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MEDIA CONTACT
Susanna Wilcox
831-222-3908
susanna@casaofmonterey.org

PRESS RELEASE

CASA of Monterey County Names Gilda Gonzales as New Executive Director Following Beth Wilbur's Retirement.

Salinas, CA. CASA of Monterey County announces the retirement of Executive Director **Beth Wilbur** after six years of dedicated service and the appointment of **Gilda Gonzales** as the organization's next executive director, effective January 2026.

Throughout Wilbur's tenure, CASA achieved remarkable growth and impact. Under her leadership, the organization served more than 500 children and youth, recruited and trained hundreds of volunteers, launched its Juvenile Justice Program, conducted three significant research studies, significantly expanded community partnerships, and consistently met its budgetary goals, even in challenging financial environments.

Reflecting on her time at CASA, Wilbur shared, "Leading CASA of Monterey County has been the highlight of my career. Every day, I witnessed the extraordinary commitment of our volunteers and staff and held compassion for the young people we serve. I leave feeling grateful and confident that CASA is in a strong position for its next chapter."

Board Chair Juliet Del Rosario expressed gratitude for Wilbur's leadership, stating, "Beth leaves CASA stronger, more stable, and more mission-driven than ever. Her leadership built momentum that will carry the organization forward for years to come."

CASA's Board of Directors unanimously selected Gilda Gonzales as the incoming executive director following a national search. Gonzales brings extensive nonprofit and public sector leadership experience to the role, having served as CEO of Planned Parenthood Northern California and CEO of The Unity Council in Oakland. Her accomplishments include overseeing substantial budgets, expanding programs, spearheading community initiatives, and advancing equity-focused services. Ms. Gonzales and her spouse, Ken Wysocki, Ph.D. became Monterey residents in 2022. Dr. Wysocki currently serves as the Director of Public Works for Carmel-by-the-Sea.

Gonzales shared her enthusiasm for joining CASA, "It is with great honor that I assume the position of executive director for CASA of Monterey County. I am ready to serve our children in foster care and juvenile justice with fierce determination that ensures their well-being and safety are always the top priority."



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Del Rosario added,

“We are thrilled to welcome Gilda, a seasoned and visionary leader who will guide CASA with strength and compassion.”

CASA of Monterey County remains committed to ensuring every child and youth in foster care or juvenile justice has a dedicated advocate and a voice.

About CASA of Monterey County

Since its inception, CASA of Monterey County has trained over 1,300 volunteers and helped thousands of children and youth in foster care navigate their path to safety and stability. The organization is committed to ensuring that every child has a voice in decisions that affect them and has access to the support and resources they need to build a brighter future. For more information about CASA of Monterey County’s 30th anniversary celebrations, how to become a CASA volunteer, or how to support the organization’s mission, please visit casaofmonterey.org or reach out to karen@casaofmonterey.org.

Mission: To recruit, train, and support community volunteers who advocate for children and youth in foster care and the juvenile justice system. To uphold children and youths’ rights and pursue a safe and permanent home while providing the support, empowerment, and resources needed to heal and flourish into adulthood.