



COUNTING

ON A CASA VOLUNTEER

Alameda County Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) helps change the odds for foster youth.

Every child needs a champion. For children and youth facing the complex foster care system, a trusted mentor can make all the difference in the world. Alameda County CASA recruits, trains, and supports dedicated volunteers to be the constant in a child's life—a person they can count on for compassion, guidance, advocacy, and information. The results can be life-altering.

FOSTER YOUTH FACE PROFOUND CHALLENGES



56%

Graduate high school (versus 85% state average)



3%

Earn a college degree



51%

Will be unemployed at age 22



33–50%

Of former foster youth experienced homelessness by age 26



5% rural
21% urban

Foster youth have computers

Alameda County CASA volunteers support proven pathways to more positive outcomes:

SELF-ESTEEM BUILDING

Valuing opinions, giving positive affirmations, supporting identity development, recognizing youth's successes and strengths

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT

Reading with youth, helping with school work and digital literacy, playing learning games, attending school meetings, and setting goals

NEW EXPERIENCES & ACTIVITIES

Visiting museums, parks, beaches, the zoo, and restaurants; attending sporting events; and discovering hobbies

TRUST & RELATIONSHIP BUILDING

Listening, developing consistency, modeling healthy coping skills, and celebrating milestones

CULTURAL & COMMUNITY EVENTS

Exploring festivals, culturally relevant experiences, historical landmarks, theater and arts, and volunteer opportunities

INDEPENDENT LIVING SKILLS

Finding a job and housing, strengthening family connections, completing high school and college, and developing financial literacy

BETTER PREPARED FOR A BETTER LIFE

Youth with an Alameda County CASA volunteer are more likely to:



RECEIVE NEEDED SERVICES IN A TIMELY MANNER



PARTICIPATE IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES



BE ON TRACK TO GRADUATE HIGH SCHOOL ON TIME



BE ENROLLED IN AN APPROPRIATE EDUCATIONAL SETTING



HAVE LONG-TERM CONNECTIONS TO SIBLINGS, RELATIVES, OR OTHER SUPPORT PEOPLE



PURSUe POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

OF THE YOUTH WITH AN ALAMEDA COUNTY CASA*:

100%

Graduated from high school

50%

Enrolled in university, community college, or vocational school

98%

Own or have access to a computer and internet for school and work

“When you are in the foster care system, it’s really easy to feel isolated. To have somebody there who is checking in on you and just genuinely wants to be around you and help you, it’s a really good feeling.”

– Alameda County CASA Foster Youth

A POWERFUL SOLUTION FACES A GROWING NEED

340

Alameda County foster youth provided a CASA volunteer

1,000+

Alameda County foster youth still without a CASA volunteer

You can make a difference.

Learn more at www.casaofalamedacounty.org.



Alameda County CASA is a member of the National CASA/GAL Association.

*Based on an Alameda County CASA 2020 Survey.



Alameda County Health Care Services Agency