

# Monthly news & updates



September, 2020 | Issue #5



## Message from Nkia Richardson, Executive Director:

Recently, I read an article about a young man in Stockton who was formerly in foster care, separated from his siblings and grappling with the fracture of his family as a result of substance abuse and violence.

Continue reading Nkia's message [here](#).

## YOU DID IT!!! \$75,000 Matching Fund Exceeded Goal!

We are thrilled to announce that the \$75,000 goal was achieved! We are so grateful for the generosity of our supporters who collectively donated \$90,760 , exceeding the amount needed for the pledged matching funds. **Thank you** for making a difference in the lives of our community's most vulnerable children and youth.



## CASA Impact Story: Sarah and David

CASA Volunteer Sarah, who just celebrated her 70th birthday, has virtual visits with David, her CASA youth, twice a week. Sarah and David joined a virtual hip-hop class last month. They use their laptops to watch the class and FaceTime on the phone at the same time. Sarah also does weekly virtual art classes and origami with David. These classes have greatly improved David's ability to follow directions and make progress in his favorite hobbies. Sarah is making a lasting impact on David!

Interested in more stories? [Please visit us here](#)

## NEW Volunteer Spotlight

Introducing Larry Tam, one of our new CASA's, having recently completed training in August. [Continue reading here](#) for why Larry decided to volunteer and what he's looking forward to as he begins his first role as a CASA advocate.

## Save the Date: November 18th, 7:00pm Connect to Protect Virtual Benefit



Connect to Protect is a virtual benefit you won't want to miss. Join us in this inaugural fundraiser that offers the opportunity to connect with interesting, enlightening, and in some cases, otherwise out of reach "specialists" for a unique virtual experience. [Sign up here](#) to receive updates as we announce specialists' names and experience details! For sponsorship opportunities, please visit us [here](#).

## Join us for Revel's special presentation on CASA of San Mateo County!

Do you know of any friends, family members or colleagues who would make a great CASA volunteer or who would like to learn more about our CASA program?! Invite them to hear firsthand from volunteer Janet Zablock about why she decided to become a CASA, including stories from her CASA experience, as well as the journey of the young girl who benefited from the time and guidance Janet so generously provided. Joined by Executive Director Nkia Richardson, this virtual presentation will prove to be the lunchtime break you needed in your day!!

Revel is a online social platform created exclusively for women age 50+. Membership is free during COVID. To sign up for this presentation, Thursday, October 1st at noon, please visit: <https://bit.ly/3k2On8U>

## In The News...



[Addressing Systemic Racism in our Child Welfare System](#)



[California sees steep drop in reports of child abuse since school campuses closed](#)

More than half – 53% – of all Black children and their parents will experience a child abuse or neglect investigation before their 18th birthday, according to research published in the *American Journal of Public Health*.

Black and American Indian/Alaskan Native children are disproportionately represented at all stages of the child welfare system. Once in foster care, children of color experience higher rates of placement disruptions, longer times to permanency, and more frequent re-entry than their white counterparts.

**[Read here for the full story.](#)**

No group in California reports more suspected cases of child abuse than teachers. And with teachers no longer seeing students in-person every day in most parts of the state, advocates say thousands of cases of child abuse may be going unreported.

**[Read here for the full story.](#)**

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

**[CASA of San Mateo County](#)**

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