



Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Annual Report 2010-2011

A powerful voice for abused and neglected children in Lane County



Keeping Children Safe



In 2010-2011 in Lane County...

- **295 children** received the **powerful voice** of a Court Appointed Special Advocate
- **137 CASA volunteers** advocated for abused and neglected children
- **101 children** from our **waiting list** were newly assigned to a CASA volunteer
- **107 children** were placed into **safe, permanent homes** when their cases closed
- **41 new CASA volunteers** graduated from **training**

Colin Returns Home

One of the children served by CASA this year was a young boy named **Colin**. Colin was born to a violent father and a mother struggling with mental illness. Colin was **severely neglected**, often forced to go without food. His father soon went to prison, and his mother was unable to be a stable parent for her son.

When Colin entered kindergarten, he began having **meltdowns** and throwing things at his classmates. By age eight, Colin still **could not read**.

Sara was appointed to be Colin's **CASA volunteer**. She believed that with the right interventions, Colin could safely leave foster care and return home to his mother.

For the next few years, Sara closely **monitored** all aspects of the situation. She worked with **Colin's counselor** as he slowly learned how to better express his frustrations. Sara **supported Colin's mother** throughout counseling as she learned effective parenting techniques. Sara communicated regularly with **Colin's teachers** and participated in his education planning sessions, ensuring he was learning how to read. She shared all her insights with the juvenile court judge.

This past year, Colin was joyfully placed **back into his mother's care**. His mother is now able to respond appropriately when Colin acts out, and has learned to manage her mental health. Colin knows how to better express his frustrations. And when Sara visited Colin in school for the last time, **Colin proudly read to her**.



Proven Results

When children have a CASA volunteer, they:

- Are less likely to experience new abuse
- Have fewer foster care placement changes
- Receive more services like therapy, health care and education
- Are more likely to be adopted or return home than remain in long-term foster care
- Have greater self-esteem and a positive attitude toward the future



“I am very proud to tell you that **I am not a statistic**, that I have beaten the odds. I recently graduated from the **University of Oregon** with a psychology degree. I'm now working in a great **marketing job** in Portland. Although I am a very strong-willed woman, I could not have come this far without the support of my **CASA volunteer, Linda.**”

- **Brittany, who had a CASA volunteer when she was a child**

A Bold Future

Every day the **volunteers, staff, board and donors** of Court Appointed Special Advocates hope, dream, plan and work towards a **better future**. Each of us believes that ultimately the time, talent and treasure we give will change the future for vulnerable children in our community.

That belief is backed by results: **better outcomes for the 295 children who this year had the powerful voice of a CASA volunteer**. But still too many children languish on the CASA waiting list.

We are taking some bold steps toward a big vision: **a CASA volunteer for every child in Lane County who needs one**.

We are on the precipice of launching an innovative staffing model that will meet this goal **by the year 2016** without exponentially increasing our staff size or our budget. We will leverage our capacity through the power of an even more extensive volunteer network. We will

ensure that the **quality of service** is not jeopardized and that children get out of the child welfare system as quickly and as safely as possible. The National CASA Association will be following the implementation of our new staffing model in order to guide similar program transitions in CASA programs nationwide.

At the same time, we will continue to be **leaders** in several **community initiatives and projects**. Among these are the **Casey Family Project** to safely and equitably reduce the number of Lane County children living in foster care, and the campus/community partnership initiative **90by30** to reduce child abuse 90% by the year 2030 in Lane County. We will work to break down barriers and systematic bureaucracy within the child welfare service systems through strong **legislative efforts** and participation on **statewide committees** that have the power to make big changes.

This is a **monumental time** for CASA and the children we serve. We have the opportunity to change the world for our children, but we cannot do it without you. We need your best thinking, your creative ideas, your resources & talents.

Ensuring a CASA volunteer for every child in Lane County that needs a one by 2016 is not just a dream. **You can help make it a reality**.

Megan Shultz
CASA Executive Director



“CASA is an **integral part of the child welfare system**, supporting better work on behalf of children and their families. Because of their charge and their training, CASA volunteers are uniquely able to support **better outcomes** for children and youth involved in the child welfare system. Every day throughout Oregon, we see the **impact** the CASA volunteers have on our cases and I appreciate so much their contribution!”

- **Erinn Kelley-Siel, Director of Oregon Department of Human Services**



* **CASA Volunteer**

« **Donor for 5 or more years**

~ **Member of Board of Directors or Leaders Forum**

Thank You Donors!

List does not include single purchases of event tickets or registrations, auction item purchases, or in-kind donations. Every effort was made to ensure the accuracy of this list. Please accept our sincere apologies for any errors or omissions.

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 BJ Equipment Company«
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Thank You CASA Volunteers!

We couldn't do it without you!



Spring 2011 CASA Training Class Graduation

Special Thanks to Our Most Dedicated CASA Volunteers

10+ Years of Service

Shirley Bolen
Chuck Boyer
Robert 'Buzz' Blumm
Susan Johnson
Philip Lynch
Sofia McManus
Linda Potter
Marci Ryan
Ken Viegas

5+ Years of Service

Eve Abbott
Patsy Bates
Heidi Becker
Vicki Bishop
Gail Culbertson
Anne Duret
Kris Fox
Lynne Hellesvig
Maggie Hoepfner
Jody Johnson
Lisa Leatham
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Karen Priest
Kay Sogge
Christine Tonry

CASA Volunteers' Thoughts

"Being a CASA is the best thing I have done with my life. I hope my own kids will see the difference it makes and perhaps invest their own energies as well."

"I think it is really important for these kids to know that they are worthwhile, that they matter. It may be the only time they feel empowered."

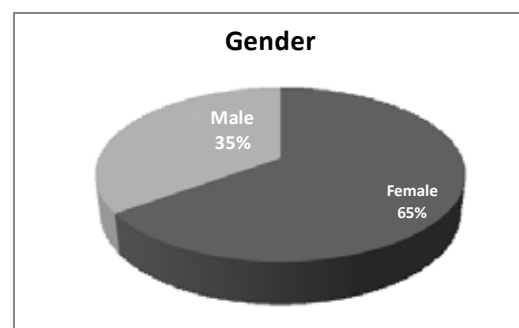
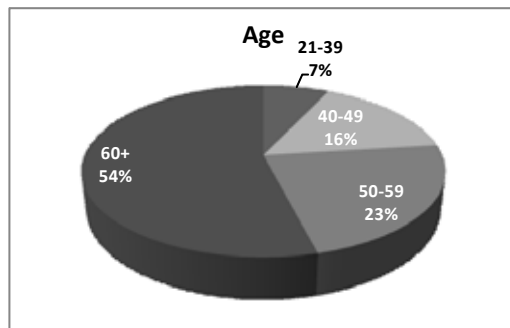
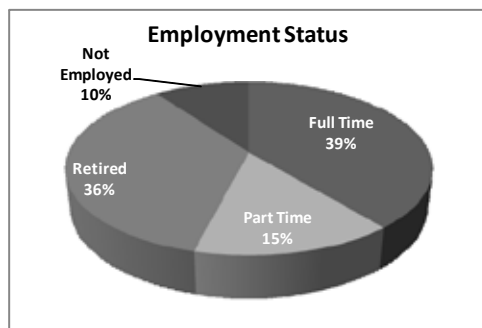
"I'm the only consistent person on the case over the years. That's important for the child and for the direction of the case if information is forgotten by others."



CASA Supervisor Jean Mestdagh and CASA volunteer Kelsey Davis

Who Are CASA Volunteers?

Of the 170 active, "resting" and on-leave CASA volunteers this year...



"One day I found myself realizing that I, along with many others, had a lot to say about challenging issues that exist in our nation and state. I thought, 'Wow, if I and all these people with opinions took only **one action** to do something to **make our community stronger**, think of how much progress we could make.' "

- Andy Bracco, special education supervisor & new CASA volunteer

Financial Statement

Revenue - July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011

Individuals and businesses.....	130,952
Private foundation grants.....	172,435
State funds.....	68,818
Lane County funds.....	36,125
Special event income, net.....	147,704
In-kind services, advocates.....	142,810
Other income.....	14,536
Interest income.....	71
Total Revenues.....	713,451

Expenses - July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011

Program.....	453,702
Management and general.....	92,553
Fundraising.....	123,126
Total Expenses.....	669,381

Change in Net Assets.....44,070

Net assets, beginning of year.....247,822

Net assets, end of year.....291,892

Balance Sheet - June 30, 2011

Assets

Current Assets

Cash and cash equivalents.....	72,437
Cash held for special purposes.....	2,896
Endowment Fund-OCF.....	42,687
Other current assets.....	1,543
Total Current Assets.....	119,563

Property and Equipment

Land.....	170,005
Building.....	53,205
Equipment and furniture.....	53,785
Accumulated depreciation.....	(51,809)
Property and equipment.....	225,186
Total Assets.....	344,749

Liabilities and Net Assets

Other Liabilities

Line of Credit.....	15,000
Funds held in trust.....	2,896
Total liabilities.....	17,896

Net assets

Unrestricted.....	291,892
Permanently restricted.....	34,961
Total net assets.....	326,853

Total liabilities and net assets.....344,749

Your support funds the recruitment, training and supervision of CASA volunteers.

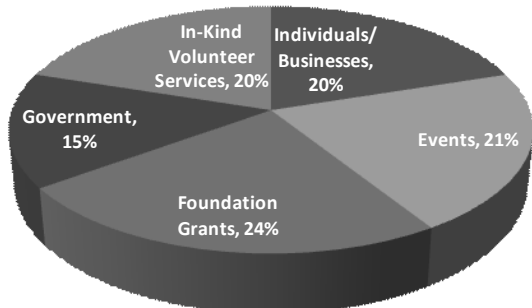
The cost of direct support for **one CASA volunteer for one year is \$1,000.**

Thank you for giving!

This year, **137 CASA volunteers** donated **7,732 hours** of service, equivalent to **\$142,810** of paid staff time.

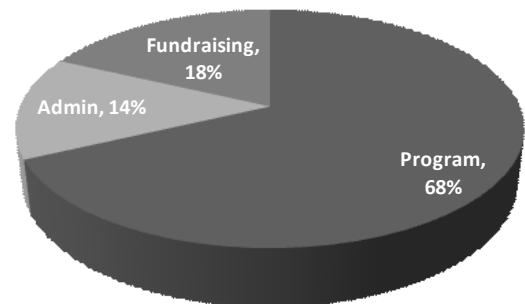
Revenues

Total: \$713,451



Expenses

Total: \$669,381



“Diane and I have always supported organizations that target kids. The reason that CASA is high up on that list is because of the **dedication, passion and hard work** of Megan, the staff, the CASAs and the other volunteers. I’ve been involved with a number of great nonprofits over the years but **I’ve never seen one that’s more hard working or caring.**”

- Chris Duyck, KPD Insurance, long-time donor & Leaders Forum member



Meet the CASA Team

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 Tiffany Hall
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