

# Summer Memories

July 2018 Quarterly Newsletter



Summertime is a time for children to play outdoors, swim, attend summer camp and go on family vacations. What happens, though, if you're a child in foster care, living apart from your family, and unsure what the future holds? It's difficult to enjoy the carefree days of summer when life might unexpectedly change at any moment, and when your parents or other adults in your life have abused, neglected, or abandoned you. Youth in foster care are focused on what will happen to them in the future, and if they can return home.

Not only do CASA volunteers provide vital information to the Court to facilitate better-informed decisions for the foster child, they also take the child on fun outings to have new experiences, help them enjoy the season, and make new memories. This summer, we invite our neighbors to help a child in our community by becoming a CASA volunteer or making a donation to CASA of Ventura County.

# CASA Updates

## Our New Location!



CASA of Ventura County has MOVED to the Ventura County Community Foundation building at 4001 Mission Oaks Blvd., where we are neighbors with several other terrific nonprofits.

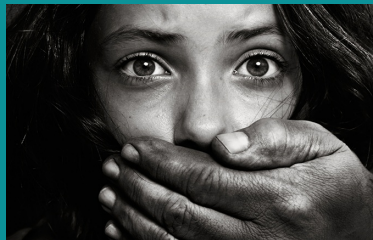
We'd like to extend an enormous thank you to Casa Pacifica for sharing their space and being so supportive of CASA over the past seven years.

Note that our mailing address, PO Box 1135, Camarillo, CA 93011, and phone number, (805) 389-3120, remain the same.



CASA of Ventura County would like to introduce a new staff member, Rebecca (also known as Becky) McGurl. Her position is Technical and Training Support. She recently moved to California and has several years of experience working in technical and training fields, making her an asset as training back-up.

[Read more about her by clicking here.](#)



Our mandatory CSEC 102 Continuing Education course is being offered for the last time this year on July 25th. The goal of this course is to provide all Advocates with practical and useful strategies to support prevention of youth exploitation and to participate in effective response to youth who have been victimized.

[Click here to view the full schedule of our In-Services.](#)



We would like to introduce another new staff member, Chelsie Moody, as Case Supervisor and Peer Coordinator Support! She has a Master's Degree in Clinical Psychology with a background in the treatment of trauma.

Chelsie is a Ventura native, and is excited to put her skills to good use in her hometown.

[Read more about her by clicking here.](#)

## Summer Picnic at Calamigos Ranch

[Wednesday, August 1, 2018](#)

Don't miss this amazing opportunity to celebrate with your Appointee and other Advocate + Appointee groups at the gorgeous Calamigos Ranch!  
[View the spectacular venue by clicking here.](#)

All youth must be CASA Appointees, and accompanied by their CASA Volunteer.

We would like to extend our thanks to CASA Volunteer Advocate husband & wife duo, Linda and Lewis Landau, for hosting this marvelous event!

More details coming soon.



top photo from <https://www.calamigos.com/> & bottom photo from <https://www.facebook.com/CalamigosRanch/>.

## June Event: The Magic of CASA

### Our Biggest Event of 2018

June 14th was quite a magical evening at The Tower Club in Oxnard! The 360 degree view that spanned all the way to the Pacific Ocean was spectacular. In addition to delicious food & drinks and a fabulous silent auction, guests also enjoyed the talents of Merlin the Magician! Volunteer Advocates Pat and Bob O'Connor were honored with the Spirit of CASA award.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all of our wonderful guests, sponsors, and staff for making it an extravagant event!





## DID YOU KNOW?

The cost of an Advocate + child(ren) relationship is about \$2,400 per year.

## Because of Your Support...

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... we are able to advocate for more children who need us!

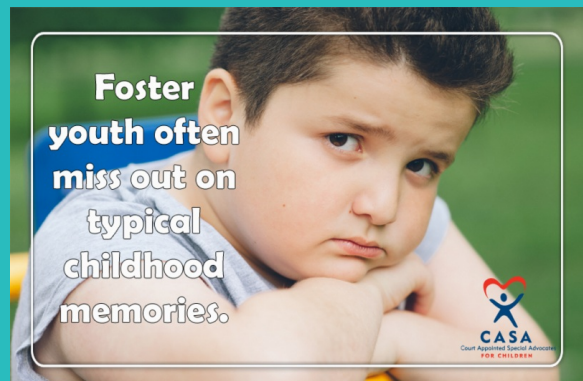
Our ambitious 3 year plan is to recruit 60 new advocates per year and serve roughly 500 children by 2020. It costs about \$2,400 a year to support an advocate + child relationship, including recruiting, screening, training, and 24/7 support from staff. Your support leads directly to sending trained and compassionate volunteers into the community to effectively advocate for these children.

We are now responsible for serving the entire Ventura County foster system, which consists of approximately 1,000 children and non-minor dependents at any given time. Of the 1,000 children assigned to CASA, we are currently serving only 46% of the children who need an Advocate. Our ultimate goal is for every foster child to have an Advocate, and we know we can reach this goal with the continued support of our friends, service clubs, local businesses and foundations.

[Make a Donation](#)

## Summer for Foster Youth

You may remember family trips, summer adventures, exploring at the beach, or maybe your very first job. For kids in foster care, these kinds of summer activities are rare. Being separated from their family can be devastating. It's important that children are in an environment of safety as well as fun, allowing them for a short time to set aside their trauma and experience the joy of being a kid. You can help create summertime memories for a child in foster care, get involved today.



## Upcoming Events

- **July 26, 2018, 6:30-8:00 pm: Informational Session in Thousand Oaks**  
Come learn about CASA and how you can make a difference in the life of an abused, abandoned or neglected child. These are free informational presentations about our program and are not a pre-requisite for the training.
- **August 1, 2018: Summer Picnic at Calamigos Ranch**  
Food, games, and more for CASA appointees and their CASA Advocate.
- **August 30, 2018, 6:30-8:00 pm: Informational Session in Simi Valley**  
Come learn about CASA and The Ventura County District Attorney's Office, Crime Victims' Assistance Volunteer Program. These are free informational presentations about our program and are not a pre-requisite for the training.
- **September 27, 2018, 6:30-8:00 pm: Informational Session in Camarillo**  
Come learn about CASA and how you can make a difference in the life of an abused, abandoned or neglected child. These are free informational presentations about our program and are not a pre-requisite for the training.

## AmazonSmile

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop on AmazonSmile, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization.

### Make your Prime Day shopping count

Prime Day is July 17. Shop deals at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and Amazon donates.

**amazon**smile



How to support CASA of Ventura County through shopping on Amazon:

1. Go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) from the web browser on your computer or mobile device.
2. Select CASA of Ventura County Inc to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping.

3. Shop exactly as you normally would! (Tens of millions of products on AmazonSmile are eligible for donations. You will see eligible products marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on their product detail pages.)

[www.casaofventuracounty.org](http://www.casaofventuracounty.org)

