

# Updates & Information



March, 2021 | Issue #9



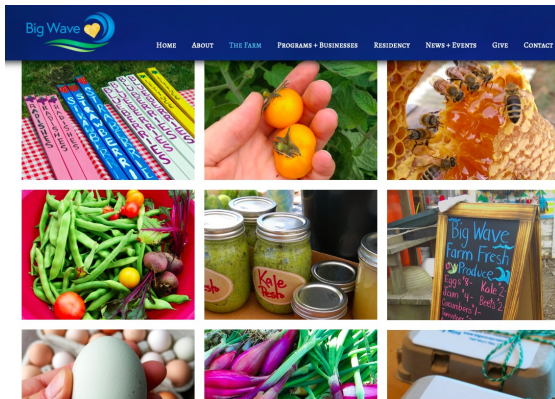
## Message from Nkia Richardson, Executive Director:

2021 is off to quite a start! As the new year ushers changes in leadership at many levels of our government and continued COVID-associated challenges, our program is partnering with the College of San Mateo to begin to offer tutoring services for our kiddos, our staff completed our first volunteer training of the year in February and we are gearing up to start our spring training next month. We look forward to updating you as we progress throughout the year to keep you abreast of developments within our program and share the

impact your support has on the youth we serve.

Thank you for all you are doing to ground our work for 2021. We cannot do what we do without you!

Nkia



## CASA Impact Story

Sarah's support as Andrew's CASA began in May of 2016, and has been a well-matched pairing, including Sarah's ability to sign which is especially vital for virtual communication during the pandemic. As the county continues to reopen, Sarah has recently resumed weekly in-person meetings, first with neighborhood walks, and continuing their joint volunteer work at Big Wave Project Farm in Half Moon Bay. "This has been a really positive experience, providing an opportunity to get some fresh air, physical activity, learn skills and responsibility, and practice communication with non-signing hearing people." Sarah is currently supporting Andrew's job search, providing coaching and confidence-building activities to help him achieve his goals.

## Our Statement of Support

Please see our statement regarding the increased violence and racism directed towards members of the Asian and Pacific Islander Communities with suggested resources for learning more and for sharing with others.

[Read: #StopAsianHate](#)

**We are fully staffed!**

**COVID Vaccine Eligibility for Active CASA Volunteers**



Welcome Bella Baxter (pictured above), Recruitment and Outreach Coordinator, and Gloria Bordeaux-Pacholec, Finance Manager, as our newest staff members. Now at full capacity (for the first time in over a year!), we are excited and ready to leverage all the amazing talents and energy this team has to offer!



We are thrilled that the Department of Public Health opened the eligibility of our CASA volunteers for the COVID vaccine as part of Phase 1a/ Essential Workers Sector.

Our Program Managers are reaching out to support our volunteers with the required documentation, to date, nearly 40 volunteers have taken advantage of this opportunity to get vaccinated.

We're looking forward to hearing about more in-person visits with CASA volunteers and youth as we look to a promising return to less restrictive times.

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## Remember CASA in your Amazon shopping!

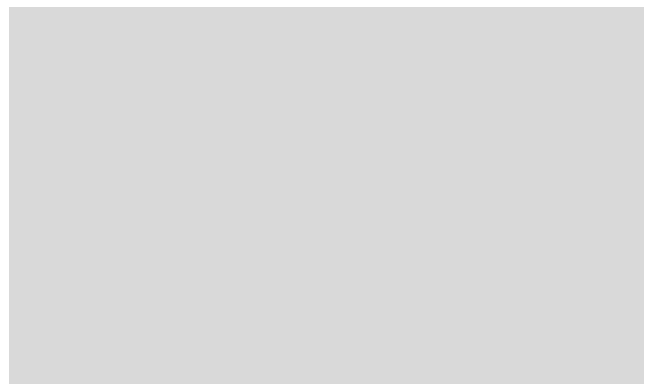
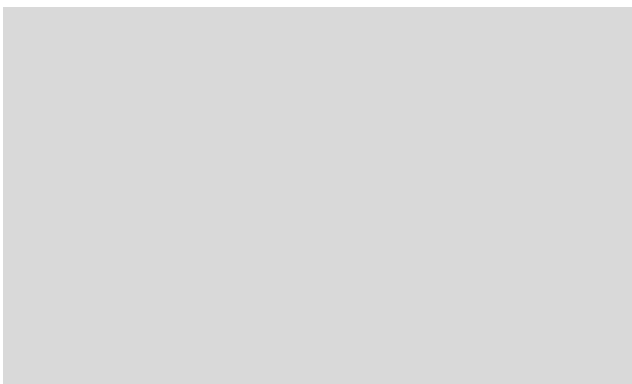
Do you shop with Amazon? Did you know that you can select CASA of San Mateo County as your charity of choice to benefit from your everyday purchases...at no cost to you? Shop [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and they'll donate 0.5% of eligible purchases to CASA when you enroll in the program. [Get started here.](#)

Want to use the AmazonSmile in the Amazon app on your phone? Learn how to activate [here](#)



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## In The News...



# Toxic Stress



## What Does Toxic Stress Do to Children

California Surgeon General Dr. Nadine Burke-Harris and journalist Ezra Klein discuss how Covid-19 and trauma will shape the lives of young people in this timely and engaging podcast.

[Listen to the full podcast here.](#)

[Read the transcript of the podcast here.](#)



## Biden's Key Child Welfare Appointee Aysha Schomburg Confronts Unprecedented Crisis for Foster Youth, Families

With American families entering a second year devastated by a pandemic, a NYC attorney and public official is now taking over the Biden administration's top child welfare post.

In her new role, Aysha Schomburg will oversee the roughly \$10 billion U.S. Children's Bureau, which regulates federal funding for the nation's vast network of state- and county-run agencies responsible for foster care, child maltreatment investigations, and prevention services.

[Continue reading here for the full story](#)

[Click here to read our previous newsletter, January 2021!](#)

[CASA of San Mateo County](#)

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