Welcome to the second issue of our Fall 2013 newsletter! The Fall semester was a productive one for CASSA! The CASSA board thanks you for volunteering and being a part of the club. We hope to see you all throughout this Spring 2014 semester!

Members of the Month

October

Congratulations to our October member of the month, Roberto Mendoza! He earned a total of 23.5 hours! Thank you, Roberto for all your hard work!

November

Congratulations to Lindsey Vazquez for being November’s member of the month! She received a total of 14 hours! Thank you, Lindsey for all your dedication to the club!
The pumpkin carving community service event at the OC Zoo was really fun. All the members carved pumpkins for the zoo to use as decorations and to be placed inside of the different animals’ cages filled with food. Everyone had a great time carving the pumpkins and decorating them with paint or stickers. Everyone who participated was allowed to look around the zoo and were given free admission tickets to use with family and friends. This event was a great opportunity for members to meet and interact.
Under the inspiring and well-organized Illumination Foundation, I, along with a handful of other CASSA members were excited to bring the Halloween Spirit to the children in an underprivileged area. We were lucky enough to be giving out candy hand in hand with other organizations that also looked forward to bringing a smile to a child’s face with tasty treats. Being dressed as a banana gave me more of a reason to dance and be silly with the kids and make them have a great evening. With our table oozing with candy donated by members, the kids’ eyes lit up with excitement as princesses, monsters, and superheroes attacked the table for their pieces of candy. It was great to see them leave with mountains of candy that will last them for months! Being able to connect with the kids while playing soccer with them also filled the event with laughter and smiles. Overall, it was an amazing and fulfilling event that I hope to attend again!

~Bake Sale By Markie Harden ~

On October 31st, was CASSA’s bake sale fundraiser. It was a fun-filled event with lots of delicious goodies. We had chocolate chip cookies, lemon bars, various muffins, cheesecake brownies, s’more cupcakes, and enough brownies to pass around for days. CASSA members stayed lively and brought in the donations with a smile on their faces. We manned the booth and walked around the campus in an attempt to entice students and professors to donate to our club and enjoy a sinful treat. Our fellow students at Cal State Fullerton were more than willing to make donations in order to get one of our delicious homemade treats. The event was a good representation of what CASSA spirit is and how we work together to let it shine to those around us.
On November 5th, I had the pleasure of being the board member on duty for our Fristers event. This community event truly was a handful of fun! We started the night by playing on the jungle gym. Throughout our time volunteering, CASSA volunteers were in charge of making crafts with the children, feeding them yummy spaghetti, and saying a prayer to end the night. I must say, I am impressed by the dedication shown by the CASSA volunteers that night because us five ladies were in charge of close to 20 kids. It was a lot to deal with, but the coordinators were very thankful we came to help, and the kids were so much fun to hang out with!!! Fristers was a total success! The volunteers that night made the children super duper happy, and gained some unforgettable memories!

CASSA and its members volunteered with Fristers at a local church in Santa Ana. Members had the opportunity to interact with the mothers’ children involved with Fristers. We played with them in a playground and later assisted them in arts and crafts. My favorite part of the night was doing the arts and crafts. It was around the time of Thanksgiving and we made paper turkeys. It was fun watching the children decorate their turkeys, especially while they were gluing on the feathers.

CASSA and its members had the opportunity to attend a Let's Make a Deal TV taping to raise money for the student organization. The members dressed up in various costumes and characters. It was definitely one of my favorite events during the Fall semester. During the taping, we danced, laughed and interacted with Wayne Brady! This TV taping was a great way to have fun earning hours and interact with other members of CASSA.
On November 14th, Timothy Prior came in to speak to CASSA about his experience working with children, teens, and adults of all ages who are diagnosed with autism and other special needs. He also talked about his experience and how it has definitely helped him understand and have compassion for individuals with special needs. During the meeting, Timothy talked to the members about how important it is to realize the world in which special needs individuals live in. He states that they are not any less than us, they just function differently. Many of the members enjoyed Timothy’s speech and he also gave some of the members free t-shirts for answering his questions. Overall, it was a great success and I strongly believe everyone benefited from Timothy’s insights and experiences.

The speaker, Tisha Rivera, was very interesting and shared with CASSA some life experiences. I enjoyed how she talked about some of the different choices in her career and the responsibility of those choices. It gave me a better perspective on different things that we can do when working with children and not just as a teacher. She showed us different directions that we can take as educators or social workers within the field.
OC Food Bank 1  By Rebecca Graubner

Bright and early on October 19th, nineteen CASSA members and I met at the OC Food Bank to spend the morning putting together boxes and bags of food for Orange County families in need. Our volunteering group was so large that we split into two smaller ones and operated two assembly lines, thus creating a friendly competition of which CASSA group could amass the most produce bags in the allotted time frame. As werobotically filled our mesh bags to the brim with sweet potatoes and acorn squash, all of the members were able to bond through various conversations and singing the Top 40 tunes being blasted around the warehouse. By the end of the morning, both CASSA teams had created a total of 1900 bags of vegetables, a little more than half of the total number of bags assembled by all of the volunteers present that morning. I really enjoyed getting to connect with other CASSA members and have fun by helping others in the process!

OC Food Bank 2  By Tina Truong

It was a great opportunity to volunteer at the OC Food Bank. It was my first time there, and I was amazed at how the warehouse operated. I worked in the “Making boxes” station, so all the members in that station and I had to fold and make boxes, and then tape the bottoms of the boxes together. Afterward, the boxes would get passed down to the next station for other volunteers to load up the boxes with food. It was fantastic to know that I was a part of this production and that I was able to make a difference in helping other families. I realized that the OC Food Bank needed as much help as they can get in order to have all the stations running smoothly and quickly.
On December 13th, about 10 CASSA members went to Orangewood Children's Home. CASSA members, including myself, had the opportunity to spend quality time with a group of 15 to 18 year-old girls. While we were at Orangewood, we entertained the girls through arts and crafts, games, and other fun activities. We even got the chance to pamper the adolescent girls by doing their hair and nails, too! Overall, everyone had an amazing time at Orangewood.

During the evening of November 8th, ten CASSA members anxiously awaited the arrival of the 6-10 year old boys and girls at Orangewood Children's Home. A few of the members brought along some creative arts and crafts for the children to make and enjoy. With Thanksgiving approaching, one of the members had prepared a really cute turkey craft in which the children colored and then glued on feathers and eyes. Another member brought along pipe cleaners and tissue paper so the children could make different types of animals. They made butterflies, spiders and even a praying mantis! Once the children got their fill of the planned activities, we went on to play several different board games such as Jenga, Clue, and Candy Land. The night was filled with a lot of smiles, laughs, jokes, and fun. Orangewood is one of my favorite places CASSA volunteers, and I am so thankful that I have had many opportunities to engage and interact with those wonderful children!
My experience at the 17th Annual Road to Teaching Conference completely renewed my inspiration to become an elementary school teacher. The keynote speaker, Mrs. Rebecca L. Mieliwocki, began the day with an uplifting tale of her teaching career leading up to becoming National Teacher of the Year 2012. She regaled us with classroom success and mishaps, including her visit to the Capitol to meet with President Obama. With every story, her audience was sent on an emotional rollercoaster. The day followed with workshops in which teachers and school administrators promoted the well-being and positive growth of kids today. During the lunch break, Santa Ana College hosted an educational fair where participants of the conference met with colleges and youth programs specializing in the area of children’s education. It was a great opportunity to get to know more about the field we are all trying to go in to. I encourage everyone with the slightest interest of teaching or working in a career field related to children’s development to attend the next annual Road to Teaching Conference. It will leave a profound impact.
Round Table Social

By Megan Houng

On November 23rd, CASSA hosted a pizza social at Round Table right before Thanksgiving Break for members to just relax and socialize amongst one another. It was such a great turn out! Many members brought family, friends, and loved ones with them to socialize all together. First, we all had hot and delicious pizzas, fresh salads, and home-made desserts to enjoy while we all got to introduce and answer a series of ice breaker questions. Everyone who went, including the CASSA members' guests, all got to play the ice breaker activity, leaving all of us laughing with delicious food in our bellies! After the activity, board members Sheila, Chelsea, Lien, and Megan asked the members what they liked about CASSA and what comments or suggestions they wanted the board to know. This social was a great way for all of us to relax before spending time with our families over Thanksgiving break! Overall, everyone enjoyed each others company, and we ended the day with a good ol' group CASSA family picture. GO CASSA!

We’ve Got Your Back  By Alejandra Navarro

Early Monday morning, on November 25th, CASSA volunteered for the organization of Giving Children Hope. Through the program We’ve Got Your Back, homeless children in Orange County are given backpacks filled with healthy food. CASSA split up into two groups: one group cleaned backpacks to make sure they were clean and ready to be filled with food for needy children and families, and the other group helped to sort out food cans. Volunteering at GCH made me realize that there are many things that are taken granted while other families wish they had a meal for the day.
The Jingle Bell Walk was held on December 1st at Crown Valley Park in Laguna Niguel. This 5k supported arthritis and turned out to be such a blast! Walkers/runners had the opportunity to participate in different activities held throughout the 5k. Some of the activities included Present Toss, Wreath Throw, Giant Elf Bowling, and even greeting Santa. Throughout the walk, walkers were able to collect jingle bells after each activity that represented how many times your name could be raffled for prizes. My favorite activity would have to be when I raced with other CASSA members around Christmas trees on large bouncy balls. All of us definitely had many memories created at this 5k.
Christmas Wrapping Party

By Rebecca Graubner

It was early Saturday morning, and people were lining up at the Irvine Spectrum Center. It wasn't Black Friday; these people were lining up to volunteer for Kathy Ireland's Annual Children's Holiday Celebration. On Saturday, December 7th, over 150 volunteers helped make the best possible Christmas celebration for 250 abandoned and impoverished children. The children decorated holiday arts and crafts, played games, were read stories, and even received a visit and gift from Mr. and Mrs. Claus. I was stationed to help the children decorate their holiday stockings, and it was so much fun to make them smile and see their creativity shine through. Kathy Ireland's Children's Holiday Celebration was a special way to share the true meaning of the season with the children: having fun with family and friends, being kind to one another, and helping those in need.

Kathy Ireland

By JudelMay Enriquez

On December 5th, CASSA volunteers spent their Thursday night wrapping gifts for the children in Giving Children Hope's We've Got Your Back program. I really enjoyed the set up of this event and how personal it was: each volunteer was assigned a child to wrap a present for. If Giving Children Hope did not have a gift already purchased for that child, the volunteer was then able to peruse the enormous gift bins and choose a toy for their special child based on his or her Christmas Wish List. I had a wonderful time wrapping the night away with the other CASSA volunteers as we ate Christmas cookies, drank "semi-hot" hot cocoa, and listened to classic Christmas tunes. Over 300 presents were wrapped that night for the We've Got Your Back children and their siblings. For many of these kids, this was the only gift they would receive during the Christmas holiday, and I am so grateful that this club can help to give these children something to celebrate during the joyous Christmas season.
Christmas at the OC Zoo  By Joana Rivera

Christmas at the OC Zoo was so much fun! Apart from seeing all the various kinds of animals, I enjoyed seeing so many families come with their children to enjoy a fun day at the zoo! I was in charge of helping kids make owl ornaments. I love working with kids, and this experience was one I'll always remember! Before all the kids arrived, we got to walk around the zoo for a little bit. The zoo staff decorated all the animal habitats with Christmas decorations, so that was one unique thing that I've never seen before. I will definitely be volunteering more with this organization because I loved every minute of it!

Donations

Throughout the semester of Fall 2013, CASSA collected donations for Choco’s Toy Chest at CHOC Hospital. The total amount of money raised by CASSA was $425! Members chose a store from which they wanted to donate. The donation sum was: Michael’s ($35), Barnes and Noble ($40), Wal-Mart ($75), Toys R us ($110), and Target ($165). In addition, CASSA created beautiful holiday cards for the children at CHOC Hospital. Great job, CASSA!
General Meetings
Cord Policy:
Minimum of 30 hours as a paid member for 2 semesters

- At least 2 hours of leadership
- At least 6 hours of community events
- At least 5 hours of event attendance (meeting or socials)

Stop by our office in EC 542

MISSION STATEMENT
CASSA is the Child and Adolescent Studies Student Association. Our mission is to provide students with opportunities to develop leadership and professional skills. CASSA also provides opportunities to interact with fellow students and faculty in an atmosphere that fosters social networking by hosting weekly meetings, socials, and community events.

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Email us at: csuf.cassa@gmail.com
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Bulletin Board: Next to EC 109
CASSA Meetings: Thursdays 12-12:45 p.m. in TSU Alvarado AB