



Winter 2012

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# The CASA Quarterly

Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children

CASA of Los Angeles



## A Message From Dilys



How is CASA/LA doing? In January we begin a round of strategic conversations to refine our direction for the next 3 years as we continue to become more volunteer-centric and grow service levels to ultimately reach as many as 2,500 children a year. Imagine that, CASA/LA providing 2500 children with an advocate all their own!

So, how are we doing so far this fiscal year? I'm happy to report that with your help our fundraising is going very well. The year end appeal is in full gear and foundation grants are growing as projected. Corporate and legal initiatives are underway and the board con-

tinues to grow with Dr. Anissa McNeil as our latest addition. At this mid-point in our fiscal year we are already over 70% to goal with about \$500,000 still to go to meet our fund raising target of \$2.0MM for FY2012. Every effort we make to bring in needed dollars is critical. If each of us asks just one more person to support CASA's work it will make a difference. For the past two years we have had the luxury and good fortune of relying on previously-raised federal earmark dollars to the tune of \$800,000 in FY2011 and \$700,000 in this current FY2012. With the new fiscal year starting in July 2012, for the first time in over five years, CASA/LA will have no federal earmark money with which to anchor its budget. We need to make up this

difference!

This makes every dollar we raise now more important than ever; any surplus we create this year will anchor the next.

The Board of Supervisors (BOS) is considering making a one-time investment in our technology infrastructure to help us bridge this gap. We've had conversations with every board office requesting \$250,000 from each district, which equates to a total request to the BOS for \$1.25MM. Kudos to Bruce Herron, Jeremy Davies, Delphia Jones and others who have led this charge. Please contact your district's supervisor and thank them for supporting CASA's request!

*Article continued on Page 7...*

## From the CASA of Los Angeles Board...

Thinking back over the past year, we have much to be thankful for:

- ◆ Dedicated volunteers who advocate for foster youth
- ◆ Shelter care volunteers who provide comfort and security to children at court
- ◆ Volunteers who help with administrative tasks in the office
- ◆ Community advocates who approach their friends, politi-

cal leaders, churches, social groups, and foundations

- ◆ The board of directors who serve as a fundraising arm of CASA and support CASA in its advancement and community outreach efforts
  - ◆ Program, business and executive staff who provide vision, strategic direction and support for CASA's mission
- Collectively, we are all here to serve children in the foster care system by giving them a

voice. CASA of LA has a goal to increase the number of children served from the current 570 to over 1,000 in 2013. To achieve that goal we must significantly increase program funding and the number of volunteers working with CASA of LA staff. With your continued support and renewed dedication, I know we will succeed. Thank you all for all that you have done and continue to do for the children!

## Welcome to CASA of Los Angeles!



**Dr. Anissa McNeil**, a Court-Appointed Special Advocate for children, has been elected to the CASA of Los Angeles Board of Directors. She

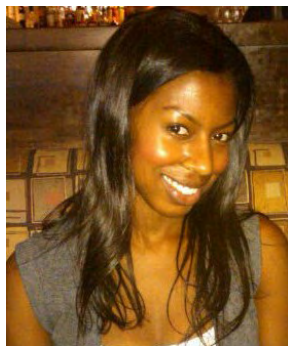
earned an EdD in Organizational Leadership from Pepperdine University, and holds MAs in education and speech language pathology. She has been the director of special education for the elementary and high school districts in Santa Barbara, was an instructor for UCLA's extension program, a special language pathologist for

Fullerton's Joint Union High School District and a disabilities consultant for Baldwin Park Unified School District. Anissa has also served as a board member of the Southern California Mentoring Program for four years. Dr. McNeil is a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, and is also on the SCLARC board of directors.

On December 1, **Lynne Gabriel** moved from her interim role into the full director of volunteer services role. Lynne joins us from our very own volunteer ranks, having been a CASA for the past nine years. Her knowledge of CASA work and volunteers is coupled with expertise as a curriculum developer, facilitator and volunteer manager in a variety of set-

tings, including work with at-risk populations. Lynne also brings strong communications, marketing and technology skills to the table. She has been a partner at Help Jim, and WorkPositive, Inc. She's worked as a contractor with the National AIDS Fund, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and led workplace

education programs for AIDS Project Los Angeles and Hollywood Supports. And she's been on Oprah! We are very lucky to add Lynne to our management team. Welcome aboard Lynne!



**Jasmine McClendon** has been promoted to program supervisor in the Antelope Valley office, effective

December 12th. Jasmine is a UC Santa Barbara graduate, where she studied sociology, black studies, and pre-med. Jasmine was the Antelope Valley office's former program assistant for the past year. Not only was she able to fulfill her required duties and responsibilities, but she consistently went above and beyond what was expected of her. As the program assis-

tant, Jasmine loved working with transitional age youth, and she will now be focusing on this population in her new supervisor role. Jasmine hopes to use these experiences as a springboard for her aspirations of serving underprivileged youth as a physician. In her spare time, Jasmine loves watching "Golden Girls" reruns. Please join us in congratulating her!

**Rosa Arevalo** has joined our staff as program supervisor in the Monterey Park office. Rosa is part of our Early Childhood Initiative and brings to CASA a rich background in serving young children, most recently with the Westside Children's Center where she was the director of early care and education services, managing the delivery of quality state subsidized early education services to low income families. Rosa has a BA in psychology from the

Universidad Autonoma de Mexico and an MA in psychology, specializing in childhood and adolescence from Cal State Los Angeles. She is also a fellow of the Vivian Weinstein Child Advocacy Program at UCLA. In addition to her passion for children, she has a passion for running and recently completed her 32nd marathon in NYC! On Sunday, October 2nd, she had a chance to put together both of her passions when she participated in the

GLALAA *Justice Jog 2011* to benefit CASA. "Not only did I have a great time learning about resources for children and families but also was rewarded with a first place medal in my category. What a fun day!" she said.



We would also like to welcome **Kurt Swanson**, interim business manager, and **Lorena Parra**, interim develop-

ment coordinator to CASA of Los Angeles. They have been instrumental in CASA's transition period and bring a

wealth of experience to their roles. We are excited to have them as a part of our CASA team!

## Welcome to CASA of Los Angeles!

**Lesley Bois** has joined our staff as a program supervisor in the Antelope Valley office with a special focus on children ages 0-5. She has a Master's degree in counseling from Cal State Hayward and brings much experience working at foster family agencies and in the areas of domestic and international adoptions. Lesley is

an adoptive mother of three children from the California foster care system and has extensive experience in obtaining educational, medical and psychological services for foster/adoptive children. Lesley is a self-described chocoholic; shoe fanatic and an avid animal lover (especially dogs!). The next time you stop in the Antelope

Valley office, be sure to stop in and say hello to her!



We announce with immense pleasure the re-hiring of **Linda Jones**. Linda was a part of the CASA family from 2005-2008, and

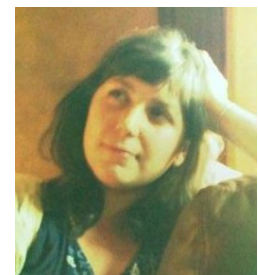
joins our staff as a program supervisor with an emphasis in education. Linda has extensive experience working with Los Angeles County Office of Education and as a senior social worker with the Children's Law Center. She has a BA in behavioral science and sociology and is involved on the Edu-

cation Standing Committee for Superior Court, Los Angeles County of Educational Foster Youth Service Steering Committee, Youth Development Services and the Advisory Board for Foster Youth Services. Please join us in welcoming Mrs. Linda Jones back to CASA of Los Angeles!

**Johanna Neumann** recently joined CASA of Los Angeles as an AmeriCorps member in the Monterey Park office. Over the next 11 months, Johanna will be working as a volunteer services associate to recruit, train, and support CASA volunteers. Johanna is a recent graduate from SUNY

New Paltz in New York where she earned her bachelor's degree in Women's Studies. She also brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to CASA through her previous non-profit work that focused on recruiting volunteers for Hand in Hand. Johanna is excited to join the CASA team and continue

these efforts. Please extend her a warm welcome!



### Antelope Valley Fall 2011 Training Class

Left to Right: Maria Nelson, Tamara Vegas, Referee Marilyn Mire Mordetzky, Natalie Allen-Wriggle, and A.Jay Harman



### Monterey Park Fall 2011 Training Class

Top Row L to R: Dilys Garcia, Susana Arroyo, Hana Scott-Suhrstedt, Linda Weber, Xiomara Matus, Elton Harps, Adriana Lopez, Sandra Tamkin, Denise Bieker, Kimberly Landis, Rebecca Rankin, Karen Butler, Lise Lovato, Yanira Diaz, Sarita Carden Bottom Row L to R: Michele Foster, Jackie Keller, Donna Ramos, Rosa Arevalo, Darris Hatch, Judy Rosen, Pat Winter, Sarah Bojorquez, Christa Toro

## Renne Bilson wins National Philanthropy Day "Volunteer of the Year"

CASA of Los Angeles is very proud to announce that one of its extraordinarily dedicated volunteers, Renne Bilson, has been named "Outstanding Volunteer" by the Greater Los Angeles Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP). The award was presented at the National Philanthropy Day luncheon on November 16, at the Beverly Hilton Hotel. Also recognized that day for her philanthropy was Glamour Gowns Vice Chair and CASA advisory board member, television personality Michaela Pereira.

"There is no one more dedicated to her work with CASA/LA and to the children that she helps, every day, than



Renne Bilson accepts her "Outstanding Volunteer" award



From left to right: Bruce Bilson, Renne Bilson, Dilys Garcia, Virgil Roberts, Steve Bloom, Lauri Halderman

Renne Bilson," said CASA of Los Angeles Executive Director, Dilys Garcia. "Renne has been a guidepost for all of our volunteers, embodying everything that a CASA should be. We couldn't be more happy for her or prouder that she is a part of our organization."

"Working with CASA of Los Angeles has become a great passion in my life. When you have such a strong connection with a cause, it's easy to dedicate yourself to it," said Renne Bilson.

National Philanthropy Day was founded by Los Angeles philanthropist and attorney Doug Freeman. National Phi-

lanthropy Day offers an opportunity to reflect on the meaning of charitable giving and the spirit that makes such generosity possible.

Kudos to Lauri Halderman and John Charnay who prepared the submission and championed Renne's candidacy and recognition of CASA.

Please join us in celebrating the recognition of these wonderful representatives of CASAs work with foster children in Los Angeles county. Congratulations Renne and Michaela! CASA salutes you!



Renne Bilson and Michaela Pereira at National Philanthropy Day Lunch

## 5K Raises 15K!

Nearly 500 attendees participated in the Greater Los Angeles chapter of the Association of Legal Administrators' (GLA ALA) annual Justice Jog run/walk 5K, on October 2, 2011. GLA ALA chose CASA of Los Angeles as the beneficiary of this year's event which, along with ancillary activities, raised over \$10,000! The event brought to-



gether different sectors of the legal community, including our own counsel for CASA (headed by **Cristine Reynaert** and **Ruby Wood** of **Goodwin Procter LLP**), major LA-based law firms, businesses, athletes, members and friends. The event is part of GLA ALA's Community Challenge Weekend, a community service initiative that encourages the legal community to work together for a local community cause. Special kudos to **Betty Freitag** for her awesome fundraising efforts on behalf of "Team CASA." Almost every "Team CASA" donation was made in her name! And many thanks to **Cristine**

**Reynaert** and **Ruby Wood** and "Team Goodwin" for awesome fundraising efforts above and beyond anyone's expectations!



Jackie Dolan, Patti McGovern, Renne Bilson, and Dilys Garcia cross the finish line

## Aaron Ruben Scholarship Winners Announced

Created by former CASA Aaron Ruben, the Aaron Ruben Scholarship was established in 2001. Each year five awards are given out in varying amounts. Applicants must be a former or current foster youth, have a GPA of 2.0 or better, and submit an autobiographical essay and three

letters of recommendation by the June 1 deadline. Many thanks go out to all those who applied for this year's scholarships. We are excited to announce that this year's winners are....

### Aaron Ruben Scholarship 2011 Winners:

Sephora Abui (CASA youth)  
Naomi Adan (CASA youth)  
Darryl Brown (CASA youth)  
Cathia Lan  
Zarkhi Palmer (CASA youth)  
Ramona Ramirez

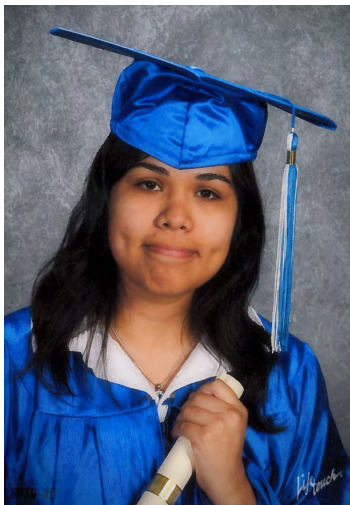
### Naomi Adan, Pioneer Artist for CASA-LA

By Eileen Sheiniuk, CASA

Naomi Adan was a fifteen year old girl, quietly earning a 3.7 grade average at Magnolia Science Academy, a charter school in Reseda, when I first met her and her siblings in December 2008. Later that spring, I met Naomi's teachers and remember her art history teacher saying, "If you could find a way to immerse Naomi in art this summer, that would be wonderful." I began making phone calls and helped Naomi apply for a scholarship with references from her art history teacher and dean of students. We were all thrilled to learn that Naomi won a \$2,700 scholarship for two weeks of art instruction at a residential camp.

"It was cool," said Naomi, who had a chance to be surrounded by blue skies, clean air, and mountain greenery while painting and drawing for two weeks with other students. Naomi wrote her CASA, "Most of the students are from Los Angeles. There are students from Korea, Michigan, Darfur. It is really difficult here since we are treated as freshman from college. They told us two weeks was like a year of school."

That summer experience reinforced Naomi's desire to become an artist. She applied to colleges, was accepted at three, and chose CSU-Northridge, which would allow her to pursue an art major while remaining



near her family.

The Dean of Students at Magnolia, Ms. Hourigan, remembers enjoying watching Naomi "chicken scratch" doodling when she was waiting or talking. She describes Naomi as creative, artistic and caring. Ms. Seward, the art history teacher, describes Naomi as talented, wise and observant, and added, "I would have liked to have her in an art class every day."

When Naomi made her decision to attend CSUN majoring in art, I wanted to let the arts camp know just how life-changing Naomi's 10<sup>th</sup> grade camp experience had been. I called the camp registrar to ask whether Naomi might return for the master class after high school graduation to

prepare her college art portfolio. Just a few weeks later, I learned that Naomi was accepted for her second full scholarship. I could hardly wait to tell Naomi!

What did Naomi think of her second art scholarship? She said, "It was a great experience because you get to look at the big picture. The second year, I got more involved with other students in ceramics, music and jewelry. When I was drawing or painting outside, I heard the music and it really moved me. The instructors were wonderful. Now, I'm keeping in touch with the other kids from that master class."

Naomi shared her art portfolio with her former dean and art history teacher when she returned to Magnolia Science Academy for an alumni activity a month ago. "Fantastic," said Ms. Hourigan. "Excellent," said Ms. Seward.

I agree with the dean and Naomi's art history teacher and I hope that Naomi will recognize how her work ethic and her artistic talents can help current and future foster youth. Because Naomi performed so well at arts camp, she has opened doors for CASA-LA youth to attend this arts camp through a newly established CASA-LA project in 2012. Naomi has become CASA-LA's pioneer artist!

## Why I Love Being a CASA Coordinator

By Maithé Harispe, CASA and CASA Coordinator

As a former educator, stepping into the role of CASA Coordinator (CC) was not a leap into unfamiliar territory. Coaching and encouraging new learning and skill development is somewhat second nature to someone who has been a teacher and school administrator. Working with dedicated, committed volunteers is as much a pleasure as working with dedicated, hardworking teachers or enthusiastic, inquisitive kids. And, for one who has always loved learning new things, working with several CASAs each with an interesting case, each case unique with its own set of challenges, only expands my opportunity to learn new things and increase my understanding of the world of foster care and the dependency court.

For me, the past year as a CASA Coordinator has provided many positive benefits. However, the role is not to provide personal benefits to the CC but to provide assistance and guidance to the CASA volunteers. Over the course of the year, I have made a concerted attempt to be there for my CASAs—whether it is to help them develop appropriate goals, assist them with report writing or simply bounce ideas around with them on how to proceed in their cases. My



biggest concern is always: Am I providing them sufficient assistance? Am I giving them the best answers? Am I not overstepping my role? Am I providing enough moral support and encouragement? Finding the right balance isn't always obvious and each volunteer may need something a little different. So, as the CC, I try to do the best I can to provide every CASA the help and guidance they need while juggling all the other aspects of personal life. Thankfully, our Program Managers and Program Supervisors are always there in times of need to provide the right answers, to keep us on track, and to give that extra bit of TLC and encouragement.

*"I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something; And because I cannot do everything I will not refuse to do the something that I can do."*

— Helen Keller

### Calling all volunteers!

CASA Coordinators are experienced volunteers who support and coach new CASAs as they begin their advocacy for foster youth. They help the new volunteers better understand court and CASA policies and procedures, as well as the child welfare system and community resources. CASA Coordinators also provide emotional support through shared experiences. You must have at least one year of experience as a CASA to apply for this opportunity. If you are interested in finding out more about being a CASA Coordinator, please contact **Lynne Gabriel, Director of Volunteer Services**, at 323-526-6306 or [lgabriel@casala.org](mailto:lgabriel@casala.org).



### CASA/LA Comes in 3rd at Talent Show

In October, the Free Arts for Abused Children held a benefit talent show at the Edelman Children's Court. Led by Program Director Sarita Carden, the CASA of Los Angeles staff wowed the crowd by playing "When the Saints Go Marching In" on the kazoo. Although they were up against some fierce competition, the staff received high marks from the judges and came in 3rd place!

*Pictured from left—Louise Bieschke, Rosa Arevalo, Lynne Gabriel, Sarita Carden, Dilys Garcia, and Lauri Halderman perform at the Free Arts for Abused Children talent show.*

## A Message From Dilys continued from page one

Private dollars must become a bigger part of the pie for CASA/LA. Given such high levels of past government support, historically only about 10% of CASA dollars in LA County came from individual donations even though nationally, 80% of all philanthropic dollars are in fact generated from private individual gifts. **We need to build private giving to CASA from 10% to well over 50%.** Our strategic conversations in January will help us refine our plans for getting there. I look forward to hearing from you all.

Special thanks to those who have

personally given, and to those who have asked others to support our work with children in the dependency system. We all know what a difference it makes to provide a child with a caring adult. Let's make sure that the rest of our community knows and joins us in support.

On behalf of all those we serve, please accept our deepest gratitude for making a difference for children in our community. Happy holidays to you and yours. May the season shower its joy and blessings on all the people of this earth.

**I am for the child who has been abused.  
Who doesn't want to go home.  
The child who no longer believes in herself.**

**I am for the child.**

### Upcoming CASA Trainings

**Antelope Valley  
CASA Pre-Service Training  
Winter 2012**

Saturday, January 7, 2012 at 8:30 am—5:30 pm  
 Saturday, January 21, 2012 at 8:30 am—5:30 pm  
 Saturday, January 28, 2012 at 8:30 am—5:30 pm  
 Tuesday, January 31, 2012 at 9:00 am—12:00 pm  
 Thursday, February 2, 2012 at 9:00 am—3:00 pm  
 Call the Antelope Valley office at 661-723-2272 for training location and details.

**Monterey Park  
CASA Pre-Service Training  
Winter 2012**

Tuesday, February 7 at 8:30 am—4:00 pm  
 Thursday, February 9 at 8:30 am—4:00 pm  
 Tuesday, February 14 at 8:30 am—4:00 pm  
 Thursday, February 16 at 8:30 am—4:00 pm  
 Tuesday, February 23 at 8:30 am—4:00 pm  
 Call the Monterey Park office at 323-526-6666 for training location and details.

**Monterey Park**

**Early Childhood Initiative Training Schedule**

Two hours online—must be completed prior to January 18, 2012

Classroom training—January 18, 2012 at 9:00 am—11:00 am

Two hours online—must be completed prior to January 24, 2012

Classroom training—January 14, 2012 at 9:00 am—11:00 am

Two hours online—must be completed prior to January 27, 2012

Classroom training—January 27, 2012 at 10:00 am—2:00 pm

This training is full! If you'd like to be on the waiting list, please let us know!

### Giving Thanks to our CASA Heroes

We at CASA of Los Angeles feel very lucky...and thankful...every single day. The reason is simple. Our volunteers. Our CASAs are the backbone of everything we do to guide and support children in foster care. They are our heroes and we cherish each and every one of them.

We need more of these heroes. We currently have about 400 trained volunteers for almost 26,000 foster children in Los Angeles County. One of our big goals is to recruit an additional 200 volunteers by June of 2012.

We are tremendously grateful to our volunteers. And we are equally grateful to each of our many generous donors. Not just in this season of gratitude and joy but throughout the entire year. They make the work of our volunteers possible.

As we celebrate the holidays, we need your help with donations, in-kind gifts and the gift of volunteerism. Please be as generous as you can. And please let us know if you, or anyone you know, is willing to volunteer as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) and have one of the most rewarding experiences in their lives. A CASA volunteer makes a difference in the life of a foster child as a guide, a stabilizing influence, and a catalyst for positive change. Your advocacy may be what prevents a vulnerable young person from succumbing to chronic unemployment, homelessness, addiction, incarceration and depression.

Heroes wanted. Please apply by contacting (323) 526-6666 so that you can join us in saying: "I Am For The Child."

#### Tell us your tales

It's important to us at CASA of Los Angeles to hear stories about the wonderful work you do as CASA volunteers. These stories help us speak to donors and the media and educate the public about the CASA program. If you have a story you'd like to share please call Director of Development and Communications John Charnay at 323-526-6326 or email it to him at jcharnay@casala.org. Please be sure to change the names to protect everyone's privacy. Don't be shy. We would love to hear from you!

#### Tributes and Memorial Gifts

Acknowledge any special occasion by making a donation to CASA of Los Angeles. You may also honor a loved one by sending a memorial. Tributes may be given for any occasion and CASA of Los Angeles will send a letter to the person being honored. To make a tribute or memorial gift:

- Make your check payable to CASA of Los Angeles
- In the memo line of your check, write the name of the individual you wish to honor and the occasion

- Enclose a note indicating where you would like the acknowledgement sent (including the address) and the occasion for the gift.
- Mail your gift to:  
CASA of Los Angeles  
Development Department  
201 Centre Plaza Drive,  
Suite 1100  
Monterey Park, CA 91754-2142

*"I know you can't live on hope alone; but without hope, life is not worth living.*

*So you, and you and you: you got to give them hope; you got to give them hope."*

*— Harvey Milk*

Like us at

[CASA of Los Angeles](#)

or

[CASA of Los Angeles—  
Antelope Valley](#)

Follow us at

[CASA of Los Angeles](#)

Connect with us at

[CASA of Los Angeles](#)

## Where There's A Will, There's A Way

Have you gotten around to making a will yet? If you have, you're in the minority, because around 60% of us don't have one. And almost 50% of people mistakenly believe that their estate will automatically pass to their partner or spouse when they die. What do Picasso, Bob Marley, Michael Jackson, and Abraham Lincoln all have in common? They all died without a will. Making a will helps protect your loved ones. It also gives you the opportunity, after taking care of loved ones, to remember your favorite charity. By leaving a gift to CASA of Los Angeles in your will, you could help to ensure that children in

the dependency court system continue to receive the support they need from our CASA volunteers. For many people, leaving a gift in their will may be the only time they can afford to make a charitable donation. Make a real difference for foster children. It only takes a minute - and the impact will last a lifetime! You can make a genuine difference in the life of a foster child. We recommend that you consult with your own tax or legal advisor prior to making any planned gift. And please be sure to notify our development department when you make a planned gift so we can acknowledge your gift!

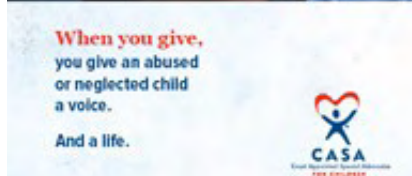
**Sample language:**

"I, [name], of [city, state, zip code], give, devise and bequeath to CASA of Los Angeles, a nonprofit public benefit corporation having its principal office at 201 Centre Plaza Drive, Ste. 3, Monterey Park, CA 91754-2142 [written amount or percentage of the estate or description of property] to be used for the furtherance of its charitable purposes in the discretion and at the direction of its board of directors' unrestricted use and purpose."

## Thanks a Million!

**We are truly thankful** that so many of you made gifts to CASA of Los Angeles this fiscal year to allow us to continue providing vital and unique services to our community's vulnerable at-risk foster children. If you have not done so, please consider a gift to CASA of Los Angeles. We recruit and train Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). These CASA volunteers are appointed by the dependency court to act in the best interest of a foster child, both in the court and in the community. Thanks to their efforts many formerly abused or neglected children and teens are now being given a second chance at life.

CASA of Los Angeles is making a critical difference by standing up for the rights and interests of these vulnera-



ble children. Our trained volunteers help foster children access the medical, legal, educational, and financial aid that will carry them through their fragile childhood and prepare them to lead successful lives.

But we need your help so we can train more volunteers and serve more foster children. CASA of Los Angeles is now a 100% non-profit, self-supporting entity and we truly need your financial assistance. With a generous donation to CASA of Los Angeles, you can make a big difference and help bring stability and hope into the lives of these children—the most valuable members of our community.

## Board Thank-a-thons Held

In November 2011, we had two board thank-a-thons—one at our Monterey Park office and one at our Lancaster office—so our board members could make thank you phone calls to our top donors letting them

know how much they are truly appreciated. Members of our board called nearly 150 of our major donors. Participating at Monterey Park (with Development Director John Charnay) were Jacquie Dolan, Anissa McNeil,

Anneli Stone and Ralph Walter. At Lancaster (with Executive Director Dilys Garcia) were Dan Silva and Jean Youngquist. Many thanks goes out to ALL of our donors—We could not do this without you!



### Monterey Park Office

Edelman Children's Court  
201 Centre Plaza Drive,  
Room 1100  
Monterey Park, CA 91754  
Phone: (323) 526-6666  
Fax: (323) 264-5020

### Antelope Valley Office

McCourtney Juvenile Court  
1040 West Avenue J,  
Room 1153  
Lancaster, CA 93534  
Phone: (661) 723-2272  
Fax: (661) 723-2219

**We're on the web!**  
[www.casala.org](http://www.casala.org)

### Court Holidays

- ◆ Monday, December 26th  
Christmas Day
- ◆ Monday, January 2nd  
New Year's Day
- ◆ Monday, January 16th  
Martin Luther King,  
Jr. Birthday
- ◆ Monday, February 13th  
Lincoln Day
- ◆ Monday, February 20th  
Presidents' Day
- ◆ Friday, March 30th  
Cesar Chavez Day

Winter 2012

## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of CASA of Los Angeles is to improve the lives of the children in the dependency court system through trained, dedicated, and effective volunteer advocates who are professionally supported by an experienced staff.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Frank Addante**  
**Jeff Biederman, Esq.**  
**Steve Bloom, Esq.**  
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**Daniel Silva**  
**Joanne Solov—Secretary**  
**Anneli Stone**  
**Patricia Trendacosta, Esq.—Past President**  
**Ralph Walter—Treasurer**  
**Jean Youngquist**

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**Rosa Arevalo—Program Supervisor**  
**Louise Bieschke—Program Supervisor**  
**Leslie Bois—Program Supervisor**  
**Sarita Carden—Program Director**  
**John Charnay—Development Director**  
**Lynne Gabriel—Director of Volunteer Services**  
**Dilys Tosteson Garcia—Executive Director**  
**Lauri Halderman—Program Manager**  
**Danica Hartshorn—Volunteer Services Associate**  
**Dana Johnson—Program Supervisor**  
**Linda Jones—Program Supervisor**  
**Jasmine McClendon—Program Supervisor**  
**Carolyn McGee—Program Manager**  
**Johanna Neumann—Volunteer Services Associate**  
**Lorena Parra—Interim Development Coordinator**  
**Angela Penaredondo—Program Assistant**  
**Monique Stevens—Assistant Program Director**  
**Kurt Swanson—Interim Business Manager**