

2008 CASA Kid Walk Sponsorship Form



A community coming together in support of children in need.

THINGS EVERY KID WALKER NEEDS TO KNOW

Deadlines

September 19th - last day to qualify to receive your t-shirt at the walk. Individuals meeting the \$200 goal later may not receive their shirt until after the Kid Walk.

October 10th - last day to turn in funds to qualify for the "Top Earners" contest.

Suggested Goals

TEAM: \$1,000

It takes \$1,000 to give a child an advocate each year. We ask each team to aim to support at least one child.

INDIVIDUAL: \$200

Suggested team size is five, so the individual suggested goal is set at 1/5th of the team goal.

Rewards & Prizes

Each person meeting the \$200 individual goal gets a **free Kid Walk t-shirt**.
(see "Deadlines" for stipulations)

Teams meeting the \$1,000 goal will carry a **CASA Child's Thank You Banner** in the 1 mile march

Prizes will be given to "Top Earners" in these categories:

- **1st place team**
- **2nd place team**
- **3rd place team**
- **Top Individual**
- **1st place "under 18" team**

The Walk

Saturday, October 11th

10 a.m. - check-in opens, t-shirt and banner hand-out begins, brunch is served by Hometown Buffet

10:50 a.m. - check-in closes, brunch ends, assemble for 1 mile march

11 a.m. - 1 mile march begins to the Eureka Vet's Hall

11:30 a.m. - awards ceremony, speaker, and refreshments

Why CASA? Why Kid Walk?

For abused children, the trauma doesn't end when Child Welfare Services removes them from unsafe conditions and inadequate parenting. The children then face an under-funded system full of foster care shortages and overworked professionals. While children wait for their parents to comply with the court-monitored opportunity to regain custody, it's common for them to be moved between several homes, attend many different schools, and have at least two different social workers.

The chaos of being abused and neglected is replaced by the chaos of constant new faces and places. Attachment is the foundation of development, a luxury many of these children have never had. Often abused children live in "survival mode," unable to attach as they struggle just to get through each day. Their emotional, social, and even physical development is frequently delayed, set-backs that can easily snowball into a dismal future. That's where CASA comes in.

CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) recruits, trains and supports community volunteers who are appointed by judges to advocate one-on-one for abused children. Advocates commit to a minimum of one year of service with a child. CASA children look forward to weekly outings during which advocates informally gather information while they play. The reports that CASA advocates submit each time the case goes in front of the court are a highly valued source of information for the judge and the court.

Advocates have legal access to medical records, school records, reports, and all the individuals in a child's life. They interact with the child at least four times more often than anyone else on the case. Because they are focused on only one child, they notice things busier adults often miss: vision and dental needs that slipped through the cracks, unaddressed emotional issues, educational gaps, overdue immunizations, local family connections, foster home happiness, mental health needs, and more.

Children's brains develop as a result of experience. CASA children, often for the first time in their lives, get the experience of a consistent, dependable, predictable, and trustworthy adult. They bond with an adult who keeps promises and doesn't give up when faced with the child's vast emotional needs. The child's fear of the world begins to melt away as their CASA stays by their side in each new home, school, and neighborhood connecting each new person with the history of the child and the case.

Unfortunately, not every child who needs a CASA gets one. In fact, in 2007 only a third of the abused children in Humboldt County got a CASA. Many children are still waiting, enduring a chaotic world alone. You can help by supporting the Kid Walk. Funds raised by the Kid Walk provide for recruitment, training, and support of new CASA volunteers. **You can make a difference! Become a walker or donate! For more info,** go online - www.humboldtcasa.org, or call 443.3197.

