



Contact: Laura Fulda, Director, Community Development
Child Advocates of Silicon Valley
laura@cadvocates.org
408-573-5615

DEBBIE CROUSE JOINS CHILD ADVOCATES OF SILICON VALLEY BOARD



Milpitas, CA – May 9, 2016 – The Board of Directors of Child Advocates of Silicon Valley has appointed Debbie Crouse to the board. Debbie's appointment comes as Child Advocates' celebrates 30 years of transforming foster children's lives with a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA). CASAs serve as a friend and mentor and represent the best interests of the child in dependency hearings.

Debbie brings a wealth of business experience to Child Advocates. She has been driving change within technology, service and manufacturing businesses for over 20 years by providing facilitation, training and hands on delivery of projects for clients and former employers. In more recent years, she has spent her time raising her children, leading fundraising projects for non-profits and working with technology startups to improve execution as they grow. She formerly served on the Board of Directors for Family & Children Serves of Silicon Valley and Montclair Educational Foundation. She also currently serves on the Advisory Board for Animal Assisted Happiness.

"Supporting children and advocating for their health and educational well-being is very close to my heart," says Debbie. "It's critical that children in foster care who have experienced abuse and neglect have a stable adult presence in their lives in the form of a CASA. I am thrilled to join the Child Advocates' board as the agency celebrates 30 years of serving 15,000 foster youth, and I look forward to helping the organization meet its strategic goals."

Child Advocates has an ambitious five-year strategic plan to provide a CASA for every child in the Santa Clara County foster care system by year-end 2018. Currently, there are about 1,600 children in the Santa Clara County dependency system, 1,000 of which could benefit from a CASA. This year, Child Advocates hopes to serve 780 children with a CASA volunteer.



Individuals interested in becoming a CASA volunteer can visit Child Advocates' website (www.bemyadvocate.org) to sign up to attend a Volunteer Orientation session/Open House to learn more about the role and requirements of becoming a CASA in Santa Clara County.

About Child Advocates of Silicon Valley

Child Advocates is the only agency in Santa Clara County that provides Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) to foster youth. Because our volunteers are court-appointed, they can thoroughly research every aspect of a child's case, including meeting teachers, doctors, social workers, counselors, biological family members and foster parents, thereby gaining a comprehensive perspective on what the child needs in order to thrive. CASAs assist their child in accessing needed resources, follow their school progress, and speak up for their child's best interests in court. They maintain complete records about the case, submit reports and attend court hearings. CASA volunteers stay with their case until their child has a safe, loving home. Find out more about our CASA program at www.BeMyAdvocate.org.

###