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# child advocates

of Placer County

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“Working together, perhaps someday he will find stability and peace. Isn’t that what it’s all about?”

## John Adams — CASA and Mentor



*John Adams taught elementary and middle school for 32 years in San Jose. Shortly after college he spent two years as a Peace Corps volunteer in the*

*Philippines. Retirement gave him time to volunteer for the Red Cross, the American Cancer Society, the Rocklin P.D. and Meals On Wheels. John became a CASA volunteer in 2008 and has worked with three youth. Although many cases end well, others can be quite rocky, particularly if the youth ages out of foster care without family support. John has been a CASA, and later a mentor for one such youth for the past three years. Here is his story.*

When I was in the Peace Corps we all wanted to build mountains, but sometimes had to be content with molehills. I’ve found the same with being a CASA - you do what you can with what you have.

My first case as a CASA was an 18 year old named “Luke” (not his real name), who is bi-polar, obsessive compulsive,

and relies on medication and a lot of understanding to function. He feels he has brain damage due to the beatings he endured in his early years. Luke had been in several placements, including group homes, with relatives, and with 3 unsuccessful foster families. Eventually Luke was placed with an ideal couple in Roseville. The mother was a teacher and the father in the retail business. However, shortly after the placement became official, the father was diagnosed with lymphoma, and this illness curtailed any plans for a normal family life. I was assigned as a CASA to be a kind of surrogate figure, taking Luke shopping, to the movies, and above all out to eat. I think all young men have one thing in common - the ability to clean plates, over and over again!

Although 18, Luke was still in foster care because he was completing high school in Roseville. Thanks to the hard work of his foster mother, he graduated from high school with honors and began coursework at Sierra College. He moved into the dorms and was thrilled to finally be on his own. Life looked

*Continued on p.2*



*“The juvenile court needs volunteers to support abused and neglected kids going through the court system. As a CASA, you would be a trained court appointed advocate working directly with our community’s most vulnerable children. The CASA volunteers make a heroic difference in the lives of these children and families.”*

*- Hon. Colleen Nichols  
Presiding Judge, Placer Juvenile Court*

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## From the Executive Director

As with all Executive Directors, I make a lot of presentations to a wide range of community groups, foundations and corporations. In the past I spoke only about **CASA**, about the amazing people in our community who are willing to dive into the traumatized lives of foster children to help them find a better future.

But two years ago we formed **A2Y Mentors**, a program full of volunteers working with kids who are at-risk of entering the juvenile delinquency or child welfare systems (upstream), and foster youth who aged-out of the system into instant adulthood (downstream).

In January 2011 we partnered with Placer First 5 to create **Family Mentors**, which pairs volunteer mentors with parents of very young children in foster care, with the goal of making reunification permanent. Then this summer we began discussing a **Volunteers in Probation** with our Probation Department, with the goal of matching juvenile offenders and young adults (up to age 25) with specially trained volunteer mentors. Looking forward, we see more opportunities to share our great volunteers with other populations in need.

I found it to be nearly impossible to explain all this to a crowd in a 10 minute presentation. And then I realized that what we really do is this: there is a huge need for volunteers in our county, and a huge pool of wonderful people that want to fill that need. **Child Advocates of Placer County is a bridge between the two**, a bridge that has grown from 20 volunteers in 2006 to 208 today. And it will likely double again in the next few years. It is a bridge built on the time, commitment and financial support of our entire community. From all of us at Child Advocates of Placer County, we thank you for helping us build this amazing bridge!

## John Adams — CASA and Mentor

*From page 1*

good, and my assignment as a CASA was closed.

However, a few months later I received a call from his former foster father, telling me Luke had tried to take his life and was in the hospital. My heart sank when I heard this. It came down to him having neither the internal discipline needed to function on his own, nor any family support behind him. So I asked to be assigned as his mentor through the Adult-to-Youth (A2Y) Mentors program.

That was two years ago and since then his road has continued to be bumpy. He has been able to get his own apartment and purchase his own car, and these were definitely high points in his life, and as his mentor I feel great pride in his accomplishments. But as a father of two grown boys, I know how things can change, and I worry about his future.

And they did. In mid-September of this year I received a call from Luke, telling me he had spent the last 4 days in jail after being arrested on a DUI. Again my heart sank. I spent the next two days with him trying to get him back on course. Fortunately I wasn't alone. The support system of Placer County has many resources that I'm just fully learning about. Both his Transitional Housing worker and Project Hope were there for him. Together we laid out a plan with the goal of ensuring he doesn't become so depressed as to make another attempt on his life.

Luke is slowly getting his life back in order, but I fear things will never be easy for him. He will always need support, understanding and help with setting limits and goals. He has no family to fall back on, but as his mentor, I will always be a part of his community.

I came into this thinking I'd help a young man make better decisions and grow into a better person. I think I'm doing that, but I must also say that he is making me a better person as well. Working together, perhaps someday he will find stability and peace. Isn't that what it's all about?

# CHILD ADVOCATES OF PLACER COUNTY ANNUAL REPORT 2010-11

## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Last year the overall economic outlook continued to be a challenge for our country. Despite a financially difficult year for all, our program budget grew by 9 percent. We trained 82 new volunteers in 2010-2011, served 239 foster youth through the CASA program, 62 at-risk youth through A2Y Mentors, and 10 families through our Family Mentor program. Through our Simple Heroes program we were able to send fourteen foster kids to summer camp, and provide refurbished IBM laptop computers to seven transition age foster youth.

CAPC's greatest strength lies in its people, including a great professional staff directed by Don and Kathryn. We have a strong reputation within our community, which is reflected in the fact that our County keeps asking us to expand into new areas of need. Don has broadened our Grant programs, and increased the number of corporate donors. We have a devoted group of volunteers who form our "Friends of CASA", which has a mission of raising funds for CASA and getting the word out to our community. They hosted a successful annual High Tea at Catta Verdera Country Club last February, raising over \$16,000. Last year Child Advocates of Placer County was one of fifteen non-profits selected to participate in Hope Productions Walk-N-Rock resulting in donations raised of over \$30,000. Most importantly, our organization is a dedicated group of CASA/Mentor volunteers who together in 2010 donated 21,000 hours and drove over 210,000 miles to advocate for and mentor 268 foster children and at-risk youth.

Our Board welcomed three new members this past year: Mary Flores of PRIDE Industries, Dennis Loo of Wells Fargo Bank, and Dr. Renee Regacho-Anaclerio of the Placer County Office of Education. Their experience and influence in our community will vastly benefit CAPC. By continuing support of our programs, we can meet the difficult economic challenges ahead of us. As a CASA myself, I am proud to be associated with such a fantastic organization. Thank you all for your continued support, dedicated volunteer time and contributions/donations to Child Advocates of Placer County!

Sincerely,

Diana Nyman, Board Chair



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CHILD ADVOCATES OF PLACER COUNTY - ANNUAL REPORT 2010-11

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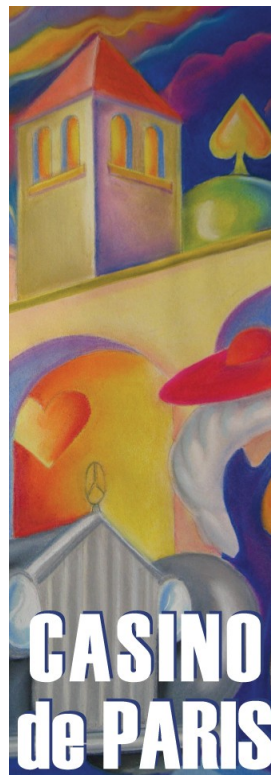
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We are grateful to all of our community partners and participants of our 2011 Casino Night! With your support we raised over \$45,000!

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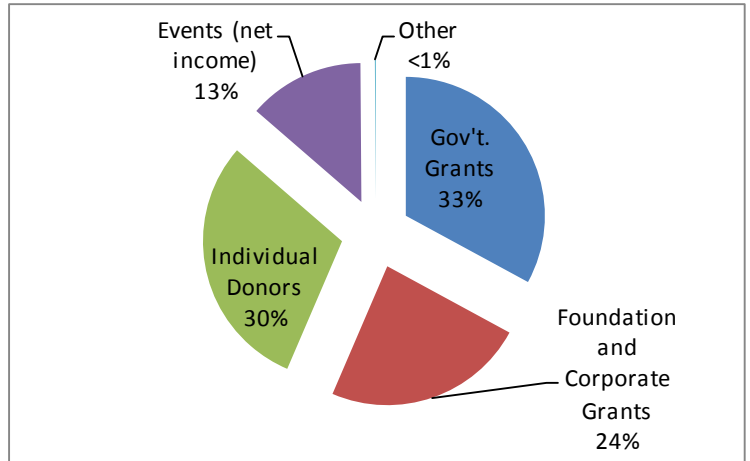
## 2010-11 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

### STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY & CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2011 (UNAUDITED)

**PUBLIC SUPPORT & REVENUE**

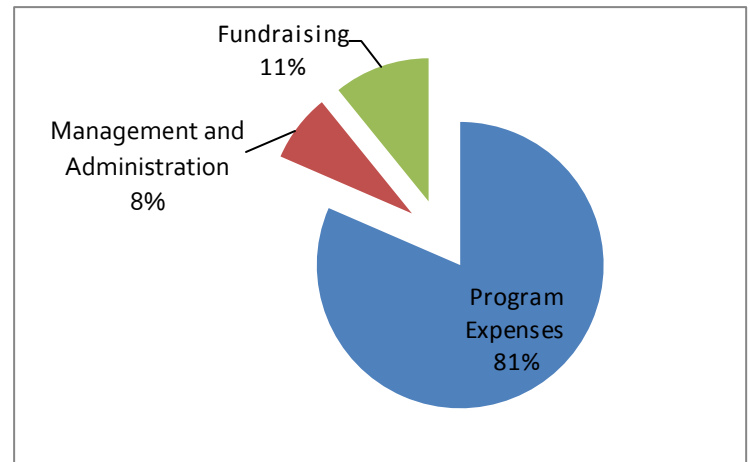
DIRECT PUBLIC SUPPORT	\$ 105,360
INDIVIDUAL DONOR SUPPORT	\$ 134,003
GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTIONS	\$ 147,442
EVENTS (NET INCOME)	\$ 60,551
INTEREST AND OTHER INCOME	\$ 489
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 447,845</b>



**EXPENSES**

PROGRAM EXPENSES	\$ 355,957
MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL ADMINISTRATION	\$ 35,207
FUNDRAISING	\$ 48,557
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 439,721</b>

**REVENUE - FISCAL YEAR 2010-2011**

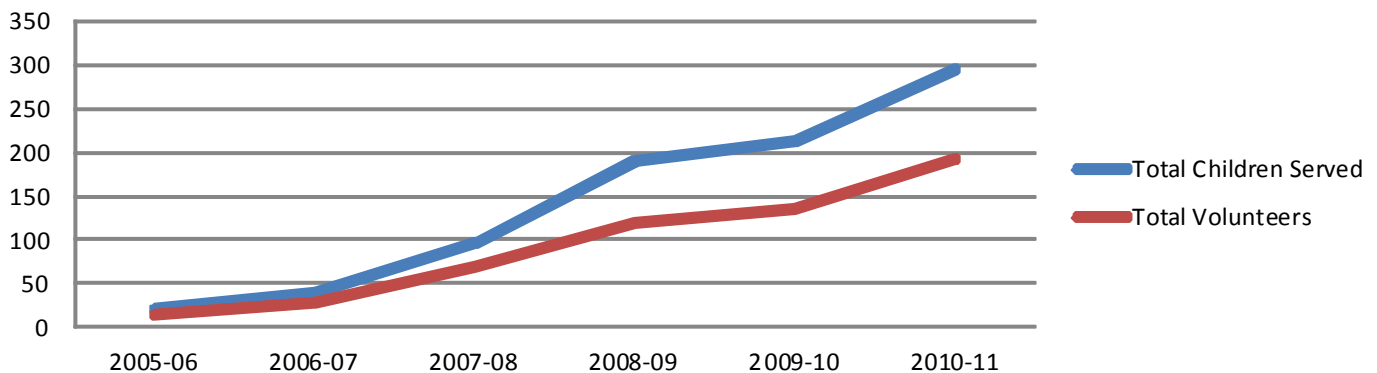


**CHANGES IN NET ASSETS**

TOTAL ASSETS JUNE 30, 2010	\$ 168,514
TOTAL ASSETS JUNE 30, 2011	\$ 168,853
TOTAL EQUITY JUNE 30, 2011	\$ 142,360

**EXPENSES - FISCAL YEAR 2010-2011**

### The Growth of Child Advocates of Placer County





## Kathryn Hart—Program Director

I am pleased to report that our CASA, A2Y Mentor, and Family Mentor programs continue to thrive and grow! We currently have 208 volunteers serving 238 children, young adults and families. Our volunteers typically meet weekly with their appointed youth or adult, and although the goals may differ among the populations we serve, all of our programs focus on one thing: **inserting a caring, consistent, reliable adult into these troubled lives.** Having these adult volunteers in their lives greatly increases positive outcomes - whether it is finding permanent homes for foster children, keeping at-risk youth out of trouble, or helping young adults succeed as parents.

Our reputation of recruiting and training wonderful volunteers has led us to piloting a **Volunteers In Probation** program, which will provide mentors for 18 – 25 year-olds who are on probation and are struggling to turn their lives around with little to no life skills. The goal is to help these young adults connect to resources, focus on independency and education, and work toward personal goals. We are fortunate to have such a strong pool of caring adults who want to make a difference and improve lives of youth and adults in our community. If you or someone you know would like to learn more about being a volunteer, please contact us!

## Thank you to our 208 CASA Volunteers and Mentors

We want to give a special "Thank You!" to our **CASA volunteers and Mentors**, who dedicated **over 21,200 hours and drove over 209,500 miles** to support their CASA and at-risk youth during fiscal year 2010-11.

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Val Berlin-Douglass	Anne Dixon	Peggy Harrit	Pam Kotler	Susan Payne	Christine Stroiney
Joan Berry	Rebecca Duncan	Kathryn Hart	Tamara Larson	Lisa Peat	Lynda Strong
Larry Boehm	Linda Durham	Noelle Hayes	Katy Leahy	Vicki Perkins	Dennis Szuszk
Patricia Bomberger	Maureen Dwinell	Rebecca Heath	Paula Leahy	Susan Petersen	Alan Telford
Sierra Borden	Chris Dwyer	Linda Heilser	Monica Lee	Kathleen Peterson	Barbara Tonso
Julie Bowen	Dana Eggerts	Wren Helbock	Christine Lemonds-Shea	Diane Pingree	Barbara Torgerson
Dan Brill	Robyn Emme	Lacian Henderson	Ron Little	Denise Plaice-Gordon	Jeff Torgerson
Dale Brown	Fran Estacio	Brien Hensley	Art Lyon	Roya Pourvakil	Laurie Tyrrell
Valerie Brown	Maxine Ferguson	Gayle Herring	Cathy MacHold	Allyson Prero	Tom Vaccaro
Bill Burchfield	Leslie Ferrini	Toni Higgins	James Makol	Stacy Quatela	Melissa Van Rensselaer
Marilyn Burchfield	Dave Fischer	Betsey Hirsch	Cara Mammon	Marianne Quinn	Scarlet Vanyi
Dina Burns	Deborah Forester	Bill Hirsch	Matthew Manjarrez	Janet Railsback	Darlyne Venneri
Audrey Burton	Jerry Foster	Jenn Hogan	Deborah Mann	Janis Rau	Laura Vizenor
Elena Byard	Linda Franklin	Judd Holiday	Timothy Marquette	Pete Rau	Judi Wallach
Grisel Bybee	Dan Freeman	Kevin Horan	Jennifer Massa	Susan Reed	Debra Waller
April Cadran	Gerina Freeman	Cindy Hosoda	Katherine McCarthy	Sherri Reyes	Angie Walters
Wendy Campbell	Roxanna Friedrich	Kelsey Hunter	Terri McClung	Tom Richie	Kathleen Wells
Dawn Cannon	Donna Fucci-Wheeler	Thad Huston	Randy Mead	Kathryn Ries	Barry White
Stephanie Carmichael	Jennifer Gann	Jenni Isaac-Lisk	Michelle Meier	Heidi Robertson	James Wiegandt
Christy Carlisle	Lance Gannett	Jayme Jack	Frederick Miller	Maureen Rodarte	Mark Wiese
Carolyn Carlson	Sheryl Garrity	Linda Jansen	Ashley Millspaugh	Rita Rogers	James Wood
Tom Cavallero	Don Genasci	Janet Jimenez	Mary Minnick	Cori Rosman	Nancy Wood
Neil Claiborne	Caroline Ghinassi	Dale Johnston	Leanne Mitchell	Fiona Ross	Sheridan Woodward
Renee Clark	Gene Glaser	Tamala Johnston	Zeinab Mohamed	Jeanne Ross	

Coming in March 2012:

## The 3rd Annual Friends of CASA High Tea!

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## Staff Spotlights



**Introducing Cara Mammon,  
Case Supervisor**

Cara Mammon joined Child Advocates as a part-time Assistant Development Director a year ago, and quickly proved to be a solid worker and great team member. She became a CASA volunteer for us shortly afterward and has volunteered at all of our events. When we received funding from a National CASA grant to hire a new Case Supervisor through Americorp, we immediately thought of Cara. We are pleased to announce that Cara began her new role as Case Supervisor in October, 2011.

Cara Mammon graduated from the University of California, Santa Cruz in 2009 with a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology with a focus in Social Psychology. She has always had a passion for helping others and began her volunteer work at the age of twelve by working weekends in a soup kitchen. She recently worked as a behavioral therapist with autistic children where she discovered the joy of helping children with disadvantages. Cara is very excited to be our newest Case Supervisor and looks forward to working with our wonderful volunteers to further our service to foster and at-risk youth.



**Introducing Dina Burns,  
Volunteer Case Supervisor**

Dina Burns became a CASA volunteer for Child Advocates in 2010. Prior to that she worked for Private Essential Access Community Hospitals, Inc. as Director of Communications. In this role she identified and developed strategies to maximize supplemental state and federal funding for community hospitals that disproportionately serve low-income populations. When her mother became ill in 2008, she left her position to help care for her.

Upon her mother's passing, Dina searched for a volunteer opportunity, and soon found her way to Child Advocates. She quickly developed a passion for working with foster youth and the courts, and last summer she approached us about becoming our second volunteer Case Supervisor (following the lead of Lisa Peat). She began overseeing other CASA volunteers in June 2011, and with her strong organizational skills and professional demeanor, is a great asset to Child Advocates. Dina currently supervises ten CASA volunteers and their cases, and is a wonderful representative for us in court.