

# 'Judging Amy' star puts spotlight on CASA

SANTA BARBARA  
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SECTION **D**

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## 1 & STYLE Salon

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The photograph inside the luncheon program was of a 3-year-old girl, abandoned on the freeway.

The luncheon honored CASA volunteers (Court Appointed Special Advocates) who share a common concern for children — abandoned children, abused or neglected children — all children.

Guests at the annual Mothers & Others event at the Coral Casino included financial supporters as well as the volunteers who are trained to be the eyes and ears for the court and a voice for the child.

"Since last year, 342 children living in Santa Barbara County were removed from their homes and placed by the court in foster care," said Faye Eson, board member and emcee. The number caused a murmur in the room.

Keynote speaker was actress Amy Brenneman, co-creator, executive producer and star

of television's "Judging Amy." She explained that her mother, a juvenile court judge in Connecticut, was the inspiration for the CBS series seen Tuesdays at 10 p.m. The glamorous actress is a spokesperson for CASA nationally and received a standing

ovation.

CASA volunteer Pamela Palmer has helped five children since 1998, and said, "I decided to become an advocate because I saw a chance to make a long-term difference. There are children here in Santa Barbara (who have been) beaten, sexually abused, children with no food in the house. I can't save all of them, but I can save one at a time."

The luncheon committee included: Jodi Mitchell, Shirley Hobson, Betty Noling, Carol Palladini, Brenda Nancarrow, Julie Ligon and Barbara Margerum, who had at her table Lillian Carson, Jo Saxon, Susan Wax, Joan Crawford and Shelley Cole.

A men's table was initiated this year with David Edelman, president of the board, Larry Crandell (it was his idea), Salud Carbajal, Randy Glick, John Ligon, Jeff DeVine, Matt McAllister, Jim Buckley and Ernesto Paredes, CASA executive director.

The event cleared more than \$50,000 thanks to underwriters Williams-Corbett Foundation, Hutton Foundation, Bryant & Sons, Haywards Home, SR Hogue and Myriad Flowers. Recognized for their support were Mayor Marty Blum, 1st District Supervisor Naomi Schwartz, former Mayor Harriet Miller, and Kappa Alpha Theta sorority sisters Lynn Wells, Anne Steiner and Maureen Null.

Sandy Stahl was there and Louise Casey, Ghita Ginberg, Sherri Overall, Sharon Toth, Connie Clark, Kay Stern, Lynn Karlson, Tamara Skov and Ladeen Miller.

Robin Allen, director of California CASA, said with sadness, "Budget cuts hit our programs, our children. The very little ones so need to bond with adults in a loving way. They need even more a voice — and we are that voice."



Hutton Foundation's Pam Hamlin, left, and CASA board member Faye Eson with Sue Parker, board member for the Hutton Foundation, which underwrote the luncheon. The benefit raised more than \$50,000 for CASA.