



County of Sonoma

State of California

Date: April 07, 2026

Item Number: _____

Resolution Number: _____

4/5 Vote Required

Resolution Of The Board Of Supervisors Of The County Of Sonoma, State Of California, Congratulating CASA on 30 Years of Outstanding Dedication to the Youth of Sonoma County

Whereas, the Sonoma County Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Program is committed to serving abused and neglected children coming before the Juvenile Court for protection and rehabilitation services; and

Whereas, CASA is a non-profit community organization that provides volunteer advocacy services to children who are under Juvenile Court jurisdiction (i.e., foster care, adoption services, and juvenile delinquency). Superior Court Judge Arnold Rosenfield founded the Sonoma County CASA program in 1996. Judge Rosenfield was concerned because he witnessed children languishing in the foster care system or becoming the victims of poor decisions. The Judge was also concerned with the self-esteem and emotional care that the children received. Since its inception, CASA has been the “Child’s Voice in Court” for over 2,000 abused and neglected children; and

Whereas, CASA was incorporated as a non-profit organization in January 1997 and was recognized by the National Court Appointed Special Advocates Association as the 32nd CASA program in the State of California upon having graduated its first class of child advocates in April 1997; and

Whereas, the purpose of the CASA program is to humanize the complex child welfare system for the child victim by providing a trained volunteer who will act as a consistent role model, advocate, and long term life connection. Since the program’s inception CASA has served over 2,000 youth through the tireless efforts of over 700 volunteer child advocates and advisors; and

Whereas, the CASA program provides representation without charge to children between the ages of birth to twenty-one, who have been adjudged dependent children of the court. CASA is one of 52 similar programs across the state and 900 across the United States; and

Whereas, currently in California approximately 60,000 children are in foster care, with over 350 right here in Sonoma County. Approximately, 250 of these children receive CASA services annually. Locally CASA has over 250 volunteers providing over 15,000 hours of service annually. These volunteers serve as child advocates, advisors, help in the office, and serve on the board and committees; and

Whereas, since assuming the Executive Director role in April 2021, Heloisa Heinen has maintained CASA's focus on its founding goals and mission, remembering that children are the heart and soul of everything CASA does daily. The people of Sonoma County are grateful and fortunate for her efforts on behalf of our children; and

Whereas, current Board President, Joanne Brown has been providing leadership and direction have enabled CASA to continue to adapt to changes in the climate for non-profit organizations in order to continue to serve our most vulnerable children; and

Whereas, as Kofi A. Annan, remarked, "There is no trust more sacred than the one the world holds with children. There is no duty more important than ensuring that their rights are respected, that their welfare is protected, that their lives are free from fear and want and that they grow up in peace." We are thankful to CASA for taking the hand of a scared child and walking through the hardest moments. Our collective soul is better for having CASA at the center.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that the Board of Supervisors of Sonoma County hereby congratulates CASA on 30 years of outstanding dedication to the youth of Sonoma County

Supervisors:

Rabbitt:

Coursey:

Gore:

Hopkins:

Hermosillo:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Abstain:

So Ordered.