

NEWSLETTER



A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I wanted to reach out to you and say “thank you”. Thank you for your continued support of our mission to serve every child in foster care with a CASA. Thank you for your continued support of our CASAs to serve those children. Thank you to our team for staying on top of all of the changes and challenges that Covid-19 brought to our work. Thank you to our Board of Directors for being advocates for the team and supporting our mission with their time, and generosity. And, finally, thank you to our advocates who have stayed on their cases during this pandemic and advocated for their children at a time when advocacy was at its greatest need.

-BETSY STARK MILLER



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DATA SNAPSHOT

% OF CHILDREN SERVED IN EACH COUNTY VS. CURRENT CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE:

 **MULTNOMAH**
32% 377/1580

 **WASHINGTON**
60% 283/585

 **COLUMBIA**
83% 92/139

% of children served in each county is based on internal data from 7/01/21 - 2/28/22

Current children in foster care is based on data from the ODHS Data Book from 1/1/21 - 12/31/21

Below statistics are based on internal data from 7/01/21 - 2/28/22

TOTAL CHILDREN SERVED = **752**
CHILDREN SERVED

TOTAL CASA VOLUNTEERS = **428**
VOLUNTEERS

AVERAGE LENGTH A CASA SERVES = **44**
MONTHS

PERMANENCY ENDS IN REUNIFICATION = **63%**
CLOSED CASES WITH REUNIFIED CHILDREN

UPDATES + NEWS

COLUMBIA COUNTY PILOT PROGRAM

BY KARIN MILLER + KRISTEN LEWIS

We are very excited to announce that CASA for Children will be rolling out a pilot program to serve 100% of foster youth in Columbia County. As of January, we now have 3 wonderful full time team members in Columbia County— Program Manager Karin Miller, Supervisor Jacqueline Curry, and Teen Specialist Supervisor/Recruiter Paige Diaz. The state law governing CASA work states that every child in foster care “shall” have a CASA. However, this is what is referred to as an “unfunded” mandate meaning that CASA for Children needs private funding to allow us to serve a greater number of children. We have only recently been able to scale the program in Columbia County to serve all children. This pilot plan has received universal support from the judges in the county.

WE ARE HIRING!

We currently have two available positions that we are hiring for. Learn more by clicking below:

- Multnomah County Supervisor
- Washington County Supervisor

[LEARN MORE](#)

Heather Fulk, I am inspired by your passion and commitment as a CASA. Kudos for “going the distance,” literally as well as figuratively. Despite the children's placement being so far away, the connection you have cultivated with them is truly special. Thank you for your thoughtful, compassionate, and resourceful advocacy!

-Julie Fong, Washington County Supervisor



RECENT GRANTS

Thank you to our generous supporters for helping our organization serve children in foster care!

SPIRIT MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY FUND **\$50,000**

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde's Spirit Mountain Community Fund has once again generously gifted us \$50,000. Since 2012, CASA for Children has received a total of \$136,500 from Spirit Mountain Community Fund.

CLARK FOUNDATION **\$45,000/ 3YRS**

A long-time family foundation funder (since 1995), Clark Foundation has made their largest multi-year contribution to date, showing true confidence and commitment to our work.

CDBG - WASHINGTON COUNTY **\$30,000**

Since a first gift in 2006, and now including this year's \$30,000 grant from the Community Development Block Grant from Washington County (all of the county, except for Beaverton and Hillsboro), we have generously received a total of \$362,314 from this local county government funder.

JAMES R. KUSE FOUNDATION **\$30,000**

Portland based family foundation, the James R. Kuse Foundation, has provided another significant gift of \$30,000. Overall, the foundation has given a total of \$205,000 since 2009.

MARIE LAMFROM CHARITABLE FOUNDATION **\$25,000**

The Marie Lamfrom Charitable Foundation provided a \$25,000 Challenge Match Grant for our 2021 YE Appeal. This is the first time that our agency has received this type of grant for our YE Appeal.

RICHARD B. SIEGEL FOUNDATION - \$25,000

KEYBANK FOUNDATION - \$17,500

ROSE E. TUCKER CHARITABLE TRUST - \$15,000

GENENTECH - \$12,500

ROBERT D. AND MARCIA H. RANDALL CHARITABLE TRUST - \$10,000

NW NATURAL- CORPORATE FOUNDATION (COMMUNITY GRANTS) - \$10,000

I would like to give Kudos to CASA Peggy Thatcher-Aguilu. She has been on her first case for almost a year and since I took over as her supervisor in Fall of 2021, I have watched her go above and beyond what is asked for in a CASA. She is navigating a complex case that requires her to be creative in her approach, to educate herself on things that may not have otherwise been asked of her, and to be open to many differing perspectives that are often in conflict. She is not happy with the status quo and continues to show me that solutions can be found in sometimes the most obscure places.

-Taryn Robertson, Multnomah County Supervisor



SPRING 2022

UPCOMING EVENTS



Thank you to our presenting sponsor, EY!



WINES OF THE WORLD AUCTION

Join us for our upcoming annual wine auction event to raise critical funds to allow CASAs to support vulnerable children in foster care. CASA for Children will be hosting a virtual auction, where an array of unique wines from around the world will be offered, specifically curated for our event by our partners at K&L Wine Merchants. Beginning on Thursday, April 21st, individuals will be able to bid on hand-selected lots of wine, including a wide range of bottles from France, Italy, Spain, California, the Pacific Northwest, and more. This year, we added more selections of wines at all price ranges!

AUCTION INFO

Thank you to our wine auction sponsors:



BRASADA RANCH GETAWAY RAFFLE - \$100 EACH

Win a 7 night stay in a beautiful home, located in Brasada Ranch! This 4-BR home comfortably sleeps 10 individuals and is only 15 minutes from the fan-favorite travel destination, Bend, OR. This rental property is located in Powell Butte, OR and is nestled on the 18th tee of the Brasada Ranch Public/Private Golf Course, overlooking the stunning view of the Cascade Mountains. This stay is valued at \$5,250. Each raffle ticket is \$100 each.

RAFFLE INFO

Thank you to our raffle sponsors for their support!



SPRING 2022

UPCOMING EVENTS (CONT.)



APRIL 21
6:30PM

Cheers!
FOR CASA ●

A VIRTUAL WINE EVENT PRESENTED BY THE
CASA FOR CHILDREN AMBASSADOR BOARD

Thank you to our presenting sponsor, KPMG!



CHEERS FOR CASA

"Cheers for CASA" is a virtual event hosted by the CASA for Children Ambassador Board. The Ambassador Board is a group of volunteers that work to support the mission and goals of our organization and children in foster care. On Thursday, April 21st, we will be hosting the "Cheers for CASA" Virtual Wine Event with our partners, Willamette Valley Vineyards. The event ticket sales are closed, as of 4/11, but you can still support this effort by clicking the "Cheers for CASA" button.

[CHEERS FOR CASA](#)

SAVE THE DATE

27th Annual CASA Golf Classic
Langdon Farms
August 29, 2022



PRESENTED BY

Fred Meyer Jewelers®

AMBASSADOR BOARD

The CASA for Children Ambassador Board (AB) is a group of volunteers from various companies and professional backgrounds that have come together to support CASA for Children. This self-governing group supports the CASA mission and advocates for our organization in the community. The AB's support efforts include outreach work, community education, volunteer recruiting, and fundraising campaigns and events. You can learn more about the Ambassador Board on our website or by filling out an inquiry form.

For more information, please contact:

Ben Loebner, Assistant Director of Development
bloebner@casahelpskids.org

[LEARN MORE
ABOUT THE AB](#)



THINKING ABOUT BECOMING A CASA VOLUNTEER?

BELOW ARE A FEW OF THE MOST COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS...

CASA for Children is growing its volunteer base! If you are interested in becoming a CASA volunteer advocate, please consider attending one of our virtual information sessions! Please also feel free to pass this information on to interested friends and family.

FAQ

[SIGN UP FOR AN
INFO SESSION](#)

What is a CASA volunteer advocate?

CASA stands for “Court Appointed Special Advocate”. CASA volunteers are appointed by judges to provide in and out of court advocacy for foster children. CASA work includes a thorough investigation of every aspect of a child’s dependency which includes, among other things, visiting their appointed child once a month, reviewing all case documents, and interviewing people involved with the child including teachers, family members, counselors, etc. CASAs use the information they gather to make recommendations to the judge about what is in the child’s best interest. CASAs attend all court hearings and case meetings, and are instrumental in ensuring that the child’s needs are being met.

Why is the CASA role important?

A CASA volunteer advocate is a legal party to the dependency case and the only party whose entire role is to advocate for the best interest of the child. Additionally, CASAs typically volunteer on only one case at a time, which allows them to devote all their energy and attention to one child or sibling group, as opposed to caseworkers and attorneys who often have dozens or even hundreds of cases.

Can anyone become a CASA?

The only requirements for becoming a CASA volunteer advocate are:

- a willingness to dedicate 35 hours to pre-service training
- a roughly two year commitment as CASAs are asked to advocate for a child until their case closes
- some flexibility in scheduling during the week to allow for attendance at court hearing and case meetings
- a minimum age of 21

What training and support does a CASA receive?

CASAs go through a 35 hour training before they take their first case. CASAs are supported throughout the life of their case by CASA supervisors. CASA supervisors are staff members who help them navigate their role as a CASA, answer questions, troubleshoot case issues, and provide information and resources.

Can CASA volunteer advocates work full-time?

Yes! About 70% of CASA volunteers work full time. Being a CASA does require some flexibility in scheduling so prospective volunteers are encouraged to seek the support of their employers.

FOLLOW
US ON
SOCIAL
MEDIA



JOIN
OUR
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CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

MULTNOMAH, WASHINGTON
& COLUMBIA COUNTIES

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

PAIGE DIAZ,

TEEN SPECIALIST SUPERVISOR/RECRUITER

Our organization would like to shine a light on and give a big thank you to our colleague, Paige Diaz.

Paige is a Teen Specialist Supervisor and is based out of our Columbia County office. In addition to her Supervisor responsibilities, Paige spends a quarter of her time helping the CASA volunteer recruiting efforts, specifically in Columbia County.

Paige has also been volunteering as a CASA for

about 4 years. Paige has been assigned a total of

4 cases and currently has 2 active cases. She has played an integral role in the

Columbia County pilot program that is on track to serve 100% of foster youth in

that county. We are so fortunate to have Paige on our team.



We asked Paige a few questions so our community could get to know her better!

1. Where are you from and how long have you worked for CASA for Children?

I was born in St. Helens, Oregon but have lived in Arkansas and Texas. I have worked for CASA for a little over a year.

2. What is your favorite aspect of your job?

My favorite aspect of my job is getting to support and connect with our amazing volunteers.

3. What motivates you to work and volunteer for an organization like CASA for Children?

My motivation to work and volunteer for CASA is to be able to impact the lives of children in foster care and help make a difference in the world.

4. What do you like to do in your spare time?

In my spare time I like to spend time with my husband and three girls, travel, cook and I recently started taking violin lessons.

5. Favorite movie, food, drink, and furry friend?

I love documentaries, Thai, Cuban, and Mexican food, and my 1 year old Labradoodle named Ari.

Thank you, Paige for your commitment to our team and our community!

Don't forget, May is National Foster Care Month! Learn more about Oregon's child welfare system and how you can help:

OREGON.GOV

STAY IN TOUCH BY JOINING OUR EMAIL LIST. THANK YOU FOR STAYING UP TO DATE AND FOR ALL OF YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!