



PRESS RELEASE

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Superior Court of California,
County of San Benito

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CASA of San Benito County Expands Advocacy to Support Local Juvenile Justice Youth

HOLLISTER, CA – The Superior Court of San Benito County is pleased to announce a new initiative in partnership with CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of San Benito County and the County Probation Department to expand volunteer advocacy services to young people involved in the juvenile justice system. The program is expected to launch in October 2025, with volunteer training beginning September 16, 2025.

Jessica Ravetz, Executive Director of CASA of San Benito County stated “We are delighted by the support and encouragement we have received from the community. There is broad recognition that our young people need and deserve more.”

Chief Probation Officer Ashlyn Canez expressed enthusiasm about the new program’s potential impact and is excited about the development of CASA advocates working with probation youth to reduce recidivism. She emphasized that “this new opportunity will promote outcomes that best serve the unique needs of youth. CASA will provide an objective standpoint for communicating with the youth and representing their needs to probation and the Court. My hope is for CASA advocacy efforts to improve school attendance and engagement, their understanding of court proceedings and probation conditions, and their connections with positive mentors and peers.”

CASA of San Benito County recruits and trains local community members to serve as advocates for system-involved youth, ensuring their voices are heard and their needs are represented in the court system. With this expansion, CASA volunteers will be able to stand

alongside youth, providing guidance, mentorship, and support as they navigate the challenges of the juvenile justice system.

Community members interested in making a difference in the life of a young person can join the upcoming volunteer training beginning September 16, 2025. To learn more or sign up, contact CASA at programs@casasanbenito.org or call 831-637-4992 Ext. 2.

