



2016-2017 **ANNUAL
REPORT**

2535 Mission Street San Francisco, CA 94110
415.398.8001 | www.sfcasa.org



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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**Board and Staff lists are for 2016-2017 program year. To view current board and staff lists, [click here](#).*

Dear Friends of SFCASA,

Thanks to your support, we surpassed our goal to serve 280 foster children this past year, with 242 volunteer advocates giving 20,014 hours in dedicated service to **301 foster youth!** We especially want to thank the devoted advocates who are working harder than ever to build community for children who've been removed from their families and often disconnected from everything and everyone they know.

With a full sixty percent of San Francisco's foster youth now placed outside the city, farther and farther away, maintaining and building community with our youth has become our paramount concern. All of us need to rely on friends and families at different times in our lives. For a foster youth removed from the Excelsior and placed in Modesto, the isolation, disorientation and lack of support can be devastating.

Our CASAs take to heart that first and foremost, they must show up consistently to allow trust to build. They develop community one person at a time, beginning with themselves. Advocates look for relatives the youth might be able to visit, they facilitate sibling and parent visits, and they make sure that youth are able to participate in the sports, arts or academic programs that naturally build community and strengthen the child's sense of self. All of this while often living 100 miles away.

The housing market has caused a crisis in foster care and it must be addressed on multiple levels. As a city, we need to incorporate transitional housing for youth into affordable housing plans. We need to come up with creative ways to enable foster families to stay in San Francisco, and we need to recruit more foster families. At SFCASA, we're not shying away from the additional support our youth need when placed so far away. At the same time, we're working with partners and



asking everyone that is able to help address the situation city and region-wide. San Francisco has the most acute crisis in California, but we are not the only city faced with this situation.

The tremendous support we receive at the annual Fostering Change Gala and throughout the year gives us hope that San Francisco can rise to these challenges. With fewer than 1,000 youth in foster care, we as a community should be able to find a home for every child.

You have supported ambitious growth at SFCASA and we thank you.

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

Your support is vital as we strive to provide a CASA for every child in the San Francisco foster care system. We also welcome your creative ideas to address the systemic issues that are forcing too many of our youth out of the city they call home. We encourage you to get in touch, share your ideas and offer your feedback. Thank you for trusting us with your investments.

Warm regards,

Allison Eisenhardt
Chair, Board of Directors



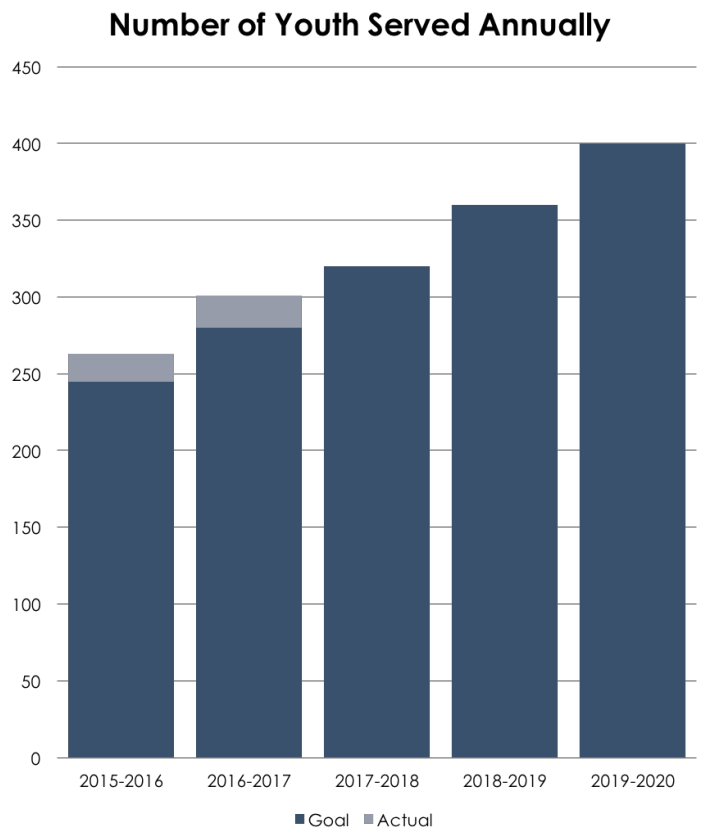
Renée Espinoza
Executive Director



Campaign Progress

In 2016, San Francisco CASA launched a strategic plan detailing our ambitious growth goals through 2020. This plan included increased volunteer recruitment and retention, and a rejuvenated focus on measuring our impact on each youth served, among other priorities. SFCASA is pleased to announce that in 2016-2017, we've made significant progress toward achieving our strategic plan goals.

- At the beginning of the year we increased development staff to build our financial capacity to support this plan and sustain our growing number of donors and community partners.
- More recently, we increased the program staff in order to sustainably support our increasing numbers of volunteers and youth served.
- We expanded our Board of Directors to represent San Francisco's diverse economic sectors.
- We've begun to implement a new continuous learning system, along with a brand new database, to better measure the impact our volunteers have on their assigned youth.
- We exceeded our goal of serving 280 youth in the 2016-2017 program year and are proud to report that 301 children were matched with a CASA volunteer.



Thank you to our generous 25th Anniversary Campaign donors, who have contributed to this ambitious growth plan.

Anonymous
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Jeff and Darnell

Jeff was assigned as the CASA volunteer to Darnell in 2015, a few days before Darnell turned 16. At first glance all seemed well: Darnell was happy in his foster home, had friends at school, was well-liked by teachers and his peers, and was active at the Boys and Girls Club.

Yet as Jeff and Darnell built their relationship, Jeff learned many of the adults in Darnell's life were not addressing important issues, and that Darnell was facing significant academic hurdles. He was at risk of not graduating from high school on time: he carried a 1.2 GPA and struggled with attendance. His teachers and counselor explained that he was a smart kid, but didn't have the discipline required to turn in homework assignments. Darnell needed a consistent adult figure to support him academically. Further, Darnell was easily influenced by the negative behaviors of his peers and had incidents of shoplifting and fighting at school. He needed a CASA.

At first Darnell didn't understand Jeff's role in his life. He had observed his foster siblings spend time with their CASAs, so he thought Jeff was just there to take him on fun adventures. And while they did go hiking, to the movies, and to House

of Air, Jeff was also there to get Darnell back on track with school, strengthen his relationships with his family, and get him thinking about his future.



Jeff helped identify that Darnell's school was not a good fit for him and worked with his counselor to transfer him to a new school. Darnell was excited to be given a second chance to have a fresh start in a new school environment. Shortly after his school transfer Darnell began earning A's and B's and made the honor roll. He finished his senior year without a single behavioral incident and graduated in June. Jeff attended the graduation and helped Darnell with his transition to City College. Darnell is currently a full-time college student and plans to transfer to a four year university upon completion of his two-year community college degree.

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 or more years in **blue**.

Aarti Shetty
Alan Challet
Alex Pichette
Alina Beltrami
Alina Laguna
Alison Geballe
Allison Gaffney
Allison Roeser
Amanda Clarke
Amanda Roque
Amanda Sarracino
Amanda Schapel
Amy Palma
Ana Carolina Borges-Baird
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Judge Davis swears in a new class of advocates, confirming their commitment as Officers of the Court to serve the best interest of our foster youth.

Thank You to Our Individual Donors

\$25,000+

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Pedro Monge Bravo
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Claudia Sandoval
Sanjiv Sanghvi &

This year's gala raised \$570,000 to support SFCASA's foster youth.

242 CASA volunteers gave 20,014 hours to support 301 foster youth.

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 Patricia Schinzing &
 Mark Ginnebaugh
 Fred & Demi Seguritan
 Nate & Traci Shafroth
 Susan & Steve Shortell
 James Sinunu
 Nancy Spero & Norman Brand
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 Tim Wirth
 Ronald & Caryn Suber
 Tracy Thompson
 Kenneth Tse
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 Tony Chan
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 Jeanne Gerrity &
 Benjamin Petrosky
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 Alexis & Madeleine Sinclair
 Eileen & Jim Shydrowski
 Peter Sohn & Anna Chambers
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 Eric Stein
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 William & Michelle Tai
 Sohan & Sandhya Talwalker
 Matthew Tennant & Naomi
 Atkins
 Keith & Lindsey Tonsager
 Joan Toto
 Svetlana & Tommie Whitener
 Devin & Iris Whitney
 Diane Wilsey
 Averel & John Wilson
 Paul & Kelly Wright
 David Yau
 Jenni Zaidi

Fostering Futures Circle
Thank you to these individuals for making plans to support SFCASA through their estates.
 Anonymous
 Amanda B. Clarke
 Shelley Gottlieb
 Sandra Hess
 Rob & Liz Nakamoto Singer
 Cecilia C. Romero



One of our foster youth picking out his bingo prize at our annual youth holiday party. Bingo is always a popular game!

Thank you to our corporate & foundation donors

\$25,000+

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San Francisco Foster Youth Fund

Fostering Change Gala speaker and former foster youth Emari (center) with his CASA Volunteer Shelley (left) and his mother Carla (Right).

75% of SFCASA high school seniors graduated on time, 50% higher than the statewide graduation rate.



Cookie decorating at the holiday party!

Janet and Megan

Janet was matched with Megan when she was just five years old. Megan was living in a foster home, but was only there less than a year before being moved to another. She had four very sudden placement changes before her 6th birthday, which led to depression and difficulty in school. During this time, Megan's visits with her biological mom and other siblings that remained with her were off-and-on, and she would often become upset when she knew she was going to spend time with her mother. She lost a placement due to anxiety-driven behaviors that also caused great disruption in school.

Janet had a natural rapport with Megan and they established a trusting relationship, while Janet simultaneously built and maintained relationships with all of the foster parents Megan had during these tough transitions.

During this time, Janet became Megan's educational rights holder. School was upsetting to her because there were a number of times she was removed from her foster home while at school, so she couldn't go home to say goodbye and get her things. Because of this, she acted out and was suspended on numerous occasions. She required a behavioral support shadow to attend classes with her. When her school did not have this support available, Janet sat in the classroom with her.

Megan's aunt was identified as a potential placement and Janet took Megan to her aunt's house for a visit and slowly got her comfortable there until she was ready for an overnight. During their visits, Janet had conversations with Megan about how things were going in the foster home and how she was feeling about spending time at her aunt's

house. Megan enjoyed spending time with her aunt and Janet supported the decision to place Megan there.

When Megan was placed with her aunt, she had no bedroom or furniture. Janet went to Home Depot for a partition to serve as a bedroom wall and got a bed frame from Craigslist, and the family excitedly readied her new space. Megan's aunt eventually also took in Megan's younger

sister. When Megan's younger sister was assigned a CASA too, the four often went on visits together. Megan and her sister would laugh and play and her sister encouraged her to continue working on reading and writing in school. Janet was so supportive of the aunt, Megan, and the family that the aunt told Janet before the case was dismissed that she wants her to be in Megan's life forever and that Megan lights up when hearing Janet's name. Once Megan realized she was going to be placed with her aunt permanently, she asked Janet if she would continue to see her. Janet said of course, and when she asked if Megan would like to see more or less of her, she repeatedly said more. The case was recently dismissed with the aunt becoming legal guardian; Janet served as Megan's CASA for over three years and continues to see her.



Statement of Activities

For the year ended June 30, 2017 (unaudited) with comparative totals for the year ended June 30, 2016

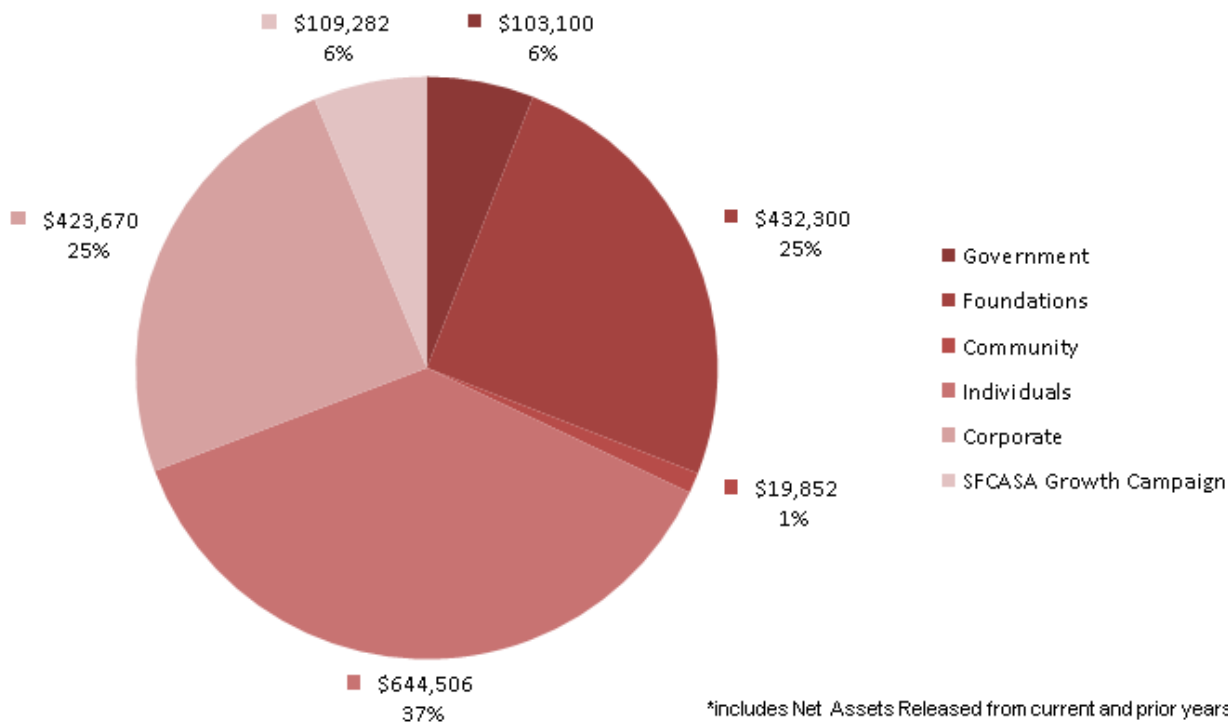
ORDINARY INCOME/EXPENSE	FY16-17: July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017			FY15-16: July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016
	Unrestricted (Operational)	Temporarily Restricted	Total	Total
Income				
Government	103,100		103,100	49,835
Foundations	197,300	260,000	457,300	468,773
Community	15,852	14,000	29,852	29,587
Individual	519,506	229,513	749,018	598,471
Corporate	418,670	50,000	468,670	159,814
SFCASA Growth Campaign Funds	109,282	127,200	236,482	40,000
Total Contributed Revenue	1,363,709	680,713	2,044,422	1,346,479
Total Other Revenue	4,913	-	4,913	1,493
Direct Costs of Event	-100,106		-100,106	-99,920
Net Assets Released	369,000	-369,000	-	-
Total Income	1,637,517	311,713	1,949,229	1,248,052
Total Cost Of Goods Sold	3,015	-	3,015	-
TOTAL Gross Profit	1,634,502	311,713	1,946,215	1,248,052
Expense				
Program Services	937,604		937,604	887,600
General & Administrative	80,683		80,683	70,507
Fundraising	296,618		296,618	197,031
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,314,905		1,314,905	1,155,137

Statement of Financial Position

As of June 30, 2017 (unaudited) with comparative totals for June 30, 2016.

	June 30, 2017	June 30, 2016
ASSETS		
Total Checking/Savings	1,677,282	1,202,950
Total Accounts Receivable	319,172	161,870
Total Other Current Assets	48,861	35,209
Total Current Assets	2,045,314	1,400,029
Total Fixed Assets	1,052	2,105
Total Other Assets	4,730	4,992
TOTAL ASSETS	2,051,097	1,407,126
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Total Accounts Payable	2,795	8,978
Total Credit Cards	7,615	14
Total Other Current Liabilities	36,133	24,996
Total Liabilities	46,543	33,988
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	1,051,213	739,396
Board Designated Net Assets (unrestricted)	175,000	175,000
Unrestricted Net Assets	778,340	458,742
Total Equity	2,004,553	1,373,138
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	2,051,097	1,407,126

SFCASA FY16-17 Operational Revenue* by Category



SFCASA FY16-17 Operational Expenses by Category

