

2016



ANNUAL  
REPORT



CELEBRATING  
25  
YEARS OF  
FOSTERING  
CHANGE



**CASA**  
Court Appointed Special Advocates  
FOR CHILDREN

SAN FRANCISCO CASA

# Mission and Vision

San Francisco CASA transforms the lives of abused and neglected foster youth by providing one consistent, caring volunteer advocate, trained to address each child's needs in the court and the community. Our vision is that every child has a safe and loving home and is given the opportunity to thrive.

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# Dear Friends of SFCASA,

In 1991, San Francisco CASA trained our first class of 11 advocates. Thanks to your support, we trained a record **125 new volunteer advocates in the 2015-16 program year!** Your support allowed us to begin investing in growth, resulting in 236 volunteer advocates giving 17,532 hours in dedicated service to 263 foster youth, 21% growth over the previous year.

In May 490 guests (our most ever) attended the Fostering Change Gala, contributing \$500,000. We also celebrated the high school graduation of 16 accomplished youth (nearly all of the 17 high school seniors we served), 12 of whom are currently attending college.

As San Francisco CASA celebrates 25 years of fostering change among our city's youth, we are thankful for everyone who has made our work possible these last 25 years and excited to consider the possibilities for the next quarter century. We honor our original founding sponsors, the **National Council of Jewish Women, San Francisco**, the **Junior League of San Francisco** and the **Bay Area Urban League**, as well as SFCASA's founders **Adrienne Hirt** and **Janice Watson**.

This milestone year the board and staff of SFCASA devoted tremendous time and energy to completing a comprehensive strategic plan for the first four years of this next quarter century. We are committing to expanding to serve 400 youth annually by 2019-20 while simultaneously increasing the individual impact we have on each and every young client. We plan to measure the impact of our program on each youth and to use that information to continually improve our volunteer training and support, as well as our work with partners throughout the Bay Area.



There are still 700 foster children and youth in San Francisco without a CASA to speak up for them.

San Francisco's foster youth are frequently shepherded among placements, schools, social workers, teachers, and attorneys during their time in foster care. Without a CASA, these youth will spend more time in foster care with the ongoing trauma and inconsistency that that entails. They're more likely to be separated from their siblings, and less likely to find a forever family. The need for CASAs is great, which is why we believe we must commit to ambitious growth.

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

Thank you for trusting us with your investments. Your support is vital as we strive to provide a CASA for every child in the San Francisco foster care system.

Warm regards,  
**Allison Eisenhardt**  
*Chair, Board of Directors*

**Renée Espinoza**  
*Executive Director*



CELEBRATING  
  
 YEARS OF  
 FOSTERING  
 CHANGE

San Francisco CASA established as a coalition of the Junior League of San Francisco, the Bay Area Urban League, and the National Council of Jewish Women.

SFCASA becomes program of SF Juvenile Probation Department

Adrienne Hirt and Janice Watson form new Board of Directors

Nine volunteers serve 11 children

127 children served

1982      1983      1984      1986      1990      1991      1992      1993      1997

1st graduating class of 11 CASAs

City budget cuts force closure of SFCASA

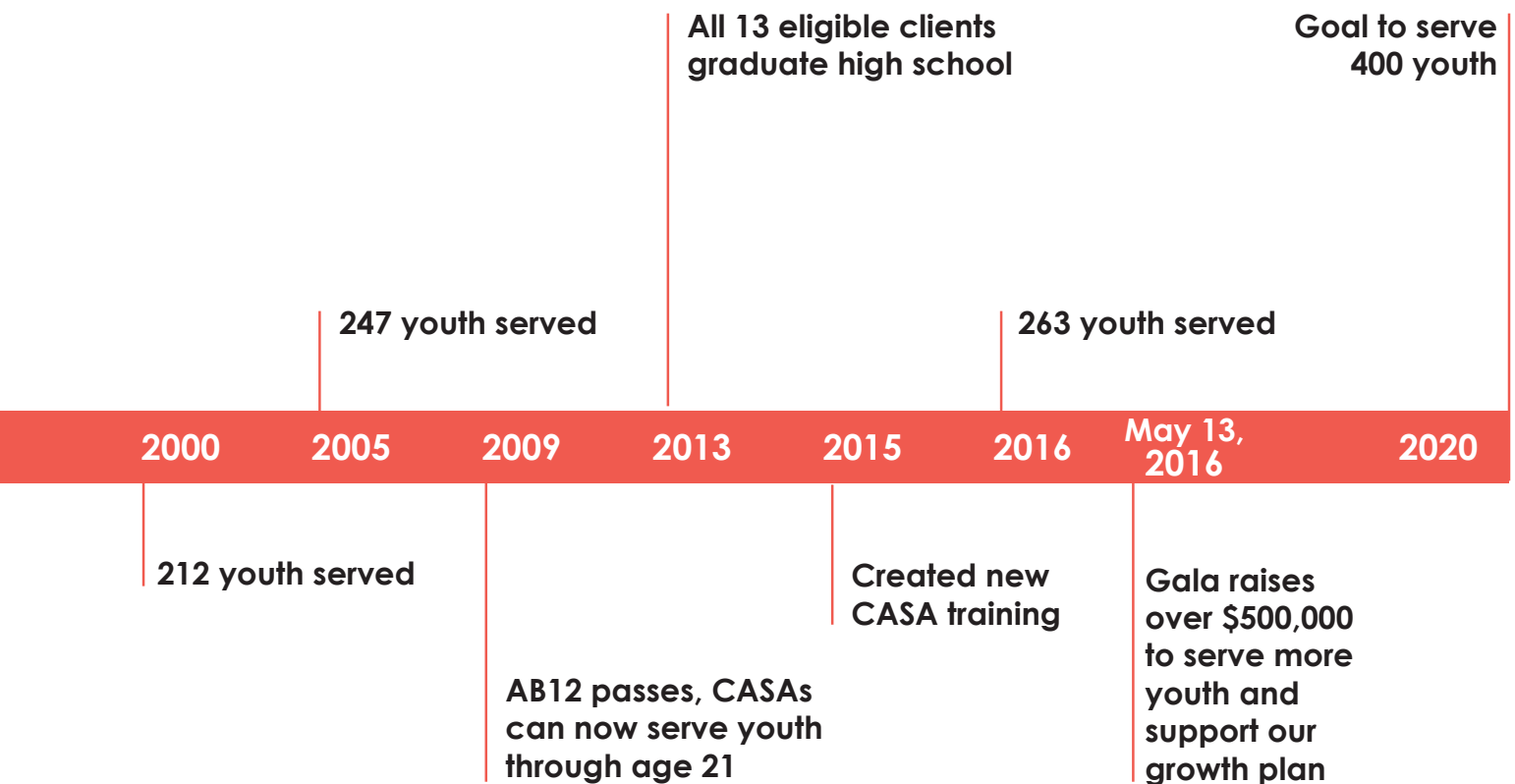
Alba Witkin provides initial funding for new organization led by Adrienne Hirt

30 youth served



**23% of all newly assigned CASAs this year were men, up from last year's 19%.**

**A full 60% of San Francisco's foster youth are placed outside the city, often up to 100 miles away.**



# Launching the Next 25 Years

San Francisco CASA completed an extensive strategic planning process to launch our next quarter century. The Board of Directors and staff identified 5 major priorities. At the top of the list, SFCASA is committing to enhancing volunteer recruitment and retention in order to serve 400 or more youth annually by 2019-20. Additionally, while we have always worked in these six main Advocacy Areas, we are now committing to **measure our impact** in these areas, with these indicators. By implementing this continuous learning system, we will provide direction for increased program effectiveness and impact:

## WELL-BEING

- Engages in varied interests
- Identifies and pursues goals

## PERMANENCY

- Caring relationships with adults & peers
- Connected to community groups
- Skills to maintain relationships

## ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

- Regular, consistent healthcare
- Skills to maintain healthy behaviors

## PLACEMENT & HOUSING

- Youth involved in housing decision-making
- Independent Living Skills
- Skills to meet own needs
- Self-advocacy skills

## EDUCATION & CAREER

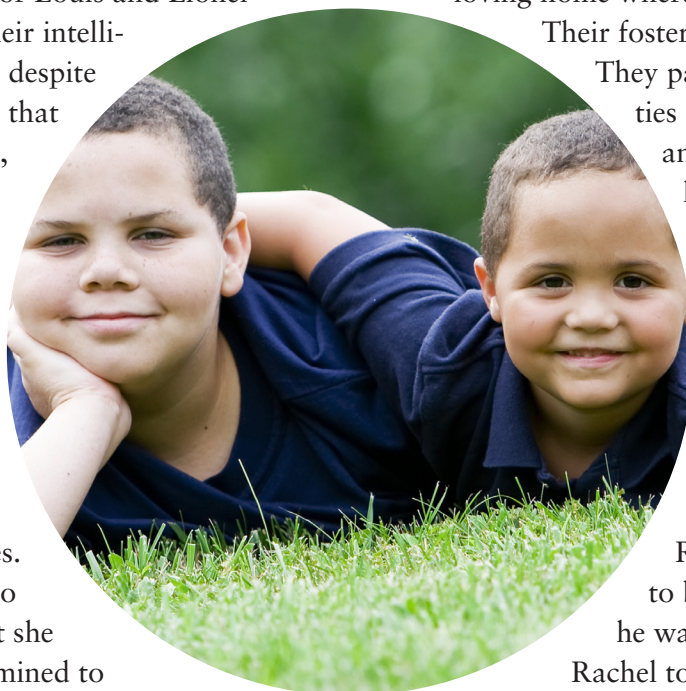
- Youth have access to necessary educational supports
- Grade level promotion
- Explores education & career interests
- Participates in school & extracurricular activities



# Louis, Lionel and Rachel

Louis was 9 and his brother Lionel was 6 in 2010 when they were removed from their home and placed into foster care due to severe neglect and domestic violence. Their hardship continued as they were placed in at least seven different homes and schools, each in different cities, within five years. The one bright spot for them was that they were lucky enough to stay together.

Rachel had been a volunteer advocate for six months when she became the CASA for Louis and Lionel in 2013. She was struck by their intelligence, politeness and warmth despite all they had gone through. At that time, due to behavioral issues, they had been placed into a “therapeutic” foster home that was not a positive or nurturing environment for the boys. The foster parents belittled them, kept them from activities, made them feel they did not belong and were eventually court-ordered to take parenting classes. The foster parents also tried to keep Rachel at a distance, but she persevered. Rachel was determined to find a better placement for Louis and Lionel and advocated strongly for two years before finding a placement in a caring home where the brothers could stay together.



Today, thanks to Rachel, Louis and Lionel live in a loving home where they are part of the family.

Their foster mom calls them “my boys”.

They participate in family activities and sports, are in therapy, and regularly visit their two half-siblings. Rachel continues to be their CASA and visits them regularly. Louis is now a teenager continuing to grapple with behavioral issues stemming from past abuse. Although he has a hard time expressing his feelings, he recently asked Rachel if she would continue to be a presence in his life once he was no longer a foster youth.

Rachel told him that she would be his friend for as long as he needed her.

# Thank You to Our Volunteer CASAs

CASA Volunteers are the core of San Francisco CASA, and we extend our thanks to each and every one. Those advocates who have volunteered for 10 or more years are acknowledged in **red** and those who have volunteered for 5 years in **blue**.

Elizabeth Aldrich  
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**In 2015-2016, 236 CASA volunteers gave 17,532 hours to support 263 foster youth.**

# Thank You to Our Individual Donors

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**FOSTERING FUTURES CIRCLE**

*Thank you to these individuals for making plans to support SFCASA through their estates.*  
 Anonymous  
 Amanda B. Clarke  
 Sandra Hess  
 Rob & Liz Nakamoto Singer



**This year's gala, celebrating our 25th Anniversary, raised \$500,000 to support our growth plan over the next four years.**

# Thank You to Our Organizational Donors

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The David B. Gold Foundation  
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**16 out of 17 CASA high school seniors graduated from high school this year – 12 of them are attending college.**

# Pamela and Gloria

When Pamela was a teenager, her parents sent her from Central America to live with a relative in San Francisco so that she could receive a good education. Sadly, the relative sexually abused her for three years before she told a school counselor and was removed from the home. She was placed in a group home where no one else spoke Spanish, outside San Francisco with no transportation available. She was depressed and felt completely alone. Her therapist also moved away and she had to start over with a new one.

After Pamela's attorney requested a bilingual CASA who could spend quality time with Pamela, she was connected with Gloria, a community activist with a background in public health. Gloria immediately set to work to help Pamela improve her situation. Pamela expressed interest in dance and music, so Gloria found community classes she could take during the summer within walking distance of her group home.

When Pamela wished to enroll in a summer class at the local community, Gloria helped Pamela secure a fee waiver. She soon became Pamela's Educational Rights Holder as no other adult was taking responsibility for her education.

When Pamela was afraid to see a doctor due to her past abuse, Gloria accompanied her to the appointment. Throughout this period, Pamela was moved several times and eventually moved back to San Francisco. When she began drinking to self-medicate for her depression, Gloria took her to AA meetings.

Pamela seemed to be doing well— taking antidepressants, seeing her therapist, going to school, attending

AA meetings and staying sober. But a few months later, Pamela was admitted to the hospital. She had expressed suicidal thoughts and had drunk alcohol and taken Tylenol. Because Gloria was a court-ordered CASA, she was able to visit her in the hospital and speak to her therapist to get advice about how to move forward. Pamela had a birthday while in the hospital, and Gloria brought her flowers and a gift.

Pamela's foster home felt she was too much of a risk and decided to ask for her to be transferred, but Gloria worked with Pamela's social worker to prevent her from being removed.

Eventually, Pamela began to recover from this dark and painful period, and with continued support from Gloria, put her life back together. She graduated from high school and enrolled in the Guardian Scholars program at Community College of San Francisco.

She has since moved into transitional housing and is excelling in school, where she has found a community and plans to transfer to a UC to complete her degree. Gloria and Pamela remain in regular contact.



## Statement of Activities

For the year ended June 30, 2016 (unaudited) with comparative totals for the year ended June 30, 2015

Ordinary Income/Expense	FY15-16 July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016			FY14-15 July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total	Total
<b>INCOME</b>				
Contributed Revenue				
Government	\$ 49,835	–	\$ 49,835	\$ 49,683
Foundations	286,273	\$162,500	448,773	784,061
Community	25,087	4,000	29,087	12,909
Individual	198,497		198,497	332,435
Corporate	65,714	19,000	84,714	141,001
Fundraising Special Event	296,177	199,396	495,574	347,173
SFCASA Growth Campaign Funds*	(175,000)	215,000	40,000	–
Total Contributed Revenue	746,583	599,896	1,346,479	1,667,262
Total Other Revenue	1,493		1,493	1,595
Direct Costs of Event	(99,920)		(99,920)	(86,674)
Net Assets Released	513,506	(513,506)	–	–
<b>TOTAL GROSS PROFIT</b>	<b>\$1,161,662</b>	<b>\$86,391</b>	<b>\$1,248,052</b>	<b>\$1,582,184</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>				
Program Services	887,600	–	887,600	720,180
General & Administrative	70,507	–	70,507	65,486
Fundraising	197,031	–	197,031	183,446
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$1,155,137</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>\$1,155,137</b>	<b>\$969,112</b>

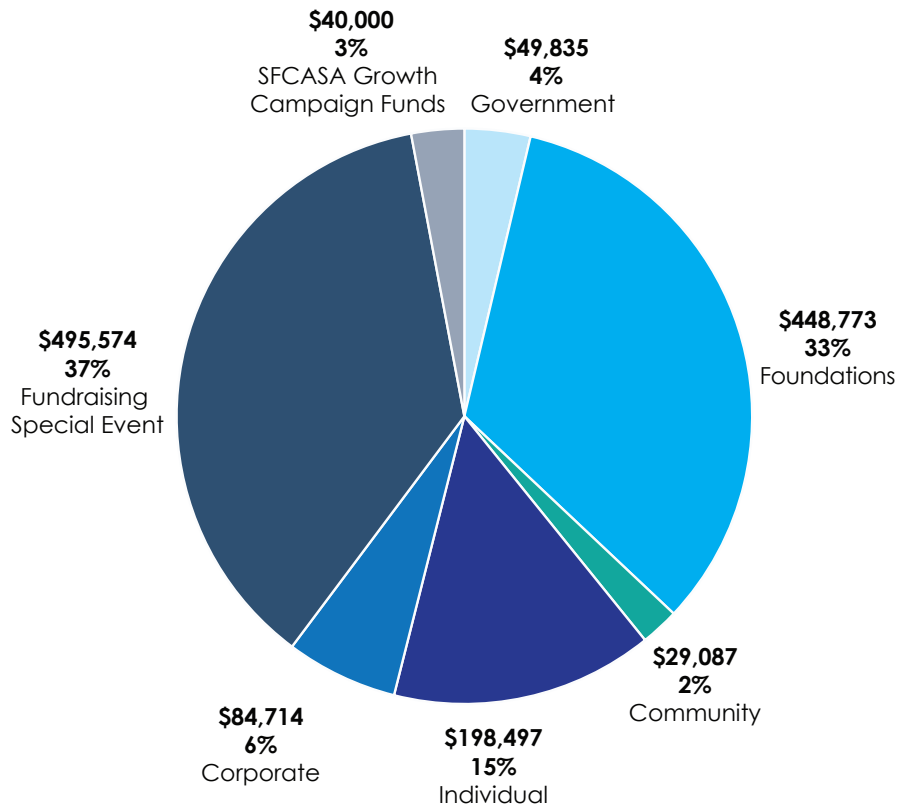
\* FY15-16 includes Board restricted funds being presented as Temporarily Restricted for ease of review.

## Statement of Financial Position

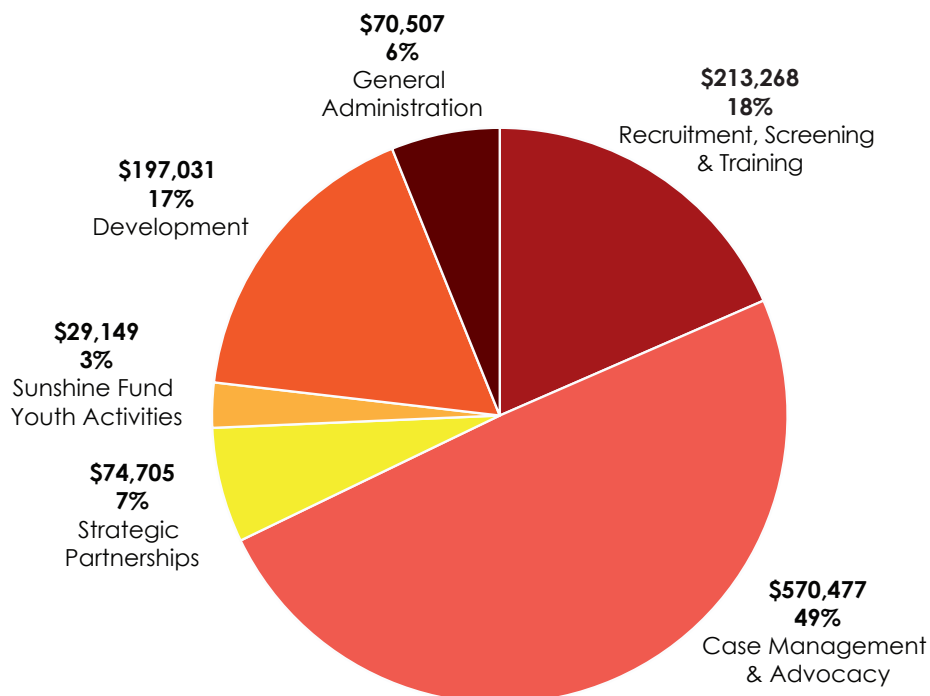
As of June 30, 2016 (unaudited) with comparative totals for June 30, 2015.

	Jun 30, 16	Jun 30, 15
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Total Checking/Savings	\$1,202,950	\$1,098,598
Total Accounts Receivable	161,870	175,998
Total Other Current Assets	35,209	25,846
Total Current Assets	1,400,029	1,300,442
Total Fixed Assets	2,105	4,902
Total Other Assets	4,992	6,383
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$1,407,126</b>	<b>\$1,311,727</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>		
Total Accounts Payable	8,978	13,315
Total Credit Cards	14	
Total Other Current Liabilities	24,996	18,188
Total Liabilities	33,988	31,503
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	914,396	828,006
Unrestricted Net Assets	458,742	452,218
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$1,373,138</b>	<b>\$1,280,223</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>\$1,407,126</b>	<b>\$1,311,727</b>

## SFCASA FY15-16 Revenue by Category



## SFCASA FY15-16 Expenses by Category





**SAN FRANCISCO CASA**

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