

# the Voice

## Different Venue, Different Food, Same Great Party

Ho! Ho! Ho! Santa Claus skipped over the Tierrasanta Recreation Center and flew straight to Voices for Children's offices to see all the good boys and girls their CASAs brought to greet him! This year's party was so great we decided to offer it twice on Thursday, December 3 and again on Saturday, December 5. Hundreds of children came with their CASAs to take a picture with Santa, grab a goodie bag, and mingle with fellow foster children over lunch. The children enjoyed big slices of hot pizza, cookies and juice boxes as they talked and laughed in the festively decorated rooms.

We would like to thank our holiday party partners for creating another jolly event: the **Tierrasanta Kiwanis**, the **Tierrasanta Junior Women's Club**, and **Makua**. A special kudos to **CASA Isobel Shapiro and her philanthropic class of students at Francis Parker** for providing all the goodie bags.

Santa gave the boy a big hug after he shared his holiday wishes

The cookie table laden with a wide selection of sugary treats was a favorite stop for many of the kids!



The child walked away from Santa with a gift card and a colorful toy car in tow



The Tierrasanta Kiwanis traded in their hot grills for pizza slicers



Holiday goodie bags created by CASA Isobel Shapiro and her students

## A Great Day to be a CASA

When I woke up on the morning of Saturday, December 5, 2009, I had a plan for the day. I would pick up my case child Danny and take him to the Voices for Children Holiday Event. Danny is nine. In the car, I told him Santa would be at the party and he might give Danny a gift card or a present. I told him if it was a gift card, we would go shopping that same day, and he could spend the card on whatever he wanted. I watched Danny smile broadly.

Danny was treated like royalty at the event. Every Voices for Children staff member, Makua member and Kiwanis volunteer had a joyful, positive attitude—especially remarkable for a Saturday! Danny eagerly opened Santa's gift card, and his face lit up. He wolfed down a piece of pepperoni pizza, stuffed some cookies into his pockets, selected a goodie bag to take with him, and we were off to the toy store.

When I first met Danny a year ago, I asked him what kinds of things he liked. He told me, "things with wheels." True to form, Danny discovered a remote-control car at the toy store. On the way home, I watched Danny clutch the box in his arms. I told Danny I had a great day with him. Our eyes met and Danny replied, "I did, too."

*To the sponsors of Voices for Children, I am one of many CASAs who thank you for your generous support. — Name Withheld*

## A Quiet Hero

by Shyle Lyons, Program Supervisor

Sarah has spent most of her life in foster care and has spent a majority of that time in a group home. Sarah does not have any family members who consistently visit or call her and she is considered by many to be a difficult child with some undesirable behaviors. Her CASA, Kathy Myers, has visited Sarah each week since her appointment to Sarah's case in 2007.

Last year, Sarah was moved to a group home in Orange County—but Kathy was not deterred. She drives 180 miles round trip every Saturday to see Sarah. Something that they both look forward to each year is the Voices for Children Holiday Party. Kathy ensured that Sarah could attend the most recent party, despite the hundreds of miles of driving! Kathy has also attended Sarah's school meetings to make certain she is getting the needed services for success.

While Sarah's social worker, therapist, placement and school have changed, Kathy has been the only consistent person in her life. Sarah—like many teens—can sometimes be difficult, but Kathy sees this as part of Sarah's personality and embraces it. Kathy is an inspiration and is a great example of what our advocates do on a daily basis for the many foster youth we serve.



Kathy Myers

### MISSION STATEMENT

Voices for Children, a nonprofit organization, endeavors to ensure abused, neglected and abandoned children who have become dependents of the San Diego County Court will have a safe and permanent home. Through a network of trained and educated volunteer Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs), Voices for Children works with key agencies, legal counsel and community resources to identify and protect the best interests of each child inside and outside of court.

## Volunteers in the Spotlight

CASA **Linda Joliff** was named the Superhero of the Month for February by Volunteer San Diego. In addition to dedicating 20 hours of each month to her case children, Linda also volunteers at her church, Father Joe's Villages and St. Vincent De Paul.

The *San Diego Union Tribune* featured three of our CASAs in their December 26, 2009 issue. In each of their three regional sections, South County, East County and Metro, the newspaper highlighted the fabulous work of three different CASAs:

**Sue Snyder, Nancy Rosenberger** and **Jorge Valerdi**. If you would like to read their stories, please visit our website, [www.speakupnow.org](http://www.speakupnow.org) and look for "SDUT Highlights."

## St. Germaine Children's Charity

St. Germaine Children's Charity recognized Voices for Children for its dedication to the county's foster children with their prestigious Barbara Christensen 2009 Heart of San Diego Award. The award was created to honor one of the founders of St. Germaine Children's Charity, Barbara Christensen. In addition to the recognition, the group also granted \$15,000 to provide more advocates to our community's at-risk foster youth.

## Staff Milestone

If you visited our old administrative offices, you will



Susan Smith celebrated 10 years with Voices for Children in March!

recognize our milestone honorary, Susan Smith. Her smiling face welcomed visitors and Susan knew many CASAs by

name. Now, this 10-year veteran spearheads the recruitment effort as the Volunteer Recruitment Coordinator.

For several months in 2009, Susan did double duty as the Training Coordinator and *still* found time to edit grants for the Development team! Susan has truly found her niche in the Recruitment and Training team. "The volunteers make it all worthwhile," explained Susan. "You can never give them enough recognition for what they do. They are amazing people. I enjoy meeting them and look forward to each and every opportunity to work with them."

## Letter from the President

Dear Readers,



Welcome to a new year and decade—a fresh slate of possibilities! Voices for Children is celebrating 30 years of accomplishments. In 1980, Voices for Children was inspired by two women, a research paper, and the passionate belief that some kind of fundamental change was needed to improve how foster care worked. Since that first collaboration 30 years ago, Voices for Children has provided services to more than 47,000 foster children with the help of more than 7,000 volunteers and staff members. I am inspired when I think about all the wonderful people who work so hard on behalf of our children.

We are planning special ways to celebrate this 30th anniversary milestone, starting with a series of articles in *The Voice*. We will post more updates on our website, [www.speakupnow.org](http://www.speakupnow.org). Please stay tuned as we plan to make 2010 very special!

With your support, we know we can make a difference in the lives of our county's abused and abandoned children.

Warm regards,

Sharon M. Lawrence  
President/CEO



Attendees applauded as Judge Huguenor took the podium



Real Word Speaker Conception Cuevas with Judge Huguenor

## A Salute to Judge Huguenor

The Fifth Annual Judge's Breakfast was bittersweet since it was the Honorable Susan Huguenor's last time to speak at the event as Presiding Judge of Juvenile Court. Many of her colleagues, including the Honorable Kenneth So, the Honorable Kevin Enright, the Honorable Robert Trentacosta and Mike Roddy, San Diego Superior Court's Executive Officer, were among the attendees on December 1 at downtown's University Club.

In addition to Judge Huguenor, Assemblyman Nathan Fletcher spoke about his interest in foster care which was sparked by his mother's life-long work with shelters for battered women. Former foster child and Real Word Speaker Conception Cuevas took the podium to introduce Judge Huguenor and to publicly thank her for the compassion and kindness she showed to foster children in her courtroom—including Conception. While we will no longer be working with Judge Huguenor directly, we know Voices for Children has a life-long friend.

## SDG&E/Sempra Energy Lights Up the Holidays

Candice Churchwell, a Regulatory Economic Adviser at SDG&E, is a good neighbor and an excellent Santa! She lives in the same complex as Voices for Children's VP of Operations, Marcia Looper. When the



Candice Churchwell gave Lynn Basquez a check from SDG&E

time came for SDG&E employees to suggest candidates for Sempra's Season of Giving campaign, Candice thought of Marcia and submitted a request to support Voices for Children's annual holiday party for its CASAs and their foster children. Candice came to our offices to present Sempra Energy's check for \$1,000 to Lynn Basquez, Grant Writer at Voices for Children.

Separately, Sempra granted \$5,000 for Voices for Children's CASA program! Thank you Sempra and SDG&E!





Photo by Joseph Guidi

Photo by Joseph Guidi

Guests enjoyed a high-fashion runway show produced by South Coast Plaza

Mustards, warm gold and black were popular Fall/Winter colors for the designers

## The Art of Fashion Runway Show

September 24 was a very warm day at The Inn at Rancho Santa Fe, but it didn't deter the more than 400 fashionistas from dreaming about wearing the Fall/Winter 2009 collections from top designers presented by South Coast Plaza. Voices for Children was the sole beneficiary of the 54th Annual *Art of Fashion* Runway Show. "We are all committed to making life better and brighter for foster kids in our community, providing a voice for those who have none," said Event Chair Lisa Alvarez about The Country Friends's partnership with Voices for Children. The event is The Country Friends's largest annual fundraiser and one of the nation's largest outdoor fashion shows. For the fifth year in a row, South Coast Plaza collaborated with the Rancho Santa Fe-based nonprofit on the *Art of Fashion*. Some of the designers who presented this year were Oscar de la Renta, Emilio Pucci, Donna Karan Collections, Marni, Michael Kors and Max Mara. In addition to the runway show, guests enjoyed a pre-show luncheon, an "Après Affaire" wine tasting with boutique shopping, and an opportunity drawing with prizes from Jo Malone and David Yurman.



Jeanne Lucia, Lisa Alvarez, Sharon Lawrence and Sandra Maas

Photo by Joseph Guidi

On December 9th at their annual Silver Tea, The Country Friends presented Voices for Children's Sharon Lawrence and Kim Penny with a check for \$50,000! Thank you to The Country Friends for their generous inclusion of our agency in their stylish fundraiser! Special thank yous go out to Event Chair Lisa Alvarez, The Country Friends President Jeanne Lucia, Marci Cavanaugh, Dana Fudurich, the Art of Fashion Committee, and all the volunteers who helped make the fashion show a success.



### ART OF FASHION COMMITTEE

In recognition of their hard work and dedication on behalf of the children we serve, we thank everyone on the *Art of Fashion* Committee.

Donna Ahlstrom  
Alli Beal  
Maggie Bobileff  
Kristi Brooks  
Judy Burer  
Denise Capozzi  
Sue Cronk  
Deb Cross  
Janice Eickhoff  
Bree Estape  
Sharon Ferges  
Jennifer Ford  
Rebecca Franks  
Dana Fudurich  
Amber Hodges  
Janet Horn  
Charlotte Jones  
Eric Jones  
Heather Lee Killen  
Andrea Muir  
Gina Muir  
Andrea Naverson  
Jean Newman  
Pearl Padovano  
Kim Penny  
Kathleen Svoboda  
Joan Swartz  
Heidi Timlake  
Rhonda Tyron  
Kathe Votsis  
Melanie Cruz Walsh  
Jean Waters  
Tally Weber  
Judy Wickman

*Every gift from a friend is a wish for your happiness*

— Richard Bach

## Happiness Comes in Three Sizes

Surprise a mother, graduate or friend with one of Voices for Children's unique sterling silver, starfish necklaces from our Ann Biederman collection. Designed exclusively for Voices for Children, this thoughtful gift will spread joy even more since it helps fund a caring CASA for a foster child in our community.

To see our complete line of starfish collectibles and jewelry, visit [www.speakupnow.org](http://www.speakupnow.org).



Photo by Elisabeth Schwerd

The Natural, The Abstract, The Petite – The Perfect Present

## Rancho Santa Fe Women's Fund

We are deeply grateful to the 100-plus members of the Rancho Santa Fe Women's Fund for supporting our CASA program with a very generous donation of \$43,000! The philanthropic group is dedicated to the needs of the community by financially supporting local programs. This significant, first-time grant allows us expand our services to more of San Diego's abused and neglected children who need the caring support of a CASA.

## Granting CASAs to Kids

We are grateful to all of the corporations and foundations who prioritized donations to our foster children over the holidays and into the new year. We would like to thank **The Parker Foundation**, a regular generous grantor, for their \$20,000 grant. In addition, **In-N-Out Burger Foundation** gave us \$12,500 and has supported our mission for the past 13 years. **Day for Change** also championed our CASAs with a \$12,500 contribution. Other grantors who continued their support are **Bank of America**, **Money/Arenz Foundation**, **C.J. & Dot Stafford Memorial Trust** and **Samuel & Katherine French Fund**. These donations make a world of difference in the lives of the children we serve.



**Monday, April 19**  
**18th Annual Golf Tournament**  
**Fairbanks Ranch Country Club**

Join Voices for Children at one of San Diego's premier, private courses: Fairbanks Ranch Country Club in Rancho Santa Fe. The full day event includes an 18-hole tournament, grilled lunch, hosted cocktail reception, silent and live auctions, banquet and awards ceremony.

For sponsorship and event information, visit our website, [www.speakupnow.org](http://www.speakupnow.org), or contact Lisa Jeong at 858-598-2213 or [lisaj@voices4children.com](mailto:lisaj@voices4children.com).

**Saturday, May 8**  
**Nordstrom Tile Painting Party**

Would your little Picasso love to paint a sea-life themed masterpiece? Then reserve one of 200 tiles that will be permanently installed on the Kids' Wear floor in Fashion Valley Nordstrom. All proceeds will benefit Voices for Children. Children, ages 5 to 12, will meet with artist Charles Bigger to paint a tile in a "sea life" theme. It will be a great event and we are honored to have been selected by Nordstrom. The cost per child is \$50. All tiles become property of Nordstrom.

For more ticket or event information, please visit our website, [www.speakupnow.org](http://www.speakupnow.org) or contact Lisa Jeong at 858-598-2213 or [lisaj@voices4children.com](mailto:lisaj@voices4children.com). Reservations are limited and will be honored in the order received.

**Saturday, June 19**  
**Makua's Rockin' Rumba**  
**Humphreys by the Bay**

Get ready for a *fantástico* time at Makua's Rockin' Rumba. As usual this lively group has planned another exotic and tempting party destination without having to leave the city limits! The money raised at this fundraiser supports Voices for Children's programs.

For sponsorship and ticket information, please contact Cynthia Garrett at [cgarrett101@gmail.com](mailto:cgarrett101@gmail.com) or Dawn Eastman at [dmebusbs@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dmebusbs@sbcglobal.net).

**Information**  
**Session Calendar**

To learn more about Voices for Children and becoming a volunteer, join us at one of our many Info Sessions.

Apr 21 / May 12 / Jun 16 / July 14

All sessions are on a Wednesday from 5:30 to 7:00pm in our training room. Please RSVP to Susan Smith at 858-598-2235 or [susans@voices4children.com](mailto:susans@voices4children.com).

# A Song to Celebrate our CASAs

The Escondido Rotary Club invited Voices for Children to speak at a luncheon on December 1, 2009. In addition to a gallant welcome from President Dan Sundquist, Volunteer Recruitment Coordinator Susan Smith and CASA/Speaker Valerie Riggs were delighted to be greeted by an original song and welcome banner. We had to share these wonderful lyrics with you!

"I'm Looking Over a Four-Leaf Clover"  
Lyrics by Escondido Rotarians CJ and Gary Szytel

Voices for Children are men and women  
Who give of their time and more  
Making a difference and taking a stand  
These kids need someone to lend them a hand

Kids need a mentor to build their future  
That they never had before  
Voices for Children, the care they've given  
Is opening every door.

Thank you to Margaret and Douglas Moir for organizing the presentation and the Escondido Rotary for the warm and very unique welcome!



Dan Sundquist presented Valerie Riggs and Susan Smith with two books donated on VFC's behalf to a local library

## Who is Makua?

You've read about their events in *The Voice* and seen them on our website, but do you really know who Makua is? Makua, Friends of Voices for Children, is composed of philanthropic women dedicated to supporting and assisting our county's foster children in crisis.



In 2004, the group officially adopted Voices for Children as their partner. We are very grateful for everything the group has done for us from helping to raise money at their annual dinner dance to educating the community about our program, life in foster care and what it means to be a CASA.

Thank you, Makua, for all of your hard work and support!

## Why Donate to Vehicles for Voices?

There are several great reasons:

1. You don't want to worry about selling your vehicle.
2. It is too expensive to repair your vehicle.
3. Your vehicle won't pass a smog test.
4. You don't trust your car to be safe on the road.
5. You need a tax write-off.



But the most important reason is Voices for Children will use the funds from the sale of your vehicle to help change lives!

For more information about Vehicles for Voices, contact Lisa Jeong at 858-598-2213 or [lisaj@voices4children.com](mailto:lisaj@voices4children.com).

**VOICES FOR CHILDREN** 2851 MEADOW LARK DRIVE, SAN DIEGO, CA 92123

**A CHILD HEARD.**



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# Starry, Starry Night 2009



Bill and Rochelle Bold



Lee Posnock, Hailey Waitt and Hostess Joan Waitt



Event Chairs Laura and Ethan Boyer



Patsy and David Marino

## Pretty in Pink

The lawn overlooking La Jolla Shores was awash in gorgeous blushing shades from the oversized display of pink, red and white florals at the entryway and the eye-catching electric pink linen, to the scrumptious sweets table overflowing

with tempting pink candy treats (back by *very* popular demand) and the exquisite prickly pear martinis that greeted the guests. *Starry, Starry Night* delivered a phenomenal experience for the 450 guests that enjoyed the festivities on Saturday, September 26 at Joan Waitt's hilltop estate. The fundraiser was a financial success for the agency raising

more than \$530,000 in net support for our programs serving the community's foster youth.

This year the event had a couple of fresh features that were a hit with the crowd including a "Quiet Auction" where attendees could view items on the large screens and submit bid slips throughout the dinner program. Some of the more popular "Quiet" items were VIP tickets to *The Ellen Degeneres Show* and the CEO Suite at Petco Park for a 2010 Padres game. Like last year, the live auction offered a plethora of wonderful items including an opportunity to meet with renowned scientist Dr. J. Craig Venter, batting and fielding lessons with the Padres's Adrian and Edgar Gonzalez, and the role of a lifetime as a NPC (non-playable character) in Sony Online Entertainment's popular tween game, *Free Realms*™.

The main attraction was a crowd-pleasing concert by the internationally recognized Pink Martini who energized the crowd with their unique sound. The scrumptious, red wine-braised short ribs cooked osso bucco style by

Pamplemousse Grille earned rave reviews from many of the guests who thought the meal was one of the best ever served at *Starry, Starry Night*. And of course, everyone wanted to belly up to the oversized lit-up bar that transformed the lawn into a high-end nightclub. Other event highlights included the Dana Garrett Jazz Trio at the cocktail reception, the cozy seating areas complete with roaring firepits, and some wild dancing to DJ Kurch to finish the night.

Voices for Children is grateful to many wonderful friends who helped make this perennial event special for our attendees: Event Chairs Laura and Ethan Boyer, Susan Drury, Steve Elder, auctioneer Bill Menish and his fast-acting ringmen, and 102.1 KPRI. Our heartfelt gratitude to our "team" who has worked with us for the last few years to create this signature event: Steve Redfearn and



3



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Jay Sheehan of Redfearn & Associates, Jeffrey Strauss of Pamplemousse Grille, event designer Clare Webber, emcees Rory Devine and Robert Hughes, and David McCann at Classic Party Rentals. An extra big thank you to Joan Waitt and her children, Hailey, Emily, Sophia, and Max, for welcoming everyone into their home with warmth and grace for a third year in a row.

- 1) President/CEO Sharon Lawrence, Alex Sun and Board Member Jill Skrezyna
- 2) The crowd danced the night away
- 3) Board Member Susan McKenna, Karen Amillio, Torrie Dorrell Hopper and Janice Rooney
- 4) Emcees Rory Devine and Robert Hughes with Auctioneer Bill Menish
- 5) Pink Martini

A CHILD HEARD.



A LIFE CHANGED.

Event Photos by Jack Smith and Carol Sonstein



Dennis Voorheis and Board Chair Pat Hughes



Renata Vicente and Avelino Cortina III



Speakers Sean and Luis Green with their mother, Debi, in the middle



Andrea Fohrman flashed the camera a big smile and her bidder number

# Starry, Starry Night 2009

## HONORARY COMMITTEE

We express our heartfelt gratitude to our honorary committee for championing our cause and financially supporting *Starry, Starry Night*.

Joan Waitt, *Honorary Chair*  
Rochelle and Bill Bold  
Grace and Herbert Boyer  
Annette and Daniel Bradbury  
Julie and Noah Bretz  
Andrew B Dumke  
Lisette and Michael Farrell  
Caroline and Anthony Farwell  
Audrey S. Giesel/Dr. Seuss Foundation  
Lourmarin Corporation  
Deborah and Claude-Anthony Marengo  
Marina Marrelli and Robert Anslow  
Susan and Mark McKenna  
Lee and Stuart Posnock  
Jeanne and Ted Roth  
Renee and Duane Roth  
Sheryl and Bob Scarano  
Robin Stark  
Haeyoung and Kevin Tang  
Charles White

# Starry, Starry Night 2009

## EVENT COMMITTEE

Thank you to our committee members for helping create a memorable event!

|  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| Laura and Ethan Boyer,<br><i>Event Co-Chairs</i> | Susan McClellan |
| Maria Acker                                      | Susan McKenna   |
| Lorena M. Arnold                                 | Trudy Nielsen   |
| Rochelle Bold                                    | Tamara O'Horgan |
| Phifer Crute                                     | Nancy Peritz    |
| Patty Elkus                                      | Janice Rooney   |
| Fara Fashandi                                    | Robin Stark     |
| Angela Fukumura                                  | Stacey Thomas   |
| Torrie Dorrell Hopper                            | Renata Vicente  |

# Starry, Starry Night 2009

## LIVE AUCTION, QUIET AUCTION AND OPPORTUNITY DRAWING DONORS

Kudos to all of our wonderful in-kind contributors whose gifts raised more than \$170,000!

Lorena M. Arnold  
Attendees of the 100-Point Wine Tasting Party  
Birch Aquarium at Scripps  
Lauren and James Brennan with EnDev Enterprises, LLC  
Vicky Carlson  
*The Ellen Degeneres Show*  
Andrea Fohrman  
Adrian and Edgar Gonzalez  
Hermes of Paris  
Ivy Hotel and Quarter Kitchen  
Jeff Moorad and the San Diego Padres  
Kelli and Vahid Moradi and C.J. Charles Jewelers  
Nordstrom  
Sauritch Surfboards and Rob Machado  
Carl Schroeder and MARKET Restaurant + Bar  
Sony Online Entertainment  
Jeffrey Strauss and Pamplemousse Grille  
Sub Aviator Systems  
Titleist Performance Institute  
Dr. J. Craig Venter, the J. Craig Venter Institute,  
Kelli and Brett Miller, JRDN and TOWER23 Hotel

And a special thank you to EnDev Enterprises, LLC and Brian Malarkey for our surprise auction item: dinner for 12 at their new restaurant opening in the summer of 2010!



The guests at the Qualcomm table enjoyed the festivities

# Starry, Starry Night

## LIST OF APPRECIATION

Our 2009 gala would not have been possible without the generosity of the following sponsors and underwriters:

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BILL BOLD**

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DAVID MARINO**

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ESQ.**

