

Monthly news & updates



January, 2021 | Issue #8



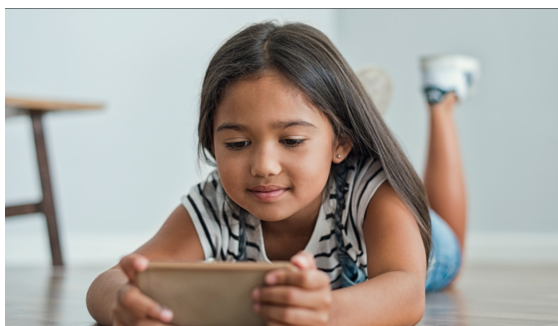
Message from Nkia Richardson, Executive Director:

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 staff has begun our first volunteer training of the year, the CASA office is nearly fully staffed for the first time in months and we are excitedly planning for all the ways we will continue to evolve and grow in the coming months. 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 have done to ground our work for 2021. We cannot do what we do without you!

Nkia



CASA Impact Story

...from Laurie, a foster parent:

“During these challenging times, our foster daughter’s CASA has been a shining light. It’s difficult for our child not to have in person visits, but being able to connect over video chat has lessened the worry and sadness. She looks forward to her video calls and is always asking when she can talk to her CASA again! She especially loved her virtual visit to the San Diego Zoo!”

Introducing Spencer Lee, Program Manager



To help support for our growing number of

Welcome to Our Newest Virtual Training Class for CASAs



On January 13, we kicked off the new year with our latest virtual training class, welcoming 28 new community members as they start their journey to become CASAs.

CASAs, we've recently welcomed Spencer Lee to our staff as a Program Manager. We're thrilled to have his experience as a teacher and know he will make an incredible impact with his compassion and enthusiasm.

[Continue reading more about Spencer here.](#)

Know someone who may be interested learning more? Our next information session is February 16th at 6:00pm.

[Register here to attend the zoom session.](#)

Thank you for your holiday gifts!

Thank you to all of our supporters for making the holiday season an especially meaningful one by generously donating to our program. Together we raised \$311,058, exceeding our goal and giving us hope and optimism as we start the new year. With your support, we will continue to provide the children and youth in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems with the support and services they need and deserve. Thank you for being a part of such a caring community!



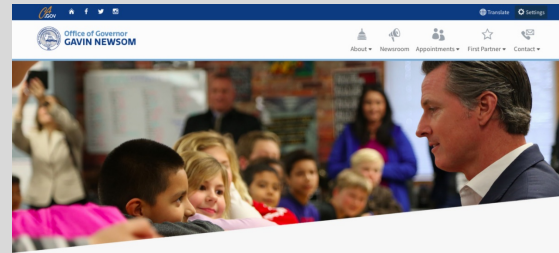
In The News...



[Newsom Pushes February School Reopening Plan in California](#)

Gov. Gavin Newsom announced a \$2 billion push to reopen California elementary schools for the youngest students in February, with an emphasis on younger children who are in transitional kindergarten through second grade. Priority will be given to districts with large numbers of low-income students, foster youth or English learners — groups whose disadvantages have been exacerbated during distance learning.

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



[2021-22 California State Budget Proposal](#)

Governor Newsom's released his 2021-22 State Budget Proposal that includes notable investments to support children and families.

The Alliance for Children's Rights provided a summary that pertains to budget updates that impact the child welfare system.

[Continue reading here for the edited report](#)

[Click here to read our previous newsletter, December 2020!](#)

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