



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

LANE COUNTY

CASA of Lane County

Annual Report July 2019-June 2020

Our Mission:

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Lane County is a powerful voice for children who are in the child welfare system due to abuse and neglect.

It has been an exciting year!

We are celebrating the honor of serving the vulnerable children of our community for **25 years**. Because of your support, a lot of good has been done this past year and we are grateful to highlight that here.

With everything that has happened so far in 2020, doesn't 2019 feel like a really long time ago?

So this year, in addition to our 2019 Annual Report, we are sharing a **2020 "Right Now"** report, to update you on the ways your support for CASA is helping vulnerable children during current challenges.

Thank you for your support!



Donate Now

2019

by the numbers

429

children had the powerful voice of a CASA volunteer

113

children with CASA volunteers exited the child welfare system into safe, permanent homes

248

CASA volunteers provided 17,563 hours of advocacy

38

volunteer Peer Coordinators supported those advocates

64

new CASA volunteers were sworn in



Executive Director's Message

2020 marks CASA of Lane County's 25th year of advocating for children who are in the child welfare system due to abuse and neglect. We have had so much to celebrate in those 25 years. Most importantly, we have advocated for thousands of children in Lane County since opening in 1995. We were the first CASA program in Oregon to receive certification from the National CASA Association. We were one of two sites in the nation to pilot the Peer Coordinator model that is now used across the country. This has allowed us to more than double the number of children we serve. Though there is still work to be done, we have worked hard to diversify our agency at every level to more accurately reflect the children and youth that we serve. None of this would have been possible without the tremendous support of our community.



CASA of Lane County looked forward to this anniversary and spent time planning a variety of ways to mark this occasion. When COVID-19 restrictions were implemented we had to alter our original plans.

The pandemic changed far more than our anniversary celebrations. True to form, our staff and volunteers adapted quickly and successfully moved all of our work to virtual platforms. **CASA volunteers continue to find innovative ways to safely visit with children and youth – many giving even more time to provide consistency and security in these uncertain times.** We have learned new things along the way, and we remain focused on finding opportunities to open our doors to new volunteers and to improve our advocacy for children.

Of course COVID-19 presents significant challenges. As things begin to re-open, we anticipate a large number of children coming into foster care in need of our services. We are working hard to train more CASA volunteers to serve more children. As private fundraising provides the largest portion of our income, we are working tirelessly to reformat our events and campaigns. All of these efforts are aimed at protecting our infrastructure to ensure critical advocacy when children need it most.

We are grateful for 25 years of incredible community support for our program. We are committed to providing our services to children for as long as they are needed. **We sincerely hope that each of you will continue to stand with us for the next 25 years.**

Thank you!

Heather Murphy

over 1,200

children across Lane County
spend at least one night in
the Child Welfare system.

while CASA provided advocacy for 429, only 35% received advocacy.



Highlights

CASA Brunch

On March 7th, our Board of Directors gathered for brunch with active and retired volunteers to celebrate 25 years of Court Appointed Special Advocacy in Lane County. CASA volunteers are the lifeblood of our organization!



CASA advocate Pete Peterson and Program Director Alysha Shipley



Board Members Rhea Cramer, Kelsey Davis and CASA advocate Gloria Mmari



Honorees at the dedication



Artist, Dan Jackson with the Tribute Tree

Tribute Tree

On July 15th, CASA of Lane County dedicated the names of five extraordinary people to the new Tribute Tree located in the CASA training room. **Honorees included Jim Duncan, Sid Johnson, Philip Lynch, Linda Potter and Chris Stormont.**

The **Tribute Tree** was created by local artist **Dan Jackson** to honor the remarkable dedication and generous contributions to our CASA program throughout our 25 years of providing services to Lane County.

Taste of Summer

presented by:



AMBIENT
IT SOLUTIONS

special thanks to:



Heroes for Children Breakfast

made possible in part by:

The Wheeler Foundation

with video featuring CASA:

Nicole Bolton
and CASA youth:
Garrison Xiarhos
with guest speakers:
Delisa Verozza
Jesse Howes



Garrison and Nicole

Disc Golf

presented by:

Ward Insurance
Alpha Turf NW



Roger & Sheila Cox
Mid Valley Tractor Co

When we had to cancel the tournament due to COVID, these generous and dedicated sponsors continued their sponsorship support. We are deeply grateful!

Revenue & Community Support:

32% \$463,488 Volunteer Services	20% \$270,622 Events	20% \$284,837 Government	16% - \$231,323 Individuals & Businesses	12% - \$177,820 Foundations & Grants
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Expenses:

81% \$1,200,471 Program & Volunteer Services	12% - \$177,237 Fundraising	7% - \$108,962 Business
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Financials

Last year **248 CASA advocates** contributed **17,563 hours**, valued at **\$463,480** by the Bureau of Labor and Industry.

The volunteer hours equate to just under **9 full-time staff members.**

This in-kind service is listed in both income (what they give in time translated into a dollar amount) and expense (what it would cost us to provide the same advocacy without their gift of time).

CASA Volunteer Cooper



Thanks to our friends at F.E.T.C.H. (Friends Eager to Come Help), a local group of volunteers that serve the Lane County area, CASA has therapy dogs available to support children in court!

Therapy animals have long been recognized by medical science for the benefits they provide, including mood elevation. A visit to the courtroom for any child can be scary and therapy dogs can help relieve some of the anxiety and provide comfort for children during a difficult period in their lives.

FETCH has collaborated with CASA and the Lane County Juvenile Court to prepare teams for working in a court setting. At this time there are five teams ready to provide court therapy dog services in Lane County and ready to answer a CASA advocate's request to accompany a child or youth in court.

"We were on the 1:30 docket, and we arrived early to get some pre-court cuddles out of the way. Cooper was again lying next to the boy's chair - snoring through the very long hearing - and what I once thought could be a distraction in court was actually a very good distraction for this child. As Cooper would begin to snore, the boy would pet him, which not only stopped the snoring but made the boy smile and also gave him something else to focus on!

When the hearing was over, the first thing the boy did was turn to Cooper and hug him and say "Guess what Cooper! I get to stay in Oregon! I might get to see you again!"
- from Marina, Cooper's person.

We are so very grateful for Cooper, Marina and all our FETCH therapy team partners!



Cooper and Marina are sworn in by Judge McAlpin



Our Amazing Advocates

CASAs

Kimberly Adams
 Ayomide Ademorijimi
 Audrey Alvarado
 Cynthia Anderson
 Dustin Anderson
 Megan Anderson
 Jose Amiel Angeles
 Charles Arenson
 Rachiel Areyan
 Eileen Babb
 Shannon Baker
 Edward Barnett
 Michelle Barth
 Cheryl Bergevin
 Teri Berlant
 Debra Bink
 Christie Bixler
 Dale Bixler
 Nicole Bolton
 Lori Braaten
 Angie Bravo
 Robert Brew
 Sara Brownmiller
 Bobbe Burkhalter
 Annalise Burrington
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 Caroline Carpenter
 Dianna Carrizales-Engelmann
 Tamara Cellers
 Paul Cesmat
 Katy Conlin
 Michelle Cordon
 Scott W.Cottrell
 Gina Crafton
 Benjamin Cramer
 Barbara Cromartie
 Charity Crosby
 Elise Crum
 James Curtiss
 Gail Cushman
 Lauren Dame

Gwynn Daniels
 Carolyn Daniels
 David Davini
 Terril Dean
 Susan Devereux
 Veronica Diaz Carrai
 Chrissa Dockendorf
 Larry Donohoe
 Erica Dooley
 Amanda D'Souza
 Michelle Duncan
 Kristen Dunder
 Dawn Easley
 Carol Eichers
 Brian Erickson
 Shiela Ericson
 Cara Fallon
 Laura Fenimore
 Kristin Foster
 Bruno Francia
 Darci Francia
 Kassia Galick
 Hiedi Ghafoor
 Connie Gienger
 Dale Gilad
 Sarah Gill
 Trisha Glenna
 Stephanie Gonzales
 Barbara Graham-Adams
 Mary Grant
 Natalie Grant
 Thomas Gregersen
 Rivka Halevi
 Jean Harman
 Thomas Harper
 Drew Harrington
 Jennifer Harris
 Leigh Hawes
 Michael Hawley
 Katherine Hecker
 John Helmer
 Marilyn Helton

Veronica Hennessey
 Rick Henson
 Christy Hernandez
 Dawn Hiaasen
 Maia Howes
 Maryl Ice
 Pamela Irvine
 James Jamieson
 Martin Johnson
 Natalie Johnston
 Cassie Jones
 Yasmine Kahvaz
 Amy Kari
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 Susan Kizer
 Elizabeth Kline
 Karen Klump
 Rachel Knighten
 Charles Lachman
 Demian Laudati
 MaryBeth Lennox
 Elise L'Estrange
 Mark Levy
 Gary Lineburg
 Becky Lombard
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 Katelyn Marks
 Jennifer Marsh
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 Ellen McCobb
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 Patricia McCrae
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 John McNeil Jr
 Ellen McQuilkin
 Marilyn Milne
 Janet Mitchell
 Gloria Mmari

Sandra Moen
 Brenda Moore
 Gabrielle Morse
 Thomas Moseman
 Janet Neal
 Keith Neill
 Ashley Nestle
 Kody Nguyen
 Patrick Nickell
 Timothy Olguin
 Amy Olsen
 Jason Owens
 Frederick Parra
 Laurie Parrish
 Cameron Passmore
 Ellen Pavlosek
 Joanne Pedersen
 Christine Perlow
 Ralph Peterson
 Jane Poe
 Linda Potter
 Susan Rasmussen
 Monica Reed (Shanks)
 Tara Reich
 Jolayne Reichstein
 Sharon Reynolds
 Monica Reynoso
 Tina Rinaldi
 Jocelyn Rivera
 Katherine Roberts
 Desiree Robinson
 Janice Rode
 Cinthia Rojas Villagomez
 Angela Ruiz
 Jeanne Ruiz
 Daniel Russell
 Sue Saint Onge
 Maryellen Sarrica
 Jessica Schuman

Jonathan Schwartz
 Nancy Schewecke
 Sabina Sexton
 Alysha A. Shipley
 Janet Smith
 Julie Smith
 Nicole Smith
 Paula Smith
 Ronald Smith
 Lisa Spears
 Audrey Squires
 Tami R. Stebbeds
 Christian Steele
 June Stevens
 Kimberly Stuart
 Teresa Stubblefield
 Suzanne Taylor
 Della Thomas
 Theresa Thompson
 Bonnie Todis
 Matthew Tomashek
 Linda Trombly
 Barbara Tussing
 Norina Vazquez
 Lisa Wallace
 Howard Watkins
 Yvette Webber-Davis
 David Weinman
 Katherine Welch
 Luther White
 Kai Williams
 Candice Wilson
 David Wilson
 Diana Wise
 Norma Kay Wood
 Emily Yates-Pollard
 Sue Yoshioka
 Debbie Zeek

Peer Coordinators

Michelle Almond
 John Armstrong
 Matthew Barton*
 Deborah Carver*
 Gail Culbertson
 Christine Cunningham*
 Hallie Edwards*
 Beth Eldridge
 Rebecca Fetrow*
 Kristin Forrest*
 Ashlei Fraser*
 Tracie Gonyea*
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 Danielle Ward*
 Alexa Young-Mills

In loving memory of Sid Johnson



Sid was a true friend and supporter of CASA and a champion for children. He served as a CASA volunteer, a CASA of Lane County Board Member, an Oregon CASA Network Board Member, a legislative representative and a dedicated donor.

*PC plus carried their own case



Right Now

But What About Right Now?

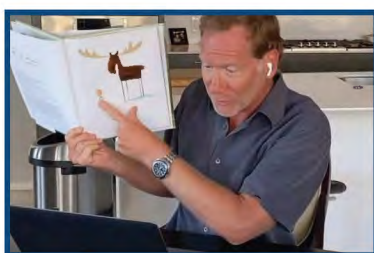
We can't just talk to you about success in 2019 when that feels like a lifetime ago.

With COVID-19, children are more vulnerable than ever, both those in the child welfare system who are already experiencing increased trauma and those who will enter the system because of the challenges of this pandemic. Families are experiencing more financial and emotional stressors and are more isolated.

So we want to share what we are doing right now to help our community through the numerous challenges we face.

Advocacy Via Video

We have doubled, and in some cases quadrupled, the number of times we are checking in with kids, depending upon their situations. We're reading books, cooking, talking and playing games over video to continue building crucial relationships with the children and youth we support, ensuring that they are safe during this time of relative isolation.



We are preparing for a tidal wave of children coming into care as things re-open and kids are back in school.

Virtual Recruitment & Training

We pivoted quickly, moving volunteer recruitment, screening, training and swearing in to an entirely virtual format: **graduating 3 classes** within the first 6 months.



*Summer 2020
2nd ALL Virtual
Training Class
Graduates &
newly Sworn in
CASAs*

What Is Next?

Even as we continue to recruit volunteers, **we are worried about an anticipated spike in reports of child abuse** when kids are back in school and about constraints on our ability to respond. We are fortifying our infrastructure in preparation for what is to come.

[Donate Now](#)

Thank you to our Foundations

- Central Lutheran Foundation
- Chambers Family Foundation
- Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
- Coquille Tribal Community Fund
- Cottage Grove Community Foundation
- Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians
- Eugene Active 20/30 Foundation
- First Story and Hayden Homes
- Ford Family Foundation-Oregon
- CASA Network
- Herbert A. Templeton Foundation
- JE Fehsenfeld Family Foundation
- McKay Family Foundation
- National CASA Association
- Northwest Natural Gas
- OnPoint Community Credit Union
- Oregon Community Foundation
- Oregon Jury Project Foundation
- Pendell Rauch Fund, Mark & Nichol
- PPPM University of Oregon
- RBC Foundation
- Serbu Fund
- Taco Bell Foundation for Teens
- Trust Management Services
- United Way
- Washington Federal Foundation
- Western Lane Community Foundation
- Wheeler Foundation
- Windermere Foundation





Our Generous Supporters 7/1/19-6/30/20

\$20,000+

Eric and Kristin Forrest
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Chris Storment and Kelly Beckley

\$10,000-\$19,000

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Oregon Mortgage Association
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Monica Parvin
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\$500-\$999

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Debra Sullivan

\$500-\$999 (continued)

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Theodore Utley
Gerald and Veronika Walton
Craig and Amy Wanichek
Ward Insurance
Paul Warda
Cindy Wedmore
Gary and Julaine Wildish
Kris Zimmerman
Abe and Paula Zitterkopf

**We wish we had room
to acknowledge each
and every one of you
here!**

ways to GIVE

The supporters on this list gave in a variety of ways to best fit their needs -- both in fulfilling their desire to make an investment in our community and in the benefits they may receive for their philanthropic giving.

These ways include, but are not limited to:

- Monthly Giving
- Retirement Account Assets
- Bequests
- Stocks

Check with your financial advisor to discuss the best way for you to give!

*List does not include 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.*



16th annual Casino Night February 28, 2020, Graduate Eugene

presented by:



REYNOLDS | **KEVIN COHEN** | **ACCURATE**
ELECTRIC INC | PLUMBING INC | UNDERGROUND INC



with honorary chairs:
Roger and Sheila Cox

Paddle Raise Donors:

Eric and Kristin Forrest



We had a "full house" to celebrate the kickoff of CASA of Lane County's **Silver Anniversary** year! The evening began with a champagne toast and a drawing for an original signature necklace, specially created for CASA and donated by Beaudet Jewelers.

We enjoyed every LUCKY moment, bringing in a record **\$219,000** for abused & neglected children in Lane County with our wine wall, silent auction, gaming prize baskets, Jerry's \$1,000 gift certificate raffle and paddle raise.



"Full House"
Event Feature Sponsors:

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- Farwest Steel
- Jerry's Home Improvement
- KPD Insurance
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- Franz Family Bakeries
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- OCCU
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- Oakmont Family Dental

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- Personnel Source
- Umpqua Bank
- Lane Forest Products
- Chambers Construction
- Executive Cleaning

In-Kind Donors

- ES&A Sign & Awning
- Attic Media
- Beaudet Jewelers
- Silvan Ridge
- Bigfoot Beverages
- b²



Heather Murphy, Shannon Pendell and Shirley Braunstein

Special thanks to our Casino Night Committee:
Shirley Braunstein, Kristin Forrest, Lisa Korth,
Jennifer Nelson, Monica Parvin, Shannon Pendell and
Darcee Slonecker

"Straight Flush"
Title Sponsors:



SUMMITBANK

"4 of a Kind"
Wine Wall Sponsor:



Media Sponsors:



Featuring emcees:
**Matt Templeman, Mary Reilly,
Liz Kelly and Matt Hogan**

2019-2020 Board of Directors

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 Niel Laudati, *Vice President*
 Jeff Singer, *Treasurer/Secretary*
 Kristin Forrest, *Past President*
 Roger Cox
 Rhea Cramer
 David Davini
 Kelsey Davis
 Jesse Howes
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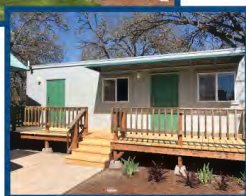
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 Yolanda Mulhern
CASA Supervisor
 David, Ross
CASA Supervisor
 Tami Stebbeds
CASA Supervisor
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CASA Supervisor
 Molly Kokkeler
Development Associate

Extraordinary Acts



David Davini, CASA advocate, board member and dedicated supporter, is someone who answers the call. David took on a new case just a week after his case of 5 years closed. He was going to take a break but then learned of a child who was put in an out-of-state placement and changed plans. David chose to travel out of state once a month for 7 months, to visit the child and attend a monthly group meeting. Luckily Eugene has the red eye flight! David would make a 26-hour turnaround: fly there, spend time with the child, attend the group meeting and fly home. AND all on his dime, his personal donation to CASA! The child has since been placed back in Lane County, and David is still the CASA on the case.

Foster children do not often have "new" things. In fact, they often don't have time to take THEIR things with them when they leave their homes. For years, **Pete & Katherine Drakatos** have generously donated clothing and backpacks for our Back To School event, to give children in the child welfare system something NEW. Pete is a "savvy shopper," and this year, when Macy's learned about CASA from Pete, they jumped in and donated BAGS of nice, dress clothes for our clothing closet!



Thanks to **Steve and Sally Lee, Dave Bakke and Chambers Construction**, and **Evergreen Painting**, the Development "Suite" and training room received a much needed face lift! When Steve learned that our portable office space was having some issues, he got on the phone to Dave who sent a team to replace siding and build a new deck and stairs! Then Sally jumped in to finish the project with a crew to paint the refurbished suite and the trim on our training room/warehouse building to match! We are SO grateful to them all.

For **Jane and Mark Gilbert**, supporting their community is a huge part of who they and their business, **Edgewater Home Furnishings** are. Every year they donate to CASA with their "CHAIRity Event" donating a percentage of sales. But they don't stop there! Every holiday season they also collect new clothing, toys and gift items from their customers and community to stock the "CASA Boutique," so that our clients can receive special gifts in addition to the powerful voice of a CASA advocate. Thank you Jane, Mark and everyone at Edgewater!



Thank you for your support.

[Donate Now](#)

follow us:



casa-lane.org

