

Jessel Gallery Presents

*The Art of
Helping Children*
A Holiday Event Benefiting Napa CASA

Saturday December 5, 2009

6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Wine and Hors d'oeuvres ▪ Music and Silent Auction
Jessel Gallery ▪ 1019 Atlas Peak Road ▪ Napa, California

Tickets \$45.00 per person

Proceeds benefit Napa CASA, A Voice for Children, a 501(c)(3)
organization dedicated to advocating for abused and neglected children. Tax identification # 20-3594007

Napa CASA, A Voice for Children

The Napa Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program advocates on behalf of children who have been abused and neglected by their parents or caregivers and ensures that each child's needs are addressed. In 2009, the number of abused and neglected children who, through no fault of their own, have been made dependents of the court for their safety and protection has increased by approximately 30%. Napa CASA needs your support now more than ever.

Children in foster care are first traumatized by the maltreatment, neglect or abuse that brings them to the attention of the authorities, again by removal from their family, and possibly yet again by their experiences in the foster care system. By providing individual attention to each child's case, trained, screened and supervised CASA volunteers ensure that the child receives: a safe, stable, permanent environment where the child can thrive; educational advocacy to promote academic success; advocacy for health care and therapeutic treatment; and assistance with the development of life skills required for successful emancipation.

Children who have been assigned a CASA volunteer spend significantly less time in long-term foster care and are less likely to reenter the child welfare system than children in situations where a CASA volunteer is not involved. Judges, attorneys, child welfare workers and parents overwhelmingly report that CASA volunteers make a difference in the lives of the children they serve. During the first nine months of 2009, Napa CASA has advocated for 134 children and 62 CASA volunteers have contributed approximately 4,250 hours of their time. The cost of providing support and services to each abused and neglected child for one year is approximately \$2,000. There are 30 children waiting for a CASA volunteer to be assigned to their case.

Napa CASA needs your help to enable us to meet the increasing need for our services. Please help us with our efforts to ensure that every abused and neglected child in Napa County has a CASA volunteer to advocate for their best interests. Your generosity is truly appreciated.