



THIS HOLIDAY  
**SHOW LOVE  
SHARE JOY**  
GIVE THE GIFT  
OF HOPE TO AN  
ABUSED CHILD

the **CASA**

**GIVING  
★ TREE ★**

Lift up a child's voice. A child's life.  
www.JacksonCountyCASA.org

  
**CASA**  
Court Appointed Special Advocates  
FOR CHILDREN  
CASA OF JACKSON COUNTY, INC.



Proudly Sponsored By 

Non Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 84  
Medford, OR

# New CASA Advocates

## SWORN IN APRIL 27, 2017



Jordon Falconio, Leslie Raymond, Bylle McCulley, Clare Gilmore, Judge Kelley Ravassipour, Katherine Mahoney, Beverly Priest-Gledhill, Melissa McElmurry, Michelle Terry, Wenonoa Spivak

## SWORN IN JULY 28, 2017



Lucy Haskett, Merry Fischer, Mischa Hurst, Marc DiTomasso, Megan Kimball, Tami McGonagle, Suzanne Pech, Eden McCarthy, Cynd Ellsworth, Megan Annand, Judge Benjamin Bloom, Cindy Sasser, Liza Yates, Wayne Ellsworth, Nancy Maxwell, Dan Matula, Heidi Hobson, Rod Hobson

65' **Impala** BY CHEVROLET **RAFFLE**

Professionally  
Restored  
1965 Impala SS  
396 Clone




Appraised at \$27,500  
**Tickets \$10 each  
or 11 for \$100**  
Only 3,500 tickets will be sold

**Purchase Tickets: www.JacksonCountyCasa.org**  
**541-734-CASA**  
Drawing to be held Saturday, Nov. 4, 2017  
All proceeds benefit CASA of Jackson County

 Car was generously  
donated by  
Pacific Tool & Gauge

  
**CASA**  
Court Appointed Special Advocates  
FOR CHILDREN



**CASA OF JACKSON COUNTY, INC.**  
613 MARKET STREET, MEDFORD, OREGON 97504  
541-734-2272



### I am for the child

I am for the child who lives in motels, cars and shelters.  
The child who stands in the entryway of a foster home  
at three o'clock in the morning, clutching a suitcase  
filled with just a few belongings. That is the child I am for.

**I am a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Volunteer.  
I am you.**

*"As parents, community members and citizens we know that children are our most precious resource. Yet some of the children in our community, through no fault of their own, find themselves in difficult and harmful circumstances. These are the children I hope to help through being a CASA. Over the past 11 years I have been the voice for over 25 children, and I continue to serve because I have the opportunity to make a difference. In helping children we sometimes have the additional privilege of helping parents overcome their difficult circumstances to become functioning family units once again. Being a CASA means more than just making a donation to a worthy cause, it means giving a part of yourself to protect that most precious resource, the vulnerable child."*

~ CASA Kathy



**Jennifer Mylenek**  
Executive Director

# FINDING THE ROAD HOME

Sometimes rumors are true. You may have heard the rumblings that CASA will be moving to a larger building--and we are. Tradesmen are currently working on the building at 409 N. Front St., Medford to ready it for our staff, CASAs, and trainees and it is not a moment too soon. We have outgrown our current facility and with almost 500 children waiting for CASAs, we must have room to expand our services to meet this growing need in Jackson County. We hope to be moving to our new home toward the middle to end of November.

*"I met my CASA volunteer and everything changed. He taught me how to communicate and represent myself and my needs; and if I didn't want to or couldn't, he spoke for me."* -Youth in foster care

CASAs provide a laser focused approach to their children's needs and safety. They love on children and families thus changing lives and creating a ripple effect, which leads to an out spring of change that extends far beyond the child. The long-term effects of the CASA's presence on a child's case is immeasurable. Parents can heal with CASA support and mentorship, children remain safe and have a powerful voice, and Judges hear the child's full story. CASAs put another pair of eyes on children in out of home care, ensuring a greater measure of safety along with becoming a trusted and consistent resource for connection to services, bridging educational needs, facilitating doctor appointments, and so much more.

Simply put, children of any age who have experienced abuse and/or neglect have far better outcomes if they have a CASA. For this reason, I hope you will join with our 150+ CASA volunteers, board members, staff, and supporters to help us reach our goal of providing a CASA to every child waiting. We created our [Give a Child Hope! Campaign](#) to do just that... ensure no child faces the unknown alone and finds the road home, wherever it lies.

*J Mylenek*

Jennifer Mylenek  
*Executive Director and Child Advocate*

## Board of Directors

Erik Carlson, <i>President</i>	Dann Hauser
Marco Boccato, <i>Vice President</i>	Shirley Johnson
Amy Zarosinski, <i>Treasurer</i>	Bruce Laidlaw
Shane Antholz	John Watt
Tom Basgen	Jim Wright
Dr. James Berryman	Jennifer Mylenek, <i>Executive Director</i>

# UPCOMING EVENTS

*benefiting CASA of Jackson County*

October 21, 9-11 p.m.	Motown Get Down Dance Party <i>Ashland Elks</i>
November 4, 3 p.m.	1965 Impala Raffle Drawing <i>Harry &amp; David Country Store</i>
November 18, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.	SO Media Group Holiday Expo <i>Central Medford High School</i>
January 17, 12-1:30 p.m.	I Am For the Child Luncheon <i>Rogue Valley Country Club</i>
May 5, 5-10 p.m.	Kentucky Derby After Party <i>Rogue Valley Country Club</i>
July 13 & 14	Southern Oregon Classic <i>Centennial Golf Club</i>

# A GLIMPSE INTO A CASA CASE



*Disclaimer: This summary of a case represents a typical case within the court system. All names, dates and specific circumstances have been changed to protect the children involved.*

**CASE #XXXX**

**Case Opened:** 06/12/16

**Two Children:** Female age 8, Female age 5

**Shelter:** Child is being placed with her mother at this time with services in place. There have been concerns about domestic violence between the parents and mom appears to be lacking the understanding of the safety threats that domestic violence in the home poses to the child. As of 10/10/16, children and mother are currently on the run.

**Escalated Shelter 1/15/17:** Father is incarcerated. Mom is in hiding. Children are placed in community foster care.

**02/12/17:** Judge requested a CASA.

**04/20/17 Trial** – Dad appeared from jail and admitted to allegations. Mom has not been found. Older child has been diagnosed with PTSD and anxiety. Both children are now in relative foster care with an uncle. Dad has criminal charges and intends to enroll in services. They are working on a plea deal. He has possible prison sentence.

**Court Dates:** 06/13/17 Permanency hearing: the Judge will decide at this hearing where the children will grow up.

Can you imagine facing the level of trauma that the children we advocate for have faced? Moving out of your home to a stranger's home; not knowing if you will have enough to eat; witnessing or experiencing violence; missing an abusive parent despite what they have done to you because that is what you know.

CASA Deb took just such a case involving two young children. One parent is missing and the other parent is incarcerated. Deb is working closely with a relative who is caring for the youngsters, but who also has a full time job and little experience raising children. She has helped the relative navigate financial resources and helped coordinate family members to come alongside of him. CASA Deb has worked with school officials so they can both understand and support the situation the children are facing. CASA Deb has spent many hours and late nights providing emotional support to the family and the children, while also compiling her report to the court. The judge will know exactly what has happened and what the children need in order to become whole.

CASA Deb's goal is that the children can remain safely with family, thrive in school, and heal from the loss of their parent/s. She is there to ensure they don't face this alone, that they remain safe, that their voices are heard, that the judge really knows who they are and what has happened, that they receive the help they need...medical, dental, educational, counseling, and more. As a result, they will have better educational outcomes, receive needed services and consistency, the judge will have the information to make the best decisions on their behalf, the family will have Deb as a reliable resource, and the children will find safety and love.

CASA Deb is doing this as a volunteer, one on one with each child, giving them something that is immeasurable, unduplicated, and life changing---a CASA.



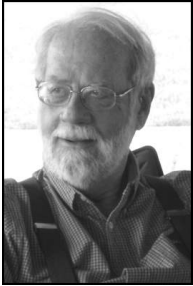
## I AM FOR THE CHILD LUNCHEON

**January 17, 2018**  
12:00 - 1:30 p.m.  
*at the Rogue Valley Country Club*

For reservations or to sponsor a table, please call or email Erin Carpenter:  
**541-734-2272**  
[ecarpenter@jacksoncountycasa.org](mailto:ecarpenter@jacksoncountycasa.org)



# REMEMBERING JIM HARLEMAN



Jim passed away in June doing one of the things he loved best – goin’ fishing. Jim was a man devoted to his family, friends, and community. As a community volunteer, Jim was actively involved on the Central Point Parks and Recreation Committee, Rogue Valley Audubon Society, Rogue Flyfishers, and CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates). In 2016, he was selected as CASA Volunteer of the Year for his work with youth in the foster care system.

Jim was deeply involved in his community believing that we must look beyond our own self interests and consider also the needs of the larger community, our country, and the world. He will be missed.

*~ The Staff and Board of CASA of Jackson County*

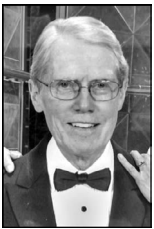
# REMEMBERING JOHN FORD



John Ford, retired Medford Firefighter/Engineer/EMT Basic, passed away at home with loving family on Friday, August 18, 2017. John had a real soft spot for children in trouble due to no fault of their own. He was always taking bikes over to CASA. We remember John and his amazing heart for the children in our community. From all of us at CASA, our thoughts are with his family and friends. John was a hero to many.

*~ The Staff and Board of CASA of Jackson County*

# REMEMBERING HADLEY NESBITT



My mentor and friend, Hadley Nesbitt, passed away suddenly but peacefully in September. He spearheaded the forming of CASA of Jackson County as a nonprofit which took three years. He served as CASA's board president for the first few years, leading the organization through the early stages of formation. He hired me in 2006 and lent me his unwavering support and encouragement during his tenure and beyond. Hadley's wife, Erna Nesbitt, served as a CASA for more than 15 years before passing away in 2013. Joan, his current wife, and several children survive him.

Hadley's most notable attributes were his intelligence, genteelism, enthusiasm, kind nature, and his innate love of life. I miss him already and hope I have imparted to you a bit of the value that he brought to this world—although much of who he was cannot be summed up so briefly.

*~ Jennifer Mylenek, Executive Director*