
ADVOCATE ALLEY

Volume 3, Issue 4

April 2009

It is the ability to take a joke, not make one, that proves you have a sense of humor. -Max Eastman

CASA Corner

Greetings Advocates,

We hope to see many of you on Saturday night at our big fundraiser! Thank you all for all you do to support our organization in the myriad of ways that you do. Each contribution of time, money, services and support is so valued.

Try to make it to Hula's for dinner on Monday nights, and you'll be helping support CASA over a wonderful meal! April is Child Abuse Prevention Month, so spread the word... knowledge is power!

Hartnell College will be hosting an event called "Building Community for Our Future" on Saturday, April 18 from 8am to 5pm. They will feature presentations on Brain Development, Movement, Emotionally Healthy Children, Reggio Influences, Curriculum and much, much more. For more information, contact us and we'll forward you the registration form. This event would earn you the majority of your year's continuing education requirement in just one day. What a deal!

Thank you for all you do,
Michelle Arnold
Recruitment & Training
Coordinator

Traffic School: Extended Education Opportunities

Mandating Reporting & Brain Development

Date: Tuesday, April 28th
Time: 6:00pm to 8:00pm
Location: CASA Office

Come join David Maradei from the Child Abuse Prevention Council as he discussed the logistics of mandating reporting, as well as child brain development. Highly recommended for new advocates!

Peer Review

Date: Wednesday, April 29th
Time: 12:00pm to 2:00pm
Location: CASA Office

RSVP: to Ruben at 455-6800 or ruben@casamonterey.org

Event Expressway

● Mahalo Mondays-April 6, 13, 20 and 27

Hula's Island Grill and Tiki Room at 622 Lighthouse Avenue in Monterey is featuring CASA for their monthly Mahalo Mondays program! Hula's will give back 10% of their total sales for every Monday in April. So save the date and enjoy great food, fun atmosphere and benefit CASA all at once! Call 831-655-4852 (HULA) or visit www.hulastiki.com.

● CASA Info Session- April 7

Tell your friends... to join us at our next info session. Held at the CASA office at 5pm, it's a great way for them to learn more about becoming an advocate. Our next training class begins April 14. Remember, our advocates are our BEST recruiters! Please RSVP to Michelle.

● Job City- April 18

This day-long event is open to ILP eligible foster youth. If your child is between the ages of 15 1/2 and 18, make sure they don't miss out on a fun, educational day that will empower youth to join the workforce. Contact Michelle for details!

Let Your Voice Be Heard!

One of the CASA of Santa Cruz advocates was recently speaking with Assemblyman Bill Monning about Assembly Bill 12, Speaker Bass' bill – the *Fostering Connections to Success Act* - which proposes to extend services to foster youth from 18 to 21 years. Bill informed this advocate that the bill has bipartisan support, but every phone call made to his office will help him when he supports it. Please consider calling in your support! The number to call is 425-1503. If passed, AB12 will become effective January 2010.

Q and A Boulevard

with Advocate/ Lighting the Way Co-Chair Anissa Novak

Q: How did you choose CASA as an organization to volunteer for?

A: I knew foster parents and they told me about it. I thought it would be a great way to get involved. Initially, I was interested in the fostering side.

Q: How many children have you advocated for?

A: Five

Q: Tell us about your involvement with Lighting the Way.

A: CASA asked me to co-chair the event. They wanted to have the involvement of an advocate and the other two co-chairs were not advocates.

Q: What do you do for fun?

A: I spend time with my family. I go to the movies. I love spending time with my Chihuahuas.

Free Money for College or Career Training!!!

If your CASA youth is interested in pursuing his/her dream of higher education then please read the following about the Chafee Grant and check out the website to apply www.chafee.csac.ca.gov

If he/she is or was in foster care and have financial need, he/she may qualify for up to \$5,000 a year for career and technical training or college- and they don't have to pay this money back. They may also be able to use the grant to help pay for child care, transportation and rent while they're in school. They can use your Chafee Grant at any eligible California college or university or career or technical school, as well as schools in other states.

To qualify, he/she must be a current or former foster youth and not have reached their 22nd birthday as of July 1 of the award year. The California Department of Social Services will determine their foster youth eligibility status.

Help Your CASA Youth Fight for Their Rights

Go online to www.youthlaw.org and check out: A Guidebook for California Foster Youth, Former Foster Youth, and Those Who Care About Them.

This Guidebook is intended to help foster youth (and those who care about them) to understand the rights and services available when leaving the foster system. It includes information on getting a job and license, finding a place to live, healthcare, issues while still in foster care and many other valuable topics.

Written by Phil Ladew, an attorney and former foster youth who aged out of foster care in Los Angeles County.

Advocate Avenue



We would like to wish the following advocates a very happy birthday during the month of April...

Kim Snowden	4/2
Robin Ramsey	4/4
David Olsen	4/8
Donna Hill	4/16
Albert Gonzalez	4/18
Janna Aldrete	4/20
Jane Foley	4/20
Jackie Steakley	4/20
Karen Twaddell	4/24
Rannie Boyd	4/24
Sherli Muir	4/25
Andy Osorno	4/26
Satina Cooper	4/26
Adriana Garcia	4/27
Kylie Kelly	4/27
Joe Pursel	4/28
Cathy Estrella-Dannels	4/29
Marian Lujan	4/30

Upcoming Events

"Mahalo Mondays" at Hula's Island Grill
Every Monday in April

Lighting the Way, The Cotton Club
(Monterey's Major Fundraiser) - April 4th

Heart of CASA (San Benito's Major Fundraiser) - May 22nd

CASA Golf Classic at Pasadera - June 15th

Contact Edna for more information!
455-6800 or edna@casamonterey.org

Spotlight on Advocate Sharon Osgood!!!

Osgood Recognized as USAT Developmental Coach of the Year

USA Triathlon March 26, 2009

USA Triathlon and its National Coaching Commission have recognized Sharon Osgood of Carmel Valley, Calif., as the 2008 Developmental Coach of the Year.

A Developmental Coach of the Year nominee is coach of a youth club, high school or junior-level coach, or a coach directly responsible for training athletes to the junior and/or elite level.

Osgood, a USAT Level II Certified Coach, has been actively involved in working with young triathletes in California through Monterey Bay Multisport. She was instrumental in the team's selection as a USAT High Performance Team and in the team's silver medal performance in the USAT Developmental Team National Championship in 2008.

"I'm pleased to have been recognized for the work that I do. I feel extremely fortunate that my chosen profession is fun, intriguing, educational and always changing," said Osgood. "When working with young people, you never know what to expect. It's refreshing. It's also very rewarding and satisfying to see the young people you work with growing in a lifestyle sport. I would hope this inspires other coaches in our field to do what I'm doing with the younger athletes."

Several of the athletes Osgood works with are among the top 10 in the youth elite and junior elite rankings, while others are making the transition to the U23 and collegiate ranks. Among the athletes she has trained are Marissa Ferrante (Nationally Ranked #2 Junior Elite Female; 1st Place – Strawberry Fields Junior Elite Cup; 3rd Place – USAT Junior Elite National Championships), Kalen Darling (22nd Place – Kelowna ITU Continental Cup; 25th Place – Geneva ITU Continental Cup), Hannah Rae Finchamp (Nationally Ranked #2 Youth Elite Female; 4th Place, USAT Youth Elite National Championships), Caton Avilla (Nationally Ranked #7 Youth Elite Male), and Clark McLennan (Nationally Ranked #7 Junior Elite Male).

Because of this commitment to assisting developing athletes, Osgood has played an instrumental role in the growth of USAT's athlete development pipeline. She has served as a USAT Junior Select and Skills Camp director, and has been a USAT Regional Athlete Development Coordinator for the Southwest Region since 2005.

As a Regional Athlete Development Coordinator, Osgood has contributed countless hours managing the nation's only viable Regional Junior Elite Cup series and she has been key in developing a regional grant funding program to assist athletes to national level events and coaches to education programs.

The USAT National Coaching Committee is made up of some of the finest multisport coaches in the world. Committee members volunteer their time and knowledge for the sport, the athletes and the coaches. The mission of the NCC is to promote professionalism in multisport coaching and advise USAT staff regarding coach education.

[Learn more](#) about the USA Triathlon coaching education program, become a USAT certified coach, or just find a coach near you.

About USA Triathlon

USA Triathlon is proud to serve as the national governing body for triathlon – the fastest growing sport in the world – as well as duathlon, aquathlon and winter triathlon in the United States. USAT sanctions 2,500 races and connects with more than 110,000 members each year, making it the largest multisport organization in the world. In addition to its work with athletes, coaches, and race directors on the grassroots level, USAT provides leadership and support to elite athletes competing at international events, including World Championships, Pan American Games, and the Olympic Games.



Children's Early Experiences Last a Lifetime

Francine Rodd

First 5 Monterey County

Week of the Young Child is celebrated each April to highlight the importance of quality early care and education for young children. Current research shows that a child's brain develops most in the first five years of life. Incredibly, by age 3 a child's brain has grown to 80 percent of that of an adult.

First 5 Monterey County believes quality early care and education for young children happens everywhere – at home, in preschool, in child care, and within our community. In fact, every dollar invested in early care and education programs saves up to \$17 in taxpayer-funded services. Our funding, through Proposition 10 – The Children and Families Program, goes to local non-profits, county organizations and school districts that focus on:

Preparing children for school. Children who start school academically and socially prepared are more likely to graduate from high school. In Monterey County, less than 40 percent of children arrive to kindergarten completely ready to learn. Annually, **First 5 Monterey County** provides over 2,300 children and parents with kindergarten readiness and literacy programs at Family Resource Centers in low-income neighborhoods. Elementary schools closest to the resource centers had higher increases in test scores compared to all other Monterey County schools.

Supporting parents as their child's first and most important teacher. Children who grow up having strong, healthy relationships with their parents have higher self-esteem and perform better in school. **First 5 Monterey County** provides parent education classes, 1-on-1 professional support, and information to more than 12,000 parents annually. **First 5 Monterey County's** free parent-child playgroups, with learning activities coordinated by early childhood educators, helped 100% of parents learn different ways to support their child's development – important ingredients to building future school success for children.

Early identification of special needs. One in every six children has developmental or behavioral problems that get progressively worse if left untreated. Last year, over 850 children were screened by **First 5 Monterey County** programs to detect disabilities or physical and emotional delays, including autism. Thirty percent of these children received additional assistance to improve their long-term development.

Our children's early experiences last a lifetime – shaping our community's future students, workforce, and leaders. For more information about programs that can help children and their families or for information on events during Week of the Young Child, visit www.First5Monterey.org.



Train the Trainer Seminar

The San Jose Police Department **Human Trafficking Task Force** and the South Bay Coalition to End Human **Trafficking** are hosting a one day seminar for individuals interested in Human **Trafficking**.

The seminar is appropriate for law **enforcement officers, prosecutors, victim assistance professionals, health professionals, social service providers** or others that may potentially come into **contact with Human Trafficking victims**.

This seminar is also open to individuals who have a personal interest in learning about, and combating, Human **Trafficking**. **This seminar will be of value to individuals who have attended prior Human Trafficking training seminars, and those who will be attending for the first time.**

While this seminar is designed to increase the skills of professionals who may be instructing others about Human **Trafficking, you do not need to be a designated trainer to attend this seminar.**

Please forward this information to any person and/or agency that might be interested in participating. If there are any questions please contact **Officer Jennifer Dotzler, S.J.P.D HTTF 408-277-4322**
Email: jennifer.dotzler@sanjoseca.gov



STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Monday, April 20, 2009
0900 - 1600 hrs.



Casa Munras Hotel
700 Munras Avenue, Monterey, CA 93940

Schedule:
8 am - 9 am

Registration & Continental breakfast

9 am - 11:30 am

Morning Session

11:30 am - 12:30 pm

Networking Lunch

12:30 pm - 3 pm

Afternoon Session

3 pm

Formal Adjournment



This seminar is provided without cost to attendees through a grant from the United States Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance. Registration for this seminar will open on Monday, March 16th. Applications will be distributed via e-mail on Monday, March 9th.



Brought to you by:

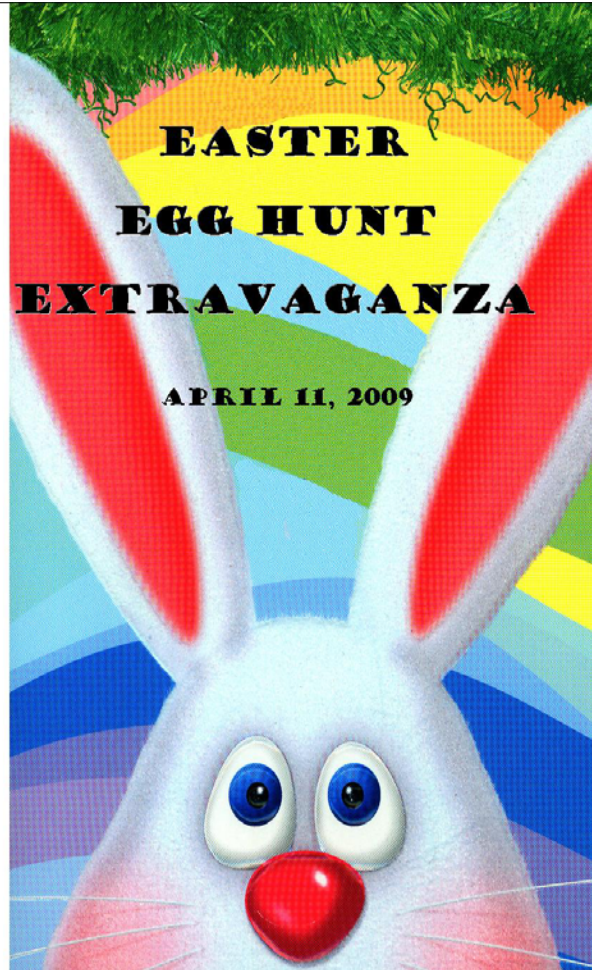


The Jaycee organization is "a constructive action organization of young persons who devote a portion of their time to community service in the public interest, developing young persons as leaders of the community." The Jaycees is the premier young person's organization in Salinas. We are young people, ages 21 through 39, who share the common goal of improving our community, ourselves and helping others through chapter programs.



PEACOCK ACRES INC.
"BE PROUD"

Since 1983, Peacock Acres has been serving the foster youth of Monterey County. With our staff of trained and dedicated personnel, the same philosophy of respect and support permeates our unique residential programs. Today more than 50 children, teens and emancipated youth are served.



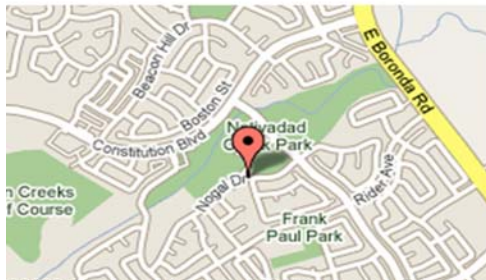
Egg Hunt Times:

Ages 2-7 years old (free)
10:00am

Ages 8-12 years old (free)
10:30am

Ages 13 and up (2\$ donation)
11:00am

Bring the whole family out for fun, face painting, and food.



Natividad Creek Park
1351 Nopal Drive,
Salinas, CA 93907