



Media Kit



a powerful voice for abused children

OUR MISSION

*Court Appointed Special Advocates
provides a powerful voice for abused
and neglected children in Lane
County.*

In 1977, a Seattle Judge conceived the idea of using trained community volunteers to speak for the best interests of abused and neglected children in court. So successful was this program that soon judges across the country began utilizing citizen advocates. In 1995, Lane County gained its own CASA organization, and has since changed the lives of more than 4,000 children.

CASA – EXTRAORDINARY COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS!

Court Appointed Special Advocates is a unique program: there are no other agency or non-profit organizations providing advocacy in court on behalf of a child in the foster care system. Last year, at least 1,500 children spent at least one night in foster care in Lane County. Every day, judges decide the futures of these children in a court system that is too overburdened to focus adequately on the needs of each child. Without the powerful voice of an advocate, children too often return to unsafe homes or languish in long-term foster care, risking future abuse or neglect.

CASA volunteers are dedicated, highly-trained community members who serve as fact finders for the judge by researching the background of each assigned case. They speak for the child in the courtroom, representing the child's best interests, and work to move the child as quickly and effectively as possible through the system and into a safe, permanent home.



facts and stats

COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES (CASA) OF LANE COUNTY 2015-2016 STATISTICS

- Provided advocacy for 404 abused and neglected children in Lane County .
- Placed 114 children into permanent “forever homes”.
- Trained 52 new volunteers.
- Supported 239 volunteers as they worked to ensure the best possible outcomes for children.

PROVEN OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN

- Permanence: A child with a Court Appointed Special Advocate is more likely to be adopted or return home than languish in permanent foster care.
- Prevention of Re-Abuse: A child with a Court Appointed Special Advocate is half as likely to re-enter foster care because of future abuse.
- Less Time in Foster Care: Children with Court Appointed Special Advocates spend significant less time in foster care, saving Oregon tax payers.

LANE COUNTY FACTS ON CHILD ABUSEⁱ

- Last year, more than 1,500 children in Lane County spent at least one night in foster care.
- Twenty-two percent of children are in care longer than 36 months.

OREGON FACTS ON CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECTⁱⁱ

- During October 2014-September 2015, a total of 69,972 reports of abuse and neglect were received.
- Of all completed investigations, 6,708 were founded for abuse or neglect and involved 10,402 victims.
- Of all victims, 46.6 percent were younger than 6 years old.
- Of all types of maltreatment incidences, neglect was the most frequently identified type of maltreatment (44.9 percent), followed by threat of harm (39.4 percent).



our annual events

Up-to-date information at: www.casa-lane.org/events

CASINO NIGHT

CASA's Casino Night is the biggest event of the year! Held in February, guests enjoy casino games played for prizes, a hosted buffet and bar, a silent auction, a wall of wine, and much more. Tickets can be purchased online for \$125 per person.

Eugene Maratho's Run TrackTown 5k

Join us for the Eugene Maratho's Run TrackTown 5K and Kids Run, and a portion of your registration fee is donated to CASA! The course begins on 15th Ave and Agate and finishes on the track at historic Hayward Field amidst the celebration of Marathon weekend festivities.

TASTE OF SUMMER

From June – August each year, enjoy food and drink at a wide variety of local restaurants, wineries and breweries to benefit CASA. Opportunities include upscale meals, "give-back" days, evening events, and gift certificates that can be redeemed anytime. The festivities culminate with a ticketed event at Valhalla winery with catered food and live music.

HEROES FOR CHILDREN BREAKFAST

This free, one-hour breakfast is held in early October and gives attendees the opportunity to learn about CASA and become involved as a donor or volunteer.



frequently asked questions

What is a CASA volunteer?

CASA volunteers (Court Appointed Special Advocates) provide a powerful voice in court for abused and neglected children. They investigate, examine and recommend to the Juvenile Judge the best option for a safe and permanent home for the children assigned to them. CASA volunteers spend the majority of their time interviewing adults involved in the case, including teachers, foster parents, attorneys, caseworkers, counselors, parents, medical professionals and family members to determine the facts and circumstances of the child's situation.

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.

How big is the time commitment?

Each case lasts, on average, two years and requires approximately 10-15 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. You do not need to wait until you are retired to become a CASA volunteer – in fact, half of our volunteers work full time.

What type of training will I receive?

CASA volunteers receive 40 hours of in-depth training at CASA over a 10-week training period. Upon completion all volunteers will be sworn in before the Juvenile Court judge and will then be assigned a case and a supervisor who will assist them throughout the process.

Does the Judge listen to a CASA volunteer'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? Court Appointed Special Advocates 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.

ⁱ Oregon Child Welfare Data Set, 2016.

ⁱⁱ Department of Human Services, 2016. "2015 Child Welfare Data Book."

