

#163

COMPLETE

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Q1 Name of your organization.

Child Advocates of San Bernardino County

Q2 Grant #

10914; 20160629 GIMB

Q3 Grant Period

October 1, 2016 - October 1, 2017

Q4 Location of your organization

City	Colton
State	California

Q5 Name and Title of person completing evaluation.

Cesar Navarrete, Executive Director

Q6 Phone Number:

909-881-6760

Q7 Email address.

cesar@casaofsb.org

Page 2: Key Outcomes and Results

Q8 Total number of clients served through this grant funding:

161

Q9 Describe the project's key outcomes and results based on the goals and objectives. Use the following format: State the Goal: State Objective 1: Describe the Activities, Results and Outcomes for Objective 1: State Objective 2 (if applicable): Describe the Activities, Results and Outcomes for Objective 2: State Objective 3 (if applicable): Describe the Activities, Results and Outcomes for Objective 3:

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Objective I: To increase the number of county-wide C.A.S.A. program Information Sessions held from 20 to 30.

Activities:

1. Hired a full time Community Outreach Coordinator (COC) for a total of 2.5 COC.
2. Created the county-wide Outreach Plan and Information Session schedule.
3. Assign COC's to their regions (High Desert, West End, and Central regions).
4. COC's implement regional outreach plans.
5. COC's implement 30 Information Sessions.

Actual Outcomes:

1. Conducted 21 Community Presentations across the county
2. Hosted 13 booths at community resource fairs throughout the county
3. Hosted 29 information sessions throughout the county
4. Received a total of 471 calls of inquiry as a result
5. 128 community members were confirmed for training
6. 75 community members completed training
7. 73 were sworn in and appointed to serve youth

Objective II: Increase the number of prospective volunteers attending the nine scheduled C.A.S.A. pre-service training workshops from an average of 10 attendees to 15 attendees.

Activities:

1. Community Outreach Manager scheduled monthly pre-service trainings.
2. Prospective volunteers were screened and scheduled for one of nine trainings.
3. Venue and subject-matter experts were scheduled; and materials were prepared.

Actual Outcomes:

1. 75 out of 128 potential new volunteers complete the pre-service C.A.S.A. training.

Objective III: Reduce the number of youth on the C.A.S.A. wait list by 100 youth.

Activities:

1. Hire a new full-time Advocate Supervisor responsible for supporting 30 C.A.S.A.s.
2. 100 new C.A.S.A. volunteers are screened, sworn-in and appointed to a youth on the wait list by 100 youth.

Actual Outcomes:

1. A total of 161 youth were served during the reporting period of which 73 were new and removed from our waitlist.
 2. 100% of program youth's education rights were protected.
 3. 80% of Program youth earned a 2.0GPA or better
 4. 71% of High school seniors in the C.A.S.A. program graduate high school on time, the remaining 29% will graduate at a later time.
 5. 100% of Program youth experience speedy and consistent school enrollment.
 6. 100% of Program youth attended school regularly.
 7. 100% of Program youth receive support to prevent serious behavior problems
 8. 100% of Program youth receive quality services for special education needs.
 9. 100% of Graduating youth receive financial aid, scholarships, and housing support to complete college.
 10. 100% of Program youth had opportunities for their overall social development.
 11. 100% of Program youth's learning disabilities were identified.
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Q10 Please describe any challenges/obstacles the organization encountered (if any) in attaining goals & objectives.

The biggest challenge we encountered was meeting our goal to train 100 new volunteers to serve 100 new youth. We were on track having a total of 128 community members signed up for training, unfortunately only a total of 73 (57%) completed the training. The main reason why volunteers were not able to complete training was due to personal reasons that included family and change in life circumstances. As a result we were only able to serve a total of 73 new youth by pairing them up with a mentor/advocate.

Q11 How did you overcome and/or address the challenges and obstacles?

Unfortunately the reasons for volunteers not completing training are out of our control. For those volunteers that were not able to complete training, we asked them if we could contact them at a later date to inquire if they are still interested in continuing with training. 90% agreed and we have stayed in touch with them, we have contacted them within 3,6,9, and 12 months of their initial training until they inform us that they are no longer interested. In the future we need to take into account the attrition rate. If our goal is to train a total of 100 new volunteers than we need to double the number of volunteers that start training.

Q12 Describe any unintended positive outcomes as a result of the efforts supported by this grant.

As a result of this grant an unintended positive outcome has come from those volunteers that did not complete training. Even though they are not official Court Appointed Special Advocates, they have remained connected with us through social media and our bi-monthly agency newsletter. They have offered their support by sharing information about Child Advocates of San Bernardino County within their own personal networks.

Q13 Briefly describe the impact this grant has had on the organization and community served.

As a result of this grant we have been able to positively impact over 300 lives (161 foster youth and 140 current and new volunteers). Volunteers invested over 10,000 hours of mentoring and advocacy work and as a result:

- 100% of program youth's education rights were protected.
 - 80% of Program youth earned a 2.0GPA or better
 - 71% of High school seniors in the C.A.S.A. program graduate high school on time, the remaining 29% will graduate at a later time.
 - 100% of Program youth experience speedy and consistent school enrollment.
 - 100% of Program youth attended school regularly.
 - 100% of Program youth receive support to prevent serious behavior problems
 - 100% of Program youth receive quality services for special education needs.
 - 100% of Graduating youth receive financial aid, scholarships, and housing support to complete college.
 - 100% of Program youth had opportunities for their overall social development.
 - 100% of Program youth's learning disabilities were identified.
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Q14 Please provide a budget expenditure report of the approved line items. Include a brief narrative on how the funds were used to fulfill grant objectives.

Budget Expenditure Report:

Staffing:

- \$33,280 Community Outreach Coordinator - Coordinates and conducts presentations at appropriate community civic organizations; actively seeks creative ways to raise community awareness about C.A.S.A. program; recruits volunteers; conducts monthly C.A.S.A. Information Sessions; conducts nine 30-hour trainings throughout the year; and facilitates the new volunteer application, screening, and training process; \$16/hr. x 40 hrs./wk. x 52 weeks = \$33,280.

- \$16,640 Advocate Supervisor - Provides professional support to volunteer advocates ensuring that children involved with the C.A.S.A. program receive sound advocacy and permanency planning; collaborates with Outreach Coordinator in transitioning volunteers from training to case appointment; coordinates the process of assigning volunteer advocates to cases (including scheduling case file review appointments, submitting appointment paperwork to court); serves as a liaison between the courts, social workers, lawyers, and other health providers, conducts new referral assessments; facilitates continuing education workshops; and coordinates youth events. \$16/hr. x 40 hrs./wk. x 52 weeks x .50 = \$16,640.

- \$7,500 Volunteer background checks/screenings – To screen 100 new volunteers via FBI, DOJ, CACCI, DMV, Social Security, and National Sex Offender Registry databases: 100 vols. X \$75/screening = \$7,500.

- \$7,000 Marketing – Total = \$10,000; new website, marketing plan contracted training

- \$5,040 Youth events – To implement monthly social activities for up to 20 youth (i.e., movie nights, game nights, plays, concerts, theme parks, and other recreational activities): \$21.00/youth x 20 youth = \$420 x 12 = \$5,040.

- \$5,000 Volunteer incentives/recognition – To purchase 200 \$25.00 gas cards for those volunteers travelling over 50 miles a month in the performance of their mentoring and advocacy duties: 200 x \$25.00 = \$3,000.

Total = \$74,460

Page 4: Success Stories

Q15 Please relate a success story:

Dana Ray has been a Court Appointed Special Advocate volunteer since 2010 positively impacting the life of her youth, Leroy for over 7 years. Dana has been involved in virtually all aspects of Leroy's life, including educational success, preserving important relationships and being a support as he transitions into early adulthood. I'd like to provide some context and take the reader back to how Dana described the afternoon she first met with her CASA youth, Leroy.

Email from Dana Day- October 28, 2010

"Wow, I must say that today was a success! Jason is fantastic, and clearly very excited to 'finally' get a CASA. He asked me if I could work on getting his friends a CASA, because he could tell they were sad that they didn't get one today! I told him I would let the office know that there are more boys who would like to have their own CASA. He took me to two more houses after you left and introduced me to the staff and some of the other boys. He then walked me back to the main office, and then gave me a big hug when I left. I told him I would see him next week, so he is looking forward to that! I loved the environment there at the (placement name removed). Clearly they really love those boys and for that I am grateful!"

Over the years Dana's youth was presented with all of the traditional challenges of being in foster care. Despite the ups and downs, Dana forged partnerships with the eleven CFS social workers that were assigned to him, dozens of teachers and counselors and has devoted over 750 mentoring and advocacy hours towards Leroy's case. Additionally, Dana became Leroy's Educational Rights Holder in April of 2014. As a result of Dana's advocacy and mentorship Leroy graduated in June of 2017. I truly believe that if I were to ask Jason to recall some of the best days of his life I'm sure Dana's name would come up. Likewise, Dana was present for some of the toughest days as well.

Dana serves as an irreplaceable source of information for Leroy. Dana has compiled a photobook of Jason's childhood starting at 11 years old which she gave to him on his 18th birthday. Dana has capitalized on her role as an advocate to the court by religiously accompanying her youth to his Dependency Court hearings, school meetings, and transitional conferences. Dana has relentlessly looked out for Leroy's interest and is not afraid to voice her opinion when necessary. With Dana's help, Jason was able to keep the few key people in his life close to him, including reunifying with his biological father as a result of Dana's family finding efforts. Leroy was also allowed to remain connected with a previous group home staff member through a recommendation in one of Dana's CASA reports to Dependency court. As Dana got to know Leroy she discovered that he had an older sister who was adopted. At the time, this was one of the few familial connections Dana was aware about. It was of the upmost importance to Leroy that he remained connected even though his sister was part of another family. Dana was crucial in helping Leroy remain connected as she provided transportation for him and consistently communicated with the adoptive sister's mother to ensure visitation plans were kept. Dana never allowed geographical distance to become a wedge between her and Leroy. Dana was only 25 miles away when she first met Leroy; Over 100 miles separate Dana from Leroy now and she remains as committed as ever continuing to visit him on a monthly basis and weekly communications.

Dana is a perfect example of the journey a volunteer takes with their youth and the positive impact they have as a result of their mentorship and advocacy efforts.

Q16 Please relate a success story here:

Oscar was appointed to his youth Kodie in November of 2016, he has been working with Kodie for over 10 months. During that time they faced many challenges, including the adoption of his two younger siblings, the separation of his two remaining siblings, placement changes, and school changes. Kodie and his siblings have been in care since 2013. Kodie was the oldest sibling who took on the role and responsibility as caregiver to his younger siblings. He identified himself as the “man of the house” who was responsible for his 4 younger siblings. When he first entered foster care he was angry, confused, depressed, and lonely, which resulted in behavior issues. He had trouble finding a new identity and people he can trust. Within the first two years of care Kodie was relocated to four different placements due to his behavior, he was a risk to others and himself. He has an Individual Education Plan (IEP), not because of a learning disorder, but because of his severe emotional disturbance which prevents him from learning. In 2016 Kodie was moved to a higher level of care group home in Highland that was able to provide more resources and a few months later was appointed a CASA volunteer.

Oscar has logged in over 110 hours of mentoring and advocacy with Kodie over the past 10 months. He started by taking Kodie out on outings, their favorite thing to do is going to the movies to watch the latest movie. Kodie and Oscar have grown to form a genuine relationship based on trust. One of the first things Oscar advocated for was to reinstitute sibling visitations, he knew how important family is to Kodie. As a result Kodie now visits with his two younger siblings on a regular basis, every other week for two hours. Aside from being Kodie’s CASA, Oscar is also his Educational Rights Holder. As the educational rights holder, Oscar was able to convene a re-evaluation for Kodie and create a new educational plan to support Kodie’s educational success. Together with the school administrators, counselors, and school psychologist they created a clear educational plan that would see Kodie slowly transition into a regular school. Today, he has a full day of school, he starts his day at an alternative half day school and ends his day at the regular high school and is playing high school football, his dream come true. Kodie was able to make this successful transition because he has not had any behavior episodes in over 10 months and as a result of Oscars support.. Having someone to mentor and advocate for Kodie has made all the difference, Oscar has challenged, motivated, and inspired Kodie, together they have overcome many obstacles and will continue to face the challenges of the child welfare system together.

Q17 Please relate a success story here:

CASA volunteer Emily has been working with her youth, Samantha for over 8 months and in January, Emily was also appointed as Samantha’s Educational Rights Holder. Unfortunately due to placement issues, Samantha was moved to a new foster placement requiring her to move schools as well. Samantha was looking forward to the change, but was worried about making friends and starting at a new school. Samantha soon learned that one of her new teachers hosted an after school “Pen and Soaps” Club. The club offered students the opportunity to learn calligraphy and incorporated a craft activity that taught students how to make an assortment of soaps with different scents and colors. Given the popularity of the club, spots were filling up fast. Samantha knew she needed to act quickly and so she reached out to her CASA Educational Advocate, Emily for help. Even though Samantha’s new placement was approximately 70 miles away from where her CASA lived, Emily continues to see Samantha every other week and is in constant contact with Samantha’s teachers. Samantha knew that she could continue to count on her CASA Emily no matter the distance. CASA Emily was able to connect with the teacher and persuade her to keep the last remaining spot open for Samantha and made arrangements for transportation. Ultimately, Samantha was able to join the club and learn new skills as well as make new friends along the way, “My CASA Emily is like a big sister, she fought for me to be in the club and has helped me in school. Because of her I’m thinking about college and the future, she’s great,” said Samantha with a huge smile on her face.

CASA Emily is currently working on preparing for Samantha’s next court hearing that will take place in a month, she will be writing her court report and recommending that Samantha have recurring extended family visits, extra academic support so that she is on track to graduate from high school, and for an ID because she is interested in working part-time.

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Q18 Which category best describes the organization.
Please choose only one.

**Youth
Development**

Q19 What is the organization's primary program area of interest?

Children & Families

Q20 Percentage of clients served through grant in each ethnic group category. Total must equal 100%

African American	19
Caucasian	35
Hispanic Latino	29
All Ethnicities	15
Other	1
Unknown	1

Q21 Approximate percentage of clients served from grant funds in each age category.

Children ages 06-12 years of age	16
Youth ages 13-18	62
Young Adults (18-24)	22

Q22 Approximate percentage of clients served with disabilities from grant funds.

Mentally/Emotionally Disabled	100
Learning Disabled	60

Q23 Approximate percentage of clients served in each economic group.

At/Below Poverty Level	100
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Q24 Approximate percentage of clients served from grant funds in each population category.

Ethnic Minority	65
Abused Women/Children	100
Students	100