CASA
A unique volunteer opportunity

“The toughest volunteer job you will ever love”
-CASA George
Who are CASAs?

- CASAs offer hope for abused and neglected children who are in DHS-Child Welfare custody.
- CASAs are the voice for the child in the court system.
- CASAs are legal parties once appointed to a case.
- CASAs look out for the best interest of the child.
- CASAs are the experts on community knowledge of the child.
- CASA began in 1977 in Seattle.
  - In 1990 CASA was part of Jackson County.
  - In 2004 CASA became a private 501c(3) Non-profit.
  - 955 CASA programs throughout the country.
Approximately 750 children become involved in Child Welfare in Jackson County every year.

- Main reasons
  - Substance Abuse*
  - Neglect*
  - Domestic Violence
  - Physical or Sexual Abuse
  - Mental Health

- Child Welfare or the Court cannot monitor each child and their needs.

- Children need a stable person in their life.

* 90% neglect due to substance abuse
What do CASAs do?

- CASAs visit their child at least one time a month
- CASAs write reports
- CASAs attend court hearings
- CASAs attend meetings
- CASAs communicate with attorneys
- CASAs communicate with social workers
- CASAs communicate with parents and foster parents
- CASAs observe parent-child supervised visits
- CASAs go to doctor offices
- CASAs go to schools and child care centers
- CASAs monitor court ordered case plans, keeping track of progress
**Community Partners Interaction**

- CASAs are unique as they are legal parties
- CASAs can receive, but not necessarily share, information from non-legal parties (foster parents, educators, medical professionals, etc.)
- CASAs only gather necessary information
- CASAs educate others regarding your role and obligations
- CASAs communicate respectfully and professionally
- We are looking for CASAs who are nice people; are ethical and trustworthy; can be collaborative, maintain objectivity; and work from a strength-based approach
The Impact of a CASA

Education
Celebrations
Hope
Continuity of Care
Role Model
Permanent Home
Court Advocacy for the Child's Best Interests

Family Connection
Emotional Support
Friendships
Medical/Dental Care
Mental Health
Mentoring
Sense of Value
Navigation of Systems
Next Steps to Becoming a CASA

- This was an abbreviated look at our orientation

- You must attend a full agency orientation held every Thursday from 12:00pm-1:00pm at the CASA office, 613 Market St., Medford, OR (off of Biddle Road)

- After orientation, if you are interested in pursuing CASA volunteerism, you will schedule an interview with the Director of Programs & Education – bring your completed application to that interview

- Once accepted, attend an upcoming training

- Call our office, (541) 734-2272, if you have questions prior to attending an orientation