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CASA by the Numbers

FY19 Goals



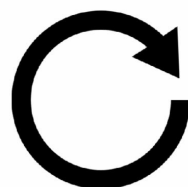
550
Total CASA Volunteers



\$2.7 million
Value of Volunteer Hours



1,100
Total Children Served



87%
Current CASA Retention Rate

House Bill 2570: Potential Increase in CASA Funding & a Request for Action from CASA Lobbyist Dave Hunt

The 2019 Oregon Legislative Session has begun and momentum is growing for increased CASA funding! Please contact your State Representative and Senator to support [House Bill 2570](#), which would invest \$8.3 Million in state funding to both maintain current CASAs and to recruit, train, and supervise a larger and more diverse group of new CASAs to serve at least 7,032 total Oregon children in foster care in 2019-21. This bill has already been co-sponsored by 45 bipartisan House and Senate members. Since Governor Kate Brown's Recommended 2019-21 Budget proposed doubling state funding for CASA, we are well on our way for this new legislative session.

Request for Action: Please review the [list of HB 2570 co-sponsors](#) and then:

- If your legislators have co-sponsored our bill, please **send them a short email** to say something like this: *Thank you very much for co-sponsoring HB 2570, which will increase state funding for local CASA programs in our community and across Oregon. This funding will take a large step toward providing a CASA for every Oregon child in foster care. I appreciate your support of the vulnerable children served by CASAs.*
- If your legislators have not yet co-sponsored our bill, please send them an email to say something like this: *I am writing to request that you join 45 other legislators in co-sponsoring HB 2570, which will take a large step toward providing a CASA for every Oregon child in foster care. As you know, a Court Appointed Special Advocate is the only person on a case whose sole responsibility is the child's best interest. Nearly 55% of Oregon foster children don't currently have a CASA, despite the state statutory (ORS 419B.112) mandate of a CASA for every child in state care. Local CASA programs simply lack the funding to meet this goal, especially since our state provides only 17% of funding for CASA programs. Children with CASAs are less likely to suffer re-abuse and are more likely to find a permanent home, spend an average of five months less time in foster care, and do better in school. New CASA volunteers are waiting to be trained across Oregon – only held back by insufficient staffing capacity due to inadequate funding. Please co-sponsor HB 2570 to invest \$8.3 million in state funding to both maintain current CASAs and to recruit, train, and supervise a larger and more diverse group of new CASAs to serve Oregon children in foster care during 2019-21. Thank you for your consideration.*

If you don't know who your legislators are, then [type your address here to find out.](#)

Kudos for CASAs' Service

"Trial reunification with a parent can be difficult as all eyes are on this parent and child hoping for success. When things don't work out, it's discouraging. Thank you **Joan Spatrisano** for supporting the young girl on this case and for riding these emotional waves while working hard to keep all legal parties in the loop to ensure the child's well being and best interests are being met."

-Debi Sakamoto, Program Manager - Multnomah County

"**Larry Norman** has been working with his young man now over four years and even traveling to Utah to visit him when he was placed into a treatment program. This young man, after being in care for a number of years, was placed with his brother for adoption but it did not work out for him; Larry has been the one constant in his life."

-Jim Perillo, CASA Supervisor - Washington County

"Congratulations to **Sandy Stienecker** on the adoption finalization of your case. You came in at a critical juncture when tensions were running high, and your unique blend of experience, insight and ability to work effectively with foster parents and DHS brought the case back to stability so that the focus could be back on the child."

-Georgia McGinnis Roberts, Program Manager - Washington County

"**Suzanne Montgomery** has developed a strong bond with her CASA youth over 9 years on his case!





She recently supported a change in plan to guardianship, advocating for him to stay in the same placement as his sister in order to preserve their strong sibling bond. Suzanne has been one of the few constants in this child's life, and is always keeping his best interest in mind and at the forefront of her updates to the court"

-Bradi Grebien-Samkow, CASA Supervisor - Multnomah County

"Congratulations to CASA Woody Mosby for successfully closing his first case! You garnered much respect and admiration from the whole team and provided outstanding support for all four of the children, specifically around their education and mental health. Thank you for your hard work, excellent questions, and for being a delight to supervise! Can't wait to have you back soon for case #2!"

-Carrie Sargavakian, CASA Supervisor - Multnomah County

A Note from CASA Recruitment

"Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in".

~Author Unknown

As the new year begins, we want to express our gratitude for the work of our dedicated CASAs. Not only are you making a difference for the child(ren) for whom you are advocating, you are also making a valuable investment in your community's future. Thank you!

Whether or not you are a CASA, did you know that your voice is one of our most effective tools for seeing that more kids have the benefit of a CASA's advocacy? Most people who show up for CASA orientation have heard about us from someone they know. Here are some simple ways you can help us to spread the word:

- Refer a friend, family member, co-worker, or other acquaintance
- Hang a poster in a high-traffic coffee shop, community center, or business in your neighborhood. We have one (or several!) for you.
- Share an orientation or other post from our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/casahelpskids/>

Together, we can work to see that more kids have the opportunity to grow up in safe, stable homes, and in doing so, will cast our votes for strong, healthy communities.

With gratitude,

Susan King
Recruitment Manager
sking@casahelpskids.org

Upcoming Events

TAILGATE FOR CASA

CASA for Children's Ambassador Board is excited to host the 1st Annual Tailgate for CASA on February 1, 2019 at Lagunitas Community Room. A variety of community sponsors and partners will contribute food, beverages and raffle prizes in support of CASA's mission.

WHEN: Friday, February 1, 2019, 6-9PM

WHERE: Lagunitas Community Room (237 NE Broadway Street, Ste. 300)

TICKETS: \$40, includes entrance, two drink tokens, and food

[Click here to purchase tickets!](#)



28TH ANNUAL AUCTION: HERE COMES THE SUN

Our 28th Annual Auction is coming up on **Friday, April 5, 2019** at the Portland Art Museum! Generous donors and foundations have contributed to a \$100,000 Challenge Match, which will act as leverage during the evening's paddle raise.

We hope that you can join us for this elegant evening of philanthropy and

celebration of CASA's work in the Portland community. Join over 500 local philanthropists, business people, and community leaders for a fun night supporting the work of our organization!

For questions or more information, contact Interim Director of Development and Communications Laura Collins at 503-988-5778 or lcollins@casahelpskids.org.

[Click here to register/purchase tickets!](#)



CASA Fall/Winter Recap

GIVE!GUIDE 2018

Thanks to your incredible dedication and generosity, we reached our 2018 Give!Guide goal!

Total Raised: \$40,007

Because of this, we will be able to recruit and train more CASAs to advocate for and serve more children in our community. We cannot do this important work without you, and we are deeply grateful for your support.

We also want to send a HUGE thank you to Willamette Week for organizing this campaign, as well as to all the other wonderful organizations that participated. Together, we are making real, positive change in our city.

WILLAMETTE WEEK'S

give
GUIDE

CASA'S ANNUAL TOY DRIVE

This year, we were able to serve **385 children with over 1,500 gifts!** These gifts will bring a lot of joy to CASA children and their families this holiday season. We so appreciate the support we've received in order to make this happen.

A special thank you to the following individuals, companies, and organizations for volunteering and/or donating to ensure the success of this year's drive:

Westside: A Jesus Church
Mark Boeck
Robin Henry
Finance of America Cares
Nike
Klarquist Sparkman
Rubicon
PortLUG

and all our amazing volunteers!





Ambassador Board Spotlight: Shannon McCall



I learned about CASA as a member of Kappa Alpha Theta while studying at the University of Oregon. My sorority fundraised for CASA of Lane County throughout the year and I became passionate about the important impact that CASA has in the communities it serves. When I moved to Portland in 2017, I became a member of the CASA Ambassador Board as a way to connect with the greater Portland philanthropic community.

I've enjoyed getting to know other professionals who care about CASA as well as having opportunities to volunteer. After helping at CASA's annual auction last year, I was in awe of what a generous group of donors and supporters CASA has.

This year, I'm one of the leaders of our board's Social Media & Marketing committee. We are working to increase our social media presence through sharing our fundraising efforts as well as the mission of CASA. I'm looking forward to our first annual Tailgate for CASA event on February 1st at the Lagunitas Community Room. Find the event on Facebook by searching *Tailgate for CASA* and follow us on Instagram at *@CasaForChildrenAB*, for more information!

Congrats Recent CASA Grads!



Front row seated: Referee Morgan Long, Bradi Grebien-Samkow; **Second row (from left):** Resa Kee, Karen Redman, Roger Octobre, MiQuelle DiMinor, Caroline Fuhrman, Angelina Valesco, Heather Gaitan, Heidi Izunagbara; **Back row (from left):** Roy Nifoussi, Stephanie Meijers, Jennifer Kobayashi, Meghan Casey, Ashley Schofield, Amanda Jones, Veronica Beck; **Back center:** Andrew Elliott; **Not pictured:** Becky Tooley, Kim Bess, Sean Gradney