Program Updates

CASA for Children Program Milestone

Since 1986, our CASA volunteers have helped over 25,000 children find a safe and permanent home, but the impact our CASAs have made over the years is immeasurable.

People in the community continue to answer the call to advocate for children and youth in the foster care system. Cheers and huge gratitude to our volunteers, staff, Board and Ambassador Board, as well as our community supporters!
Welcome, first virtual class of CASAs!

Before getting sworn in on Zoom, these trainees completed 35 hours of extensive online learning to become advocates. They always came prepared and full of questions and helped us learn as we adapt to a remote training model. New advocates, thank you for your commitment to children in foster care.

Graduate Roster:

**Cherish Thiessen** - Columbia County  
**Brittany Behrendt** - Multnomah County  
**Pat Foy** - Multnomah County  
**Brigitte Mucci** - Multnomah County  
**Dominique Martin** - Multnomah County  
**Mary Sagara** - Multnomah County  
**Ariel Spaugh** - Multnomah County  
**Sarah Thom** - Multnomah County  
**Melissa Weddle** - Multnomah County  
**Diana Aradine** - Washington County  
**Janet Cox** - Washington County  
**Dawna Havnar** - Washington County  
**Alan Horowitz** - Washington County  
**Tami Jacobson** - Washington County  
**Mauricia Jobe** - Washington County  
**Cheryl Matthews** - Washington County  
**Begoña Otero** - Washington County  
**Kristen Ritter** - Washington County  
**Erica Wichmann** - Washington County
In an effort to reduce exposure to and the spread of COVID-19 (Coronavirus), 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!

Being a CASA in COVID Times

Kudos for CASAs

Advocates Continue to Thrive Remotely

"Congratulations to Candy on the adoption of your CASA kid! Without your fierce determination and independent investigation this child would not have ended up in her forever home. Thank you for your many years of service to CASA!"

-Georgia McGinnis Roberts, Program Manager -
Washington County

"I want to extend a special thank you to CASASally M. who is on a very
difficult case. After learning that a child was going to be removed from their foster family (the only family the child had ever lived with since birth) and placed immediately with the mother without a transition plan, she noted her concerns and objections. She also then communicated to all what she would like to see to help the child (and parent) succeed. Her grace and focus on best interests for the child, coupled with empathy and support of the mother, helped her in presenting a transition plan that was agreed to by all. Because of these efforts, this little kiddo, was able to be re-introduced to her mother in a supported way; making a huge difference in this little one’s life. Thank you Sally!

-Debi Sakamoto, Program Manager - Multnomah County

“Big thanks to Jenna A. for your successful case closure and picking right up with another case of four children! Way to be unstoppable!”

-Jeni Bennett, Lead CASA Supervisor - Multnomah County

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of our CASAs, children in our communities continue to benefit in spite of hard times.

“Sandy: The end of your 11 year case has been bittersweet but you have been a faithful touchstone for this family through it all. Your dedication to your CASA kids is a true testament to perseverance, compassion, and unrelenting advocacy. We started our CASA journey together, and I thank you for being my teacher!”

-Georgia McGinnis Roberts, Program Manager - Washington County

“A kudo to Steve M. who took the time to translate a booklet about sensory activities for autistic children to Spanish for an autistic child in his case who has a Spanish speaking foster parent!”

-Haley Mahan, CASA Supervisor - Multnomah County

“What a rollercoaster Dave P.! Thank you for your continued excellent advocacy, your unwavering commitment and your dedication towards getting your CASA kids back to their mother. Fingers tightly crossed for a successful case closure and transition.”

-Jeni Bennett, Lead CASA Supervisor - Multnomah County

Spotlight on some Recent Grants
CASA for Children extends its heartfelt gratitude to the Duke Family Foundation for its support of critical advocacy in the amount of $15,000.

This gift ensures that seven children will receive advocates in the coming year. The CASAs assigned to these cases will make a lasting difference in the lives of children and youth in our community. Thank you, Duke Family Foundation!

CASA for Children is pleased to announce that the Ford Family Foundation has approved a grant of $10,752, representing a part of a larger pool of funds distributed amongst the Oregon CASA Network.

This grant is dedicated to recruiting new advocates to serve in Washington County and Columbia County. Due to the Ford Family Foundation’s generosity, we will connect with motivated community members looking to advocate in the best interests of children and youth in foster care at this trying time.

The Rose E. Tucker Charitable Trust has awarded CASA for Children a grant in the amount of $10,000 to support critical advocacy, healing, and resiliency support for children and youth in foster care in our community. The Trust seeks to provide support to organizations working towards the betterment of the citizens and environment of Oregon.

These funds allow CASA for Children to provide five more children in foster care with critical advocacy during 2020-2021. We would like to extend our utmost gratitude for the generous support Rose E.

The Leonard & Lois Schnitzer Charitable Supporting Foundation of OJCF has awarded CASA for Children $3,000 for general operating support. This fund prioritizes Jewish projects in Oregon and SW Washington that address community building, education, arts, culture, health and/or social welfare.

For 2020, the supporting foundation did not invite proposals for the first time in more than fifteen years. Instead, it granted primarily general support grants to organizations that received its ongoing support for the past few years. CASA for Children is grateful for the fund’s continued support and looks forward to providing advocacy to Jewish youth.
Tucker Charitable Trust has given CASA for Children over many years and the difference it has made in the lives of children.

Upcoming Events

2020 Annual Friendraiser

Rescheduled for Oct. 7th, 5:30-6:30pm on Zoom!

Our Friendraiser event will be taking place on October 7th! Attend this event to learn about serving on CASA's Ambassador Board and serving our community directly!

This year, the event will be held on Zoom. To reserve your spot, click the link below and register. See you there!

Register for the 2020 Friendraiser

CASA for Children is back in the Give!Guide

CASA returns to Willamette Week's Give!Guide, a program that compiles Portland's most impactful non-profits and encourages donations by offering prizes from local businesses.

The campaign launches November 1st and runs through December 31st, with many "Big Give Days" - in which you can win big prizes for donating - in between.

Sign Up for Email Updates
Pencil us in for Mid-November

Curious about what's been going on at CASA for Children recently? The pandemic has changed how we do things, but we can still gather online. Stay tuned for an exciting virtual event.

Send me updates

Wildfire Resources for Foster Children, Families

My NeighbOR

Wildfires have ravaged our state. We spotlight Every Child Oregon's emergency response system, My NeighbOR, is a fantastic resource for foster families, as well as a place for people to donate goods to those impacted most by the fires. Check out their website to learn more.

My NeighbOR is currently seeking Target/Walmart/Amazon gift cards for affected families to purchase groceries and air purifiers!

More on how wildfires have impacted Oregon families

Project Lemonade

The Project Lemonade store is open and virtual shopping and curbside pickup are offered.

This clothing resource is for foster youth/open child welfare cases for youth ages 5 and up and those affected by the wildfires.
In this issue we spotlight **Bill Gardner**, Director at Morley Capital Management, Inc.

Bill was introduced to CASA for Children by former board member, Doug Johanson. He and Bill had routinely discussed community issues, and both had a common interest in engaging/supporting organizations focused on children, which he thought fit well with CASA. Bill shares, "[he] was lucky to get on the CASA for Children Board around the same time that Betsy Stark Miller joined the organization as Executive Director." Betsy and Bill knew each other during college and he is grateful to be able to support her good work.

At Morley Capital Management, Inc., Bill has overall responsibility for all sales, relationship management, client service, and marketing functions. Previously, he was a Senior Vice President with Dwight Asset Management, where he provided client service and investment support to stable value and fixed income clients in the public and private sectors as well as collective investment trusts. Prior to that, Bill was Chief Operating Officer for The Laughlin Group. He is a past chairman of the Stable Value Investment Association.
Welcome new CASA for Children staff members!

Kristen Lewis - Program Attorney

CASA for Children welcomes Kristen Lewis (she/her/hers), our new program attorney. She received her J.D. from UCLA School of Law in 2000. Kristen found her passion of advocating for children while working at Children’s Law Center of Los Angeles, representing foster youth in daily dependency court proceedings at the Edelman Children’s Court, a specialized courthouse that services roughly 50,000 L.A. County foster youth. She was also a CASA in Ventura County, California. Kristen is thrilled to be continuing her career in the Portland area!

Jake Weiss - CASA Recruiter

Jake (he/him/his) has taken on the recruiting role for all three counties served by CASA for Children. He has been a CASA volunteer for four years, and continues to work as a special educator producing distance learning videos for the Portland Public School system (YouTube: Jake Dadlife). Prior to joining CASA as an employee, he worked in business development positions in the legal and publishing fields. Originally from Philadelphia, he moved to Portland to attend Lewis & Clark College to complete a BA in Philosophy. He also has a JD from Rutgers University, and an MBA from Portland State. His current obsession is homemade ice cream and water ice (a Philly delicacy), so if you have a flavor in mind, he’d be happy to make you a pint.
Kira Lauman - Training Coordinator and Development Assistant

Kira (she/her/hers) just started the permanent role of the hybrid position: Training Coordinator and Development Assistant. Kira initially started as the Development Intern back in January, and deemed CASA is the perfect fit for her. She is extremely grateful for the opportunity to continue working with Foster Youth and her colleagues. Kira grew up in Illinois and graduated with her Bachelors of Communications from University of Illinois Urbana Champaign in 2019. Kira’s passion for foster youth and children started when she was a mental health technician and saw the direct impact many foster youth were facing. When she moved out to Oregon back in August ‘19 she immediately became a sworn in CASA. Outside of CASA, Kira enjoys hiking, fostering dogs & cats, and going to the beach!

Whitley Pleas - Marketing and Development Intern

Whitley Pleas (she/her/hers), a Junior at Lake Forest College, joins the CASA for Children team as Marketing and Development intern. Whitley is majoring in English Literature and Political Science, and has an interest in legal studies and communications. In college, she has been involved in research assistance work for a history professor, essay tutoring, and marketing leadership for a TEDx event. She is excited to get to know staff and volunteers at CASA for Children while learning about non-profit development and Oregon’s family law system.

Ways to Support Foster Youth Now

Support the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Fix Act of 2020

The recent House passed the Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions (HEROES) Act
which includes the “Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Fix Act of 2020.”

This provision of the HEROES Act would greatly benefit the over 500 CASA and GAL state organizations and local programs receiving VOCA funding nationwide and ultimately the children we serve.

Please take a few minutes to contact your Senators and ask for their support.

Although we can't be physically together right now, we are excited to send families to a hockey match when it is safe to do so. For every $100 raised, we will provide tickets for a foster youth and their family to attend a Portland Winterhawks game as VIP guests!

Your gift, no matter the amount, is 100% tax deductible.

Sponsorship opportunity courtesy of Doug Piper & the Portland Winterhawks.

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

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MULTNOMAH, WASHINGTON
& COLUMBIA COUNTIES

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