

Media Kit



more than 14 years of advocacy for abused children

OUR MISSION

The mission of CASA of Lane County is to vigorously pursue the best interest of children in the Juvenile Dependency court system and to provide abused, neglected, and vulnerable children a voice in court; through trained and committed community volunteers who advocate for their safety and stability.

CASA stands for Court Appointed Special Advocates. CASA of Lane County was founded in 1994 to train community citizens as volunteers to advocate for the best interests of children who have been abused or neglected and are under the protection of the Juvenile Court.

CASA – EXTRAORDINARY COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS!

Every day abused and neglected children are removed from their homes and placed into substitute care because their parents cannot or will not protect them.

When children are removed from their homes due to abuse or neglect, they enter a complex and unfamiliar world of caseworkers, temporary homes, and attorneys. For more than half of these children, all of this happens before their sixth birthday. CASA volunteers are trained to advocate for these kids, working to ensure that decisions made are in the child's best interest. The CASA is often the only steady presence in the child's life during this tumultuous time.



facts and stats

CASA OF LANE COUNTY 2007 STATISTICS

- Provided advocacy for 288 abused children in Lane County
- Trained 49 new volunteers
- Advocated on 156 cases
- 101 volunteers collectively worked more than 5,527 hours
- The cost to CASA of Lane County to serve one child in 2007 was \$1,118

RESEARCH SHOWS THAT CHILDREN WITH A CASA

- Have greater self-esteem
- Can control deviant behavior
- Have a positive attitude toward the future
- Value achievement
- Are less likely to experience new abuse
- Have fewer foster home placement changes
- Receive more appropriate services; therapy, health care, and education
- Spend less time in out-of-home care
- Are more likely to be adopted rather than remain in long term foster care
- Parents of children with a CASA were offered, and also completed, more services than those assisted by the Department of Human Services along

LANE COUNTY FACTS ON CHILD ABUSE

- For every 1,000 children in Lane county, 11.4 are victims of child abuse or neglect
- 793 new child victims in 2007, 54% of these children are under the age of 6 years old
- 1,732 children in foster care in Lane County in 2007, up from 1,444 children in 2005

OREGON FACTS ON CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2006, DHS received 60,746 calls or 'reports' of suspected child abuse or neglect
- 25,606 calls were referred for investigation, 8,017 were founded for abuse or neglect



our annual events

CASINO NIGHT

CASA's annual Casino Night fundraiser, held at the Valley River Inn, will be on Friday, February 6, 2009 from 6:30pm - 11:00pm. Guests will enjoy an all you can eat buffet, hosted beverages, raffle prizes, silent auction, casino games and live performances. Tickets can be purchased through the CASA office for \$100 per person.

CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN FUN RUN/WALK

Join us on Saturday, May 2, 2009 for our sixth annual Champions for Children Fun Run/Walk. Each runner/walker on race day will represent one child living in foster care in this community...help us make sure every child is represented by signing up now. Visit our Calendar of Events for more information.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Each year CASA teams up with the Eugene Marathon at its annual Pancake Breakfast held at the Eugene Hilton. While you are picking up your race packet and enjoying the Health & Fitness Expo, drop by the Krusteaz Pancake Breakfast to fuel up on a warm stack of the world's finest pancakes. Breakfast (including: Pancakes, Sausage, OJ, Coffee) is \$7.00 (all ages). Tickets can be purchased at the expo on Friday, May 1st or at the door on Saturday.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Calling all men! Please join us for this free breakfast on Thursday, October 16, 2008 from 8:00am – 9:00am at First Baptist Church of Eugene to learn how you can make a positive impact on the life of a child who has been abused or neglected. Consider giving an hour of your time to learn how your talents can help a child overcome the adversity caused by neglect or abuse. Call the CASA office to RSVP.



frequently asked questions

What does CASA stand for?

Court Appointed Special Advocates. CASA is the only volunteer organization that empowers everyday citizens as appointed members of the court.

Who volunteers for CASA?

People just like you. Full or part-time professionals, semi-retired or retired educators, stay-at-home parents and college-age students. A typical CASA volunteer: passionately cares about the health and welfare of children; appreciates a high quality of life in their community; believes that abuse has no place in the home understands that children who witness or experience abuse are forever affected.

Is this a Big Brother/Big Sister program?

No. Your role as a CASA volunteer is to conduct an independent investigation by reviewing documents and records pertinent to the case and interviewing the child, parents, social workers, foster parents, teachers, therapists and other persons involved with this child to determine the facts and circumstances of the child's situation. Ultimately you are making recommendations to the court as to the safest place for this child to reside.

Do I have to have special training to become a volunteer?

CASA volunteers are ordinary people who do extraordinary things. You do not have to be a lawyer or social worker to be a volunteer. We're simply looking for people with a desire to help abused children. You will receive 40 hours of training over a 10-week time period from professionals in the legal and social services fields so that you can make decisions and recommendations for these children.

Will I be left on my own after I am assigned to a case?

No. Each and every CASA volunteer is assigned a supervisor who will assist you throughout the process. You will always have someone to talk with about your case.



frequently asked questions

Why is a CASA so important to a child?

In an overburdened social welfare system, abused and neglected children often slip through the cracks among hundreds of current cases. CASA volunteers typically handle just one case at a time, and commit to staying on that case until the child is placed in a safe, permanent home. While others may come and go, CASA volunteers provide that one constant presence throughout the case that children need in order to thrive.

How much time is required of a CASA volunteer?

Each case lasts, on average, two years and requires approximately 10 volunteer hours each month. For the child's sake, we require you to commit to the case as long as your assigned child remains a ward of the court.

Is there a concern for my personal safety?

No. CASA provides a training class on safety during your 40 hours of training. In addition, you may ask your supervisor to attend any and all visits with you at the home of the parents and foster parents. You may also schedule your visits with the parents or children in the presence of the DHS worker.

What if I can't attend the court hearing or have a scheduled vacation planned?

Your supervisor is aware at all times of what is happening throughout your case and will step in for you at any given time.

Does the judge listen to a CASA's recommendations?

Yes! Judges rely heavily on the testimony of the CASA volunteer to make an informed decision on the child's future. The judge is aware that CASA volunteers are typically assigned to just one child or family of children and is a constant presence in that child's life.



contact information

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Working on a story and need quotes or information about child abuse and/or neglect in Lane County? CASA of Lane County has several key staff members who are experts on topics surrounding advocacy, child abuse, and neglect. Call our office today and we will be able to put you in contact with the staff member best able to address your needs.

