



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

Why CASA

- Approximately 750 children become involved in with 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



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