

## **CASA/LA Senior Management Team**

### **Dilys Tosteson Garcia, Executive Director**

Dilys comes to CASA/LA with experience in the private, public and non-profit sectors. Most recently, Dilys served as CEO of a leading independent advertising agency targeting U.S. Hispanic consumers, which she led through a major restructuring and transformation. The firm's blue chips clients included Allstate, Honda and Verizon. Prior to that for over 10 years she ran a communications consulting practice that worked with a variety of high profile brands: Pacific Bell, Disney, the Los Angeles County Emancipation Design Team and Partnership, Casey Family Programs and the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services. Over the past 20 years Dilys has worked on behalf of children at risk in a variety of child welfare settings. She has served on the board of the Center for Children of Incarcerated Parents and currently serves as board vice-chair for the non-profit Child Care Resources Center in the San Fernando Valley. Dilys holds a BA from Yale University and an MA from Stanford University.

### **Sarita F. Carden, Advocacy Program Director**

Sarita knows firsthand what being a CASA volunteer is all about because she served as one for 8 years before joining the staff of CASA of Los Angeles in 2000 as a CASA Supervisor. For 10 years Sarita oversaw volunteer advocacy efforts on behalf of foster children. In April 2010, Sarita was named Program Director and now provides advocacy leadership and training throughout the organization. Her high level of expertise has been key to the organization's seamless programmatic transition. Her leadership has been critical to CASA's success in informing, continuing to support, and retaining volunteers through a difficult transition. Prior to joining CASA/LA, Sarita traveled the country as a litigation support consultant for complex civil litigation. She holds a BA and MA in Human Development from Pacific Oaks College.

### **John Charnay, Development & Communications Director**

John has over 20 years of experience as a major fundraiser and has generated more than \$150 million for leading charities in greater Los Angeles. For nearly fifteen years he served as Director of Major and Planned Gifts in the Financial Development Department of the American Red Cross of Greater Los Angeles---the second largest chapter of the nation's number two charity. Prior to that, he was Director of Capital Campaign Development with the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, where he served as Director of Marketing and Public Relations. He attended the Wharton School of Finance and Commerce, the University of Pennsylvania, Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism and Southwestern University School of Law.

### **Jaren Sorkow, Volunteer Services Director**

Jaren brings a wealth of volunteer management experience from several non-profit settings to CASA's volunteer driven mission. Most recently, Jaren was Volunteer Manager for Los Angeles Animal Services reporting to local commissions, the Office of the Mayor and various community councils. He was responsible for publicity and PR, supervising a staff of 8 and growing the volunteer base from 800 to almost 1200. Prior to that he was Director of Community and Volunteer Programs at Union Station Homeless Services, leading 700+ volunteers. The LA Times recognized his outstanding efforts at Union Station, naming him "Person of Influence" in November 2007. Jaren's experience with at-risk youth comes from his 8-year stint as program director for Stiles Hall at UC Berkeley, mobilizing 350 volunteers to serve over 400 at-risk youth. Jaren has a BA in English from UC Berkeley, an MA in Non-profit Administration from USF and in his spare time is a marathon runner.