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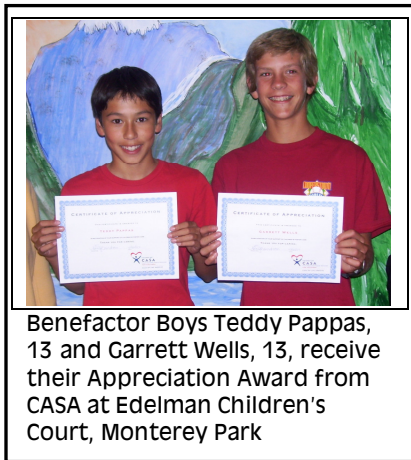
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Joint Celebrations Turn Into Occasion to Aid Abused Children

Local Teenagers Raise \$1400 for Foster Children In LA County

LOS ANGELES, CA – On behalf of the 750,000 children currently in California's foster care system who will not have a chance to meet 13 year-olds Teddy Pappas and Garrett Wells of Manhattan Beach personally, CASA of LA extends its gratitude.



Benefactor Boys Teddy Pappas, 13 and Garrett Wells, 13, receive their Appreciation Award from CASA at Edelman Children's Court, Monterey Park

For the past several years, these two young benefactors have contributed to the plight of those less fortunate by pooling resources, celebrating their joint September birthday parties and rallying support to bolster donations for charitable organizations. After having supported the Make-A-Wish Foundation last two years, the boys decided that this year's funds would be best suited to help abused and neglected children.

"We just wanted to give something meaningful back to kids who have very little for

themselves," said Teddy.

Instead of asking for the latest gaming technology as birthday gifts, these model teenagers wished all their presents be donations to the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Los Angeles to continue protecting the rights of abused and neglected children in the LA county foster care system.

Dubbed the *Benefactor Boys*, Teddy and Garrett presented CASA with their \$1400 check representing 100% of their birthday-raiser's proceeds. *"We decided to donate our birthday gifts to CASA of LA because they have really helped to protect scared kids every day,"* said Garrett.

California's foster care system faces tremendous challenges with funding for programs and services being a major obstacle. Next year, the *Benefactor Boys* hope to establish relationships with major philanthropic institution and sponsors to provide matching funds.

CASA of Los Angeles supports volunteers who help abused and neglected foster children in court and the community. A CASA, or Court Appointed Special Advocate, is a trained and supervised volunteer, appointed by a judge to advocate for a foster child – a child who is under the court's protection because of abuse or neglect. Working alongside judges, social workers, attorneys and families; CASA advocates are trained to guard the rights of thousands of foster care children and are dedicated to stabilizing the everyday life of a displaced child. Currently, CASA represents many of the 27,000 children in Los Angeles foster care and is solely devoted to the well-being of children in the foster care system.

For more information on CASA of Los Angeles, please visit us at www.CASALA.org.