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San Jose City Councilman Raul Peralez to Speak at Child Advocates' Breakfast Event to Benefit Foster children

Milpitas, CA – Nov. 3, 2015 – San Jose City Councilmember Raul Peralez will be the featured speaker at Child Advocates of Silicon Valley's Breakfast Event: Help Us Reach Every Child. The event is sponsored by Microsoft Corporation and will be held at Microsoft's Conference Center, 1065 La Avenida, Bldg. 1, in Mountain View on Thursday, November 12, 2015 from 7:30-8:30 a.m. Anyone interested in attending the breakfast can [RSVP here](#).

[Child Advocates](#) recruits, trains and supports Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) to work one-on-one with foster children in Santa Clara County. This year, the nonprofit agency hopes to match 780 foster children with a CASA volunteer.

During the one-hour program, Child Advocates' Executive Director Karen Scussel will speak about the organization's recent successes and plans to provide a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) to every foster child in Santa Clara County who would benefit from the attention and support of a consistent, caring adult. Currently, there are more than 1,600 children in foster care in Santa Clara County.

[Councilmember Peralez](#) will speak about Child Advocates' impact in the community. Councilmember Peralez received CASA training and is a former police officer. His mother Denise is a longtime CASA volunteer. For nearly a decade, Councilmember Peralez has been a substitute high school and alternative education teacher, working with students in the juvenile justice system. While on the police force, he was the only officer in the county to also teach at Juvenile Hall.

"Child Advocates of Silicon Valley has had a huge impact on my own family and countless children in Santa Clara County," said Councilmember Peralez. "Working one-on-one with foster children provides the emotional and educational support they need, while touching the lives of volunteers in profound ways."

“We are thrilled to have Councilmember Peralez speak at our breakfast event,” said Scussel. “As a former police officer, Councilmember Peralez knows how critically important it is for children to have a stable adult presence in their lives. Our CASA volunteers provide that stability and give children who have experienced abuse and neglect support to create a better future for themselves.”

About Child Advocates of Silicon Valley:

Child Advocates of Silicon Valley recruits, trains and supports Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) who serve the needs of children in the foster care system by providing a powerful, independent voice for the child. These dedicated community volunteers spend time with a child and become a trusted friend, mentor and consistent adult presence. They work with foster parents, teachers, social workers, counselors, and others to build a complete picture of the child’s life and needs. CASAs attend hearing in dependency court to advise the judge on the child’s best interests when key decisions are being made. The CASA volunteers stay with their case until their child has a safe, loving home. More information can be found at: www.BeMyAdvocate.org.