



November 2015- Vol 4, Issue 11

## Court Appointed Special Advocates of Mendocino & Lake Counties



## Guardianships help children leave foster care

I would like to read you two definitions of one word. The first is: to make strenuous or violent efforts in the face of difficulties or opposition, the next is: to proceed with difficulty or with great effort.

My friends, this is the definition of my life and many peers in foster care. My life has been a series of making violent efforts and proceeding with great pains in the face of difficulty and opposition. From as far back as I could remember I struggled: from the kids on the playground making fun of me because I was a fat; to the peer pressure in high school; to the struggle of defining myself from a moral standpoint now that I am a young man.

**Guardianship**

## How Heroin Is Hitting The Foster Care System Kicking a drug habit—particularly when the drug is heroin—can be a lifelong battle.

The number of children living in foster care started rising in 2013 after years of decline. Last year, about 415,000 children were living in foster care, according to federal statistics released last week. Fifteen percent of them hadn't yet passed their second birthday.



It's not clear how many child-welfare cases nationwide involve parents abusing drugs or alcohol, said Nancy Young, director of the federally funded National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare.

**But she suspects that most cases do: "That's what all the case-workers and judges are saying."**

**HEROIN**

## ACEs Connection Network

Join the movement to prevent ACEs, heal trauma, build resilience.



Nadine Burke Harris, M.D.

How childhood trauma affects health across a lifetime.



Will you be  
my CASA?

