May is National Foster Care Month! This month is a time to acknowledge all the youth in the U.S. foster care system, as well as foster parents, family members, volunteers, child welfare professionals, and other members of the community who help these youth find permanent homes and connections. Established in 1988 by President Reagan, this month acts as an important reminder of the incredible work being done within the child welfare system, as well as all the work we have left to do.

All of us at CASA would like to take this time to articulate our immense gratitude for our incredible CASA volunteers who are deeply engaged in this important work every day. The time, effort, and determination that you put into your advocacy is absolutely imperative to the happiness and well-being of the youth we serve, and we want you to know how appreciated you are.

Our CASA organization is currently able to serve about one third of the youth in care in our three counties with a CASA advocate. We need the support of our community to bridge that gap and serve more youth with the amazing resource of an advocate dedicated to pursuing their best interests.

To learn more, or give today, visit our website: [Click here!]

Kudos for CASAs’ Service

"You made it! Congratulations Jonathan Thaher on your case and your new (ish) addition to your family. We are on the home stretch for finalization with three well deserving kids - your perseverance has paid off. Hats off to you!"
-Jeni Bennett, Lead CASA Supervisor - Multnomah County

"I want to thank CASA Rick Toothaker and congratulate him on closing his case. Rick had unwavering faith in reunification and a keen ability to see through to the heart of any problem. I’m astounded by the support that Rick provided to this family, and to his CASA child."
-Allie Brady, CASA Supervisor - Multnomah County

"During the life of a CASA case, things can drastically change, as they did with yours when two siblings were added that needed your advocacy. Thank you Krysta Vollbrecht for always being so strength based and collaborative when discussing sibling visits and permanency for your CASA kiddos. It’s appreciated by all."
-Debi Sakamoto, Program Manager - Multnomah County

"Heartfelt thanks and enormous props to Hailee Vandiver in advocating for her teen; she has been an ally in making their identity and preferred pronouns a priority rather than an afterthought and kept all parties on top of safety concerns and discharge planning. You are a life preserver they both need and deserve."
-Jeff Tapia, CASA Supervisor - Washington County

"Many thanks to CASA Barbara Kveton as you continue to advocate on behalf of three kids with varying levels of needs. I admire how hard you are fighting to make sure these siblings are able to be in contact with one another and maintain their sibling bond while they are in separate placements."
-Becca Lowry, CASA Supervisor - Multnomah County

"Thank you Ava Clements for your excellent advocacy on behalf of your three CASA children! Your ability to find answers to even the most difficult questions on your case is amazing and inspiring. Keep up the good work!"
-Kelli Gano, CASA Supervisor - Multnomah County
7TH ANNUAL BOWL FOR CASA

**When:** Saturday, June 1st, 2019, 1:30-4:30pm  
**Where:** KingPins Beaverton (2725 SW Cedar Hills Blvd)

Come have fun while supporting CASA! This annual event, put on by CASA's Ambassador Board, is a great way to get involved and support our mission while having a great time with friends. Corporate sponsorships are available, or you can round up colleagues, clients, family, and friends to make a team!

Contact Anne Carlson at acarlson@casahelpskids.org or 503-988-5778 for more information, or to register.

Click here to donate!

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26TH ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC

Come join us for a day on the greens at our 26th Annual Golf Classic, presented by Fred Meyer Jewelers!

**When:** Monday, August 19th, 2019  
**Where:** Langdon Farms

Enjoy the beautiful weather, have fun with friends, and support the foster youth of our community! You can join as an individual player, come with a team, or become a corporate sponsor. This all-day event is always one to remember!

For more information, contact Anne Carlson at 503-988-5778 or acarlson@casahelpskids.org.

Click here to register!

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CASA Winter/Spring Recap

TAILGATE FOR CASA

Thank you so much to everyone who attended the Ambassador Board's 1st Annual Tailgate for CASA! The event was an enormous success, with over 130 people in attendance and raising $7,879 towards CASA’s mission! We are so grateful for your support.

We want to give a HUGE thank you to Lagunitas Community Room, Buffalo Wild Wings, & Polar Seltzer for sponsoring this event!

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28TH ANNUAL AUCTION: HERE COMES THE SUN

CASA’s 28th Annual Auction: Here Comes the Sun was a massive success! On the evening of April 5th, 2019, many members of our CASA community gathered at the Portland Art Museum for a celebration of CASA’s work. Thanks to all of our incredible supporters, we were able to raise a total of:
We are so happy with how the event went, and so grateful to everyone who participated. Thank you to each and every one of you who help us to do this important work. We couldn’t do it without you!!

Staff Spotlight: Becca Lowry

Becca Lowry is one of our wonderful CASA Supervisors in Multnomah County! Here, she answered some questions, silly and otherwise, so you can start to get to know our amazing staff:

Q: What’s your favorite Portland activity?
   A: Going to a Portland Trailblazers game! RIP CITY!

Q: What’s your favorite movie?
   A: Free Willy

Q: What’s your favorite food?
   A: Favorite food is lefse. Lefse is a traditional soft Norwegian flatbread, I usually top it with butter and sugar and roll it up but of course you can eat other things with it as well! When I was a kid my great granddad made me my very own ‘lefse stick’ which is a special wooden stick used while the lefse is cooking in order to flip it while it is on the griddle.

Q: What’s a travel destination on your bucket list?
   A: I have always wanted to go to Greece and hope to travel there next year. Greece 2020!

Q: What drew you to CASA’s work and why do you think it's important?
   A: CASA’s mission was definitely a huge draw for me. I have always been very interested in the juvenile justice system and the ways in which agencies interact with one another to support system-involved youth. The opportunity to work with youth and those serving them as their advocates on a daily basis is something I am very passionate about and that motivates me to continue this work.

Ambassador Board Spotlight: Bobby Van Cleve
My first exposure to CASA was through attendance at the annual gala. I had been invited by Drew Corrigan, a board member for CASA and the lead partner at my employer KPMG for our not-for-profit audit practice in Portland. Prior to that experience, I was not familiar with CASA, its mission, or the need for these services to support foster children in our community. What stands out from that first gala, and always stands out to me when I meet volunteers and those helped by this organization, was the powerful experience shared by the CASA, the bond they developed with their child, and the profound impact the CASA had on that child’s life and their adoptive family.

After multiple years of attending the gala and hearing these stories, I jumped at the chance to join the Ambassador Board in 2018. One of my first experiences on the board was attending a hearing with a CASA. This experience cemented in me the need for this organization and the depth of the foster care problems in our community. Seeing the CASA advocate for the child’s needs in an effort to improve their difficult situation was an eye opening but heartening experience. The needs of foster children are many but CASA is stepping up to start to address these needs.

Every child deserves a loving family and to be supported in their growth. I am thankful for and now further appreciate the love of my own family. My experience with CASA has exposed the harsh reality that not all children are provided that same support. I am not in a position to be a CASA at this point in my life, as serving as a CASA is a true commitment of extensive time and energy. We all, however, can assist foster children by supporting CASA in any way that is meaningful to us. Solving this problem and serving these kids does not have a simple or single solution. This is a complex problem that will take the support of this full community in conjunction with the State of Oregon and other partners.

I am proud to serve many non-profits in our community via my work with KPMG. I felt called to give my own time to CASA and am thankful for an employer who supports me in giving my time and providing financial resources to CASA. The mission of the Ambassador Board is to spread the story of CASA to those not already exposed to the organization. I encourage you to join us in this effort; no amount of support we generate or raise together is too small to help solve the big issues facing foster children in our region. Thank you for your support.

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**Congrats Recent CASA Grads!**

From left: Cindy Olson, Candace Sorensen, Jenna Anderson, David Powell, Mercy Henderson, Phoebe Thornock, See Eun Kim, Haliee Vandiver, Cate Richards, Mia Matusow, Cindy Mason, Raquel Espericueta, Michele Friedman, Sonya Sperring, Linda di Pietro, Mary Clark.