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FY21 Goals



**490**

**Total CASA Volunteers**



**1,058**

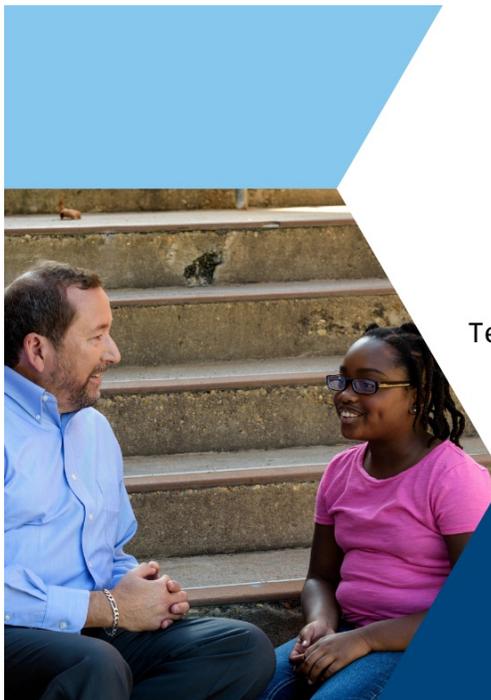
**Total Children Served**

## **\$5.92 million in State funding considered for Oregon CASA Programs**

Our supporters answered the call and [HB 2387](#) and [HB 2738](#) are scheduled for work sessions in the House Committee on Human Services!

Both bills are scheduled for 4/7/2021 at 3:15 PM. You can find additional [meeting details online](#).

***More funds for CASA programs directly translate into more volunteers to serve children. Contact your local representatives TODAY!***



## **CALL TO ACTION FOR SUPPORTERS OF CASA PROGRAMS**

Tell your legislators to support [HB 2387](#) and [HB 2738](#)



### **CRITICAL NEXT STEPS**

1) Continue the conversation with members of the [House Committee on Human Services](#) and urge their yes vote for [HB 2387](#) and [HB 2738](#) at the upcoming Work Session.

2) [Use the Legislator Lookup Tool](#) and email your State Representative and ask them to support CASA programs statewide by signing on to the legislation as a bill sponsor. If you visit the bill overview pages for [HB 2387](#) and [HB 2738](#),

Find us on  
Facebook



## ORIENTATIONS & TRAININGS NOW VIRTUAL

Please register before attending an orientation so we are sure to have space and an information packet ready for you.

In an effort to reduce exposure to and the spread of COVID-19, all CASA for Children orientation sessions will be online via Zoom until further notice.

If you have questions, or would like more information, please contact Recruiter, Jake Weiss

Email Jake

Orientation  
Schedule

Court Appointed Special Advocates, do you have questions about serving during the pandemic?

Program staff has resources!

you can see if your legislator has already signed on to the CASA bills.

### Additional Resources can be found on the OCN Shared Drive:

[General CASA Talking Points](#)

[CASA FAQ](#)

[Overview of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion](#)

[Local Legislator Lobbying Guide](#)

## 30th Annual Auction: A Path to a Better Future



### Event Information

#### April 22nd, 7-8pm PST, Livestream Broadcast

We are pleased to invite you to the 30th Annual CASA for Children Auction: A Path to a Better Future, presented by [First Republic Bank](#), and [The Savinar Group](#).

This broadcast will be a celebration of our work to advocate for children and youth in foster care. We have an excellent program lined-up - including special guest, [Nicholas Kristof from \*The NY Times\*](#). Nicholas has roots in Yamhill County and wrote an exceptional book, "Tightrope", highlighting personal stories from his hometown. A supporter of CASA programs nationwide, Nicholas will engage in an insightful conversation with [Kerry Tymchuk, Executive Director of the Oregon Historical Society](#) and one of Oregon's most respected public servants.

CASA for Children's special guests, supporters, volunteers, and staff will share stories of impact and you'll have the chance to participate in a special appeal and, if you're 21 or over, an online wine auction—all from the comfort of your couch.

Donate

The virtual wine auction will feature fabulous and unique selections of wine lots from around the world and in the PNW.

Wine Auction Open  
April 17, 12PM PST - April 24, 12PM PST

## Being a CASA in COVID Times



### CASA Graduate Roster

#### JANUARY 2021 CLASS:

*Mihaela Burlaku,*  
Columbia County

*Emily Ritchie,*  
Columbia County

*Brian Stipak,*  
Columbia County

*Tamara Wood,*  
Columbia County

*Thomas Boothe,*  
Multnomah County

*Lindsey Clark,*  
Multnomah County

*Catherine Foster,*  
Multnomah County

*Heather Grossmann,*  
Multnomah County

*Tahni Hamilton,*  
Multnomah County

*Amber Holland,*  
Multnomah County

*Sara-Anne Kichenmaster,*  
Multnomah County

*Susan Lazareck,*  
Multnomah County

*Kim Limb,*  
Multnomah County

*Emalee Moore,*  
Multnomah County

*Tracy Petterson,*  
Multnomah County

*Mackenzie Polley,*

In the coming weeks we will distribute instructions for how to bid and how to access the broadcast. [Sign up for our email list](#) to learn more about the auction, our featured guests, and amazing wines and experiences available for purchase.



**[Check out our event page](#) above to learn about our amazing raffle prize this year...a week long stay at a resort in Cabo, Mexico!**

## THANK YOU, SPONSORS!

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SOCIETY  
FOUNDED 1898

## Program Updates

**Welcome to the CASA for Children team,  
new staff members!**

**Paige Diaz (she/her/hers)**  
CASA Supervisor - Teen Specialist  
Based in Columbia County

**Multnomah County**

***Kaitlyn Taylor,***  
**Multnomah County**

***Kristi Thomson,***  
**Multnomah County**

***Desiree Whitehall,***  
**Multnomah County**

***Alyson Harden,***  
**Washington County**

***Jaimi Riedl,***  
**Washington County**

***Shahriyar Smith,***  
**Washington County**

***Karen Walsh,***  
**Washington County**

***Chelsea Williams,***  
**Washington County**

***Sheryl Williams,***  
**Washington County**

**MARCH 2021 CLASS:**

***Mariah Lynch,***  
**Columbia County**  
***Gabrielle Hall,***  
**Columbia County**

***Janie Spurgeon,***  
**Columbia County**

***Elizabeth Church,***  
**Columbia County**

***Carley Pouland,***  
**Columbia County**

***Lynn Barkley,***  
**Multnomah County**

***Melvina Blue,***  
**Multnomah County**

***Miriam Gormley,***  
**Multnomah County**

***Moriah Haffenreffer,***  
**Multnomah County**

***Samantha Moore,***  
**Multnomah County**

***Elizabeth O'Connell,***  
**Multnomah County**

***Hailey Poyser,***  
**Multnomah County**

***Melissa Romeo,***

Paige Diaz is a native Oregonian with a B.A from Harding University. She has been a CASA volunteer for 2.5 years and is very excited to take on the new role as a supervisor. In her spare time she enjoys spending time with her husband and three daughters, baking, and traveling.



**Naomi Lowinger (she/her/hers)**  
**Accounting & HR Assistant**

Naomi is thrilled to expand her role as a CASA volunteer to become a full time member of the CASA team. Her work as a CASA for the last two years has been fulfilling and meaningful, and she is now beyond excited to grow the skills she has been developing while managing a local tutoring company, as well as a

big and bustling department at New Seasons, within the CASA community. In her free time, Naomi takes full advantage of the Pacific Northwest hiking, foraging, and swimming in any body of water that will have her. An avid reader, Naomi hosts monthly book club meetings (now on Zoom) which encourage challenging conversations about equity and diversity. She loves building a sense of community around any group with whom she spends her time, and is looking forward to connecting with the folks at CASA safely in this strange new world the pandemic has created, and to joining the effort to make life better for the kiddos we serve.

**Taryn Robertson (she/they/he)**  
**CASA Supervisor, Washington County**

Taryn grew up in a small town outside of Eugene, Oregon, then moved to Portland in 2013. They graduated from PSU in 2017 with a Bachelors in Social work. Taryn is passionate about working with queer youth and their families, working specifically with trans and non-binary youth wanting to transition medically and socially.

Taryn's family has 2 little dogs, and the family spends most of the time outside of work playing with them. Other free time is spent reading, cross stitching, and enjoying the never-ending energy of play that their grandson has.



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## **Congratulations, CASA graduates!**

Before getting sworn in on Zoom, the trainees (list to the left) completed 35 hours of extensive online learning to become advocates. New advocates, thank you for your commitment to children in foster care.

**JANUARY 2021 CASA CLASS SWEARING IN**

**Multnomah County  
Brooke Baalman,  
Washington County**

**Sara Collette,  
Washington County**

**Justine Deisher,  
Washington County**

**Heather Fulk,  
Washington County**

**Alexandra Henry,  
Washington County**

**Hanna Michael,  
Washington County**

**Oneida Montes,  
Washington County**

**Kathryn Sanders,  
Washington County**

**Rachael Schweizer,  
Washington County**

**Seema Steffany,  
Washington County**

**Matt Temple,  
Washington County**



### MARCH 2021 CASA CLASS SWEARING IN





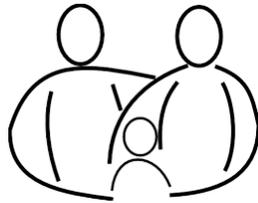
## Kudos for CASAs

### Advocates Continue to Thrive Remotely

"I want to send a special thank you to **CASA Betsy Granger** for taking on a very difficult case on short notice.

The Judge really needed some CASA insight before she could make a decision regarding permanency. Your willingness to take this case and the way you approached it with grace and determination is so appreciated!"

*Debi Sakamoto, Program Manager - Multnomah County*



"**Filma S.** you have done such an amazing job hitting the ground running and being present for your CASA kiddos during their placement transitions. And when there was so much doubt that it could be done, even by the Judge, you didn't give up working to make that phone call happen between your CASA teen and his dad, proving it was possible. Your advocacy embodies why CASAs are so important, thank you!"

*Jeff Tapia, CASA Supervisor - Washington County*

"Thank you to **Cynthia Jimes** for her dedication to supporting the youth on her case, even when they moved across the country! Your persistence and advocacy in making sure that the children's perspectives are heard and their emotional needs are prioritized has been so impactful. Thank you for being someone they trust and for moving their needs forward!"

*Sarah Tapp, CASA Supervisor - Multnomah County*



"I would like to give a kudo to **CASA Tess Symonds**, who recently had to do something kind of scary, and file a request for an emergency hearing

on her case. Her CASA kids were struggling and she knew the court would want to know. Sure enough, the judge was extremely grateful that Tess had brought this information to her attention and the children on the case will have a much easier time

"Shout out to **Mary Clark**, a rockstar CASA who is managing two complicated cases. I recently found out that one of the families she works with has a saying in their household... "When in doubt, Mary will figure it out!". Couldn't be more true, she goes above and beyond to problem solve."

*Haley Mahan, CASA Supervisor - Multnomah County*

"Shout out to **Phoebe Thornock** for her dedication and compassion for her CASA youth who has experienced immense hardship. Phoebe rolls with all of the punches of an extremely complex case and is always there to support her youth."

going forward because of Tess' fearless advocacy!"

Haley Mahan, CASA Supervisor - Multnomah County

Allie Brady, CASA Supervisor - Multnomah County

"Your patience, fortitude, and advocacy is so appreciated, **Karen Redman!** Thank you for hopping over all the obstacles and landing with grace. Now if we can just get to that Adoption Committee..."

Jeni Bennett, Lead CASA Supervisor - Multnomah County

"Kudos and appreciation for you, **Christopher Aedo!** You boldly stepped up to advocate for a teen when a second CASA was needed in the case, and made sincere and steady efforts to build rapport with this teen amid challenging circumstances. You are now seeing your younger child through a successful reunification and are to be commended for your on-point advocacy and compassionate support for parents. Your good humor and helpful attitude are deeply appreciated, and I can't wait to see where your CASA journey takes you next!"

Julie Fong, CASA Supervisor - Washington County

"Shout out to the Steve team, **Steve Maser and Steve Parker,** who are doing an excellent job managing a very complicated case together and have sought out a number of resources for their CASA kids despite a lot of obstacles. I am very grateful for their determination!"

Haley Mahan, CASA Supervisor - Multnomah County

"I want to give a shout out to **Kim Limb & Catherine Foster** who have taken on a big, complex case with some children placed out of state. As new CASAs, they have put so much wonderful effort towards understanding the case, getting to know parties, and developing an advocacy plan. These children are so lucky to have you two working together to support their success!"

Sarah Tapp, CASA Supervisor - Multnomah County

"I so appreciate **Joanne Austin's** dedication on her case that continues to have setback after setback. Her skillful advocacy with & between all parties has no doubt created pathways for communication that ensure the child's emotional needs are always considered, despite all that has happened. Thank you Joanne!"

Sarah Tapp, CASA Supervisor - Multnomah County

"A special shout out to all our CASAs helping me with our VOCA grant (**Becky M, Jenna A, Karen R, Kate P, Meghan C, Robin B, Sharlena L, Tahni H, and Tom B**). We appreciate and acknowledge the extra ask and honor the detailed accounting of your work. You all go the extra mile!"

Jeni Bennett, Lead CASA Supervisor - Multnomah County

**Thanks to the hard work and dedication of our CASAs, children in our communities continue to receive support and resources.**

## Spotlight on Recent Grants

City of Sherwood Community Enhancement Grant

advancement and advocacy for children in foster care in Washington County. In addition, The grant will also support efforts to strengthen our services and our organizational stability by advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) and trauma-informed care (TIC) in the context of educational experiences and outcomes.

Thank you, City of Sherwood - we are proud to partner with you for the first time, and look forward to further developing our relationship!

## Upcoming Events

### [Move for CASA - Virtual 10k](#)



Dust off those running shoes!

Throughout the month of May, CASA for Children's Ambassador Board will walk, run, and raise funds for youth in foster care.

Join in this virtual 10k walk/run opportunity, gather pledges from your family and friends, and Move for CASA!

Sign up for event updates below. We will have more information soon.

[Join the Email List](#)

## Winter Wrap-up

### [Cooking with CASA](#)



## Cooking With CASA

VIRTUAL LIVESTREAM CLASS

February 9th, 2021  
6pm-7pm PST

*Hosted by Kristin Koziara of Seasoned Portland*



CASA for Children and the Ambassador Board express gratitude to everyone who supported this event. We look forward to hosting you again online to cook a delicious

meal.

**Over \$6,100 was raised!**

Want to pay some compliments to the chef? Kristin Koziara's information can be found at [seasonedportland.com](http://seasonedportland.com)

**THANK YOU, SPONSORS!**



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## **Community Gathering Series - Second Event**



Thank you for tuning in to CASA for Children's Community Gathering: Teenagers in foster care and the impacts of the pandemic on future stability.

**We want to give a special thank you to all of our guest speakers. Their knowledge and effort that go towards the teens in our community does not go unnoticed!**

If you weren't able to join us, we have the event recorded. We look forward to connecting with you, again, soon!

[Sign up for Updates](#)

[Event Recording](#)

## **Ways to Support Foster Youth Now**

### **Support the VOCA Fix to Sustain the Crime Victims Fund Act of 2021**

#### **What is VOCA?**

The Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Fund

provides support to victims of crime with direct financial assistance and through grants to providers/programs that support those victims. The VOCA Fund is sustained through fines levied on convicted criminals, such as forfeited bail bonds and penalties collected from perpetrators as part of their sentences. CASA for Children's own program has been able to serve more children through grants from this Fund.



## VOCA Fix Fact Sheet

### What is the current problem?

The Fund has seen a recent decrease in replenishments due to in part an increase in deferred/non-prosecution of criminal cases. The amount deposited into the Fund last December is the lowest since 2003. This also leads to lower releases of available funds to victims and programs that serve victims, such as CASA for Children.

The VOCA Fix to Sustain the Crime Victims Fund Act of 2021 was introduced to Congress in March. The Act would assist victims and programs that serve them in several ways, but most notably it would allow criminal settlements from deferred/non-prosecution agreements to go into the VOCA Fund rather than the General Treasury.

### What can I Do?

Please consider contacting your representatives and asking them to support the VOCA Fix Act. National CASA has made it easy to do so, by using your address to identify your representatives and send them template emails on your behalf.

**Send a Message to Members of Congress**

### Buy a candle from The PNW Candle Collective



Created by high school teacher Anya Hall, The PNW Candle Collective offers a variety of candles that support causes on a monthly basis. For the month of April, The PNW Candle Collective will contribute to CASA for Children!

April's candle is a floral mixture of honeysuckle and jasmine with notes of lemon, ginger, and amyris. Each candle is hand-poured in Portland, Oregon using 100% soy wax, cotton wicks, and clean scents that are free of harmful chemicals, carcinogens, and phthalates.

**Buy a candle, and 50% of proceeds will be donated to us!**

**Spread the Word About Child Abuse Prevention**

# THRIVING

## Children and Families:

### PREVENTION WITH PURPOSE

#ChildAbusePreventionMonth



### April is Child Abuse Awareness Month

The *2021/2022 Prevention Resource Guide* is designed to help services providers and organizations, in every community, to strengthen families and prevent child abuse and neglect. The Resource Guide focuses on protective factors that build on family strengths to foster healthy child and youth development.

[Resource Guide.](#)

### Benefit CASA for Children while you shop

Using *AmazonSmile* and the *Fred Meyer Community Rewards* program are easy ways to contribute to CASA for Children at **no additional cost to you!**



Doing some online shopping?  
**Before you browse:**

1. [Go to our website](#)
2. Click AmazonSmile
3. Submit your order
4. Amazon donates 1.5% of your purchase to us!



The Fred Meyer Community Rewards program makes fundraising easy! [Link your shopper's card](#) to CASA For Children and just swipe.

Name: CASA for Children, Inc.  
Number: SL433



MULTNOMAH, WASHINGTON  
& COLUMBIA COUNTIES

