

# *CASA Senior Banquet*

*Celebrating the Successes . . . Because the Challenges Are Many*



**When:** Friday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, 5-8 pm

**Where:** Venue TBD

**Epicenter For Info:** [www.cvcasa.org/graduation-banquet](http://www.cvcasa.org/graduation-banquet)

**What:** The Grad Banquet is a seated dinner meant to celebrate a teen's accomplishment of graduating from high school or getting their GED. The teens we are celebrating are living in out-of-home placements—many are in foster care, but we also invite teens in independent living situations through organizations like Impact or Youthquest, or in temporary living situations like the Liberty Godparent Home or Miriam's House. Teens invite people significant to them to attend the dinner, including biological relatives, foster parents, social workers, friends, teachers, etc. Typically there are 100-150 people in attendance. There is usually a short program that involves each teen being individually recognized for their accomplishment.

**Cost/RSVP:** This year for the first time, there is no cost involved with attending the banquet, for any attendee. However, because sponsors cover the cost of each place setting, it is important for us to have an accurate count of projected guests. You **MUST** RSVP by phone call, e-mail, or online registration through the website if you plan to attend, and please encourage your guests to follow through with attending if they say they plan to attend.

**Guests:** We encourage each graduate to invite all the people important to them to attend, and we don't put a cap on the number of people you're able to invite, their relationship to you, or their distance from the event. We're happy to mail invitations to people who are out of state, even if they will be unable to attend. Last year one teen had 15 people attend for her, and several of them were from out of state. You can use the Guest List Interview Guide to help you think through who you'd like to be on your guest list.

**Strategic Connections:** Part of our goal with this event is to help connect you with community members who can help you achieve your goals. We try to invite people established in career paths you're interested in, professionals from the schools you're wanting to attend, and more. The more information you can give us about your interests and goals, the more we can help you make strategic connections at the banquet! See the attached Graduate Guide for the type of info we're looking for. Plus, we use this information to create the bio

we read aloud when you're being presented with your certificate during the program. Make sure it includes the info you want us to know about you!

**Media release form:** We generally have a photographer circulating at this event, and possibly a news crew. We have each graduate fill out a Media Release Form ahead of time where you express your wishes for whether or not we capture your image, whether you want to be interviewed, and how we share it afterwards, including on social media. Every graduate **MUST** fill out this form, either in advance or on the day of the banquet, so that we can respect your wishes. We will make images available to you electronically in the month after the banquet, and we will also post photos online on our website and on social media. You can find photo galleries there, or we can also e-mail them to you if we have your e-mail address. Attendees over the age of 18 at the banquet will be freely photographed and their image shared, unless they express otherwise. Every attendee will be given the opportunity to decline photography. Children under the age of 18 may be photographed, but their image will not be shared unless consent is explicitly granted by their guardian.

**Dress:** We suggest taking a look at the photo galleries from the past couple of years to get a sense of how people have dressed ([www.cvcasa.org/graduation-banquet](http://www.cvcasa.org/graduation-banquet)), but officially the dress code is “semiformal” (see how Emily Post defines that [here](#)), but dress like you would to go to church, or like you will for your graduation ceremony. Don't sweat it too much—you've got this!

**Directions/Parking/Etc.** Not to worry—once we nail down location, we'll post directions on how to get there on our website, and we'll also e-mail you the day before the event with final instructions.

## **2018 Dates & Deadlines:**

- Deadline for Grad Guides & invite lists with contact info to CASA (for mailed invitations): April 6, 2018
- RSVP date: May 18, 2018
- Deadline for Media Release Forms: May 25, 2018
- Graduation Banquet: 6/1/18