to make money conversations a part of everyday life.

Register [here](#).

(more partner trainings can be found on our [website](#))

Transitional Age Youth/ Non-Minor Dependent Corner (TAY/NMD)

Completing the FAFSA: A How-To for Adult Supporters of Foster Youth

If you support a young person who is a senior in high school or in college, please try to attend this webinar on **Tuesday, October 19th at 10 AM**.

Please join John Burton Advocates for Youth (JBAY) for this "how-to" webinar to assist those working with foster youth to successfully complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). It will review the 2022-2023 FAFSA, including detailed instructions on how eligible foster youth can qualify as independent students for the purposes of financial aid. Presenters will also provide information on key steps to take after the FAFSA or California Dream Act Application (CADAA) is completed, such as applying for the Chafee Grant and creating a WebGrants account, to access maximum financial aid.

Register [here](#).

San Francisco Conservation Corp Paid Orientation

SFCC hosts bi-weekly paid orientations for 18-26 year olds interested in working with SFCC.

The 4 day orientation is 20 hours at \$17.50 per hour.

SFCC works with Good Will, General Hospital, Presidio Nursery, PUC landscaping work, and much more.

Contact Jeff Bostic at jbostic@sfcc.org to learn more and register.

Manufacturing Week Hiring Fair

Wednesday, October 6 from 10am-2pm @ India Basin Shoreline Park

Meet w/ local makers & manufacturers looking for new team members right now.

Dress for success and bring at least 5 copies of your resume.

RSVP [here](#).

Construction On Ramp Program

The Construction On Ramp program connects youth aged 17 to 24 to [Citybuild Academy](#) where they are given the skills needed to succeed in the construction sector.

Remote orientation on **Monday, October 18th at 4 PM**, training dates on **Mondays and Wednesdays October 18th, 20th, 25th and 27th 4-5:30 PM** and **Saturdays October 23rd & 30th**.

Earn a \$100 gift card upon completion.

Register [here](#) and contact Cecilia@brightlinedefense.org for more information.

Young Community Developers Re-Entry Services

YCD is offering an accelerated 5 day remote job training program to prepare justice involved young people ages 18-35 for employment.

Training is offered twice a month, **Monday- Friday from 10 AM-2 PM**. Upcoming dates are October 10/11-15, 10/25-29, November 11/8-11/12, 11/29-12/3, and December 12/6-12/10.

\$100 gift card for full participation. To register contact Anita Postell at apostell@ycdjobs.org

Vaccine Guidance Resource

Tutoring Resources

Community-based Tutoring

To find tutoring opportunities, a CASA should first look to the youth's community.

Contact the Foster Youth Liaison at their school to inquire about school-based options or special district programs for foster youth. Research the local library, Boys & Girls Club, YMCA, academic enrichment nonprofits, etc. to find local tutoring programs. Ask the youth's caregiver about existing tutoring opportunities available in the neighborhood.

SFUSD Foster Youth Services

SFUSD's Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program provides free tutorial services to SFUSD students in foster care. Tutoring will be provided at the school site during or after-school. There will be limited virtual tutoring available after school. Students receive two hours of tutoring per week. Please complete the [FYSCP Tutor Request Form](#).

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the FYSCP Head Counselor Susana Diaz at diazs1@sfusd.edu

Learn to Be

Learn to be is a free remote tutoring service that supports students in grades K-12 in math, reading, writing, and English. All of the tutoring is done through an online classroom platform by volunteer tutors. Once enrolled, a student's caregiver (or CASA) can have access to a portal that shares the attendance record of the youth, the post-session evaluations, and tutor notes. All tutors who are 18 or older are fully background-checked and receive support from the LTB tutor online community.

To enroll: use our customized enrollment link: [SFCASA Learn to Be Enrollment](#). Be sure to specify that you need a tutor who is 18+

One Simple Wish Update

Thank you to all the advocates who have submitted wishes on behalf of their youth to the One Simple Wish program. So far, **23 youth's wishes have been granted**, delivering items such as laptops, tablets, digital cameras, electric scooters, bikes, instruments, season passes, clothes, shoes, and so much more to deserving youth.

Please continue to submit wishes for your youth as wants or needs arise. A few more qualifications we have learned along the way:

- You may submit unlimited wishes for each child.
- Each wish must be under \$450, before tax & shipping, and may not be a sale price.

- “Name-brand” technology wishes are rejected in favor of less expensive similar options (no Apple products, iPad will be switched to Amazon Fire tablet, etc).
- The more detailed the blurb about the youth, the more likely the wish is to be granted. Wishes are granted by private donors scrolling the site, so try to really let the youth’s personality and strengths shine through when composing your blurb.
- Wishes are granted inconsistently, sometimes very quickly and sometimes weeks or months later. Please keep this in mind when communicating with your youth about their wish to help manage expectations.

Contact Luna at Luna@sfcasa.org to submit a wish.

Connecting Families to Tax Credits Resource

Check out this useful brief, [Connecting Families to Tax Credits to Improve Child Wellbeing in California: Brief for Local Health Departments and Children and Family Service Providers](#), a tool to foster awareness about the benefits of filing taxes and the potential for families to receive important tax credits.

Free COVID-19 Vaccinations at SFUSD School Sites

Mayor London Breed and the SF Department of Public Health have launched four free COVID-19 vaccination sites at SFUSD schools in order to further support vaccination among eligible individuals in the schools themselves and in the surrounding community.

- [Balboa High School](#)
- [Malcolm X Academy School](#)
- [McCoppin Elementary School](#)
- [Sunset Elementary School](#)

Don't see a site on the list that would work for you? Check out SFGov's [Get Vaccinated Against COVID-19 page](#) for a comprehensive list of sites throughout San Francisco.

Check out this article in The New York Times

Check out this NYT op-ed written by a former foster youth, describing his journey and how the system tragically failed to find and place him with extended family.

["I Will Never Forget That I Could Have Lived With People Who Loved Me"](#)

CASA Tip of the Month

Remain strengths-based- remember, CASA youth and families may read your court reports, so it's especially important to remain strengths-based.

