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**CASA OF JACKSON COUNTY, INC.**  
409 N. Front Street  
Medford, Oregon 97501



## CASA's ANNUAL I AM FOR THE CHILD LUNCHEON

**January 16, 2019**

12:00 - 1:30 p.m.  
at Inn at the Commons

## SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

Presenting Sponsor ~ \$5,000

Platinum Sponsor ~ \$2,500

Gold Sponsor ~ \$1,000

Table Sponsor ~ \$500



For reservations or to sponsor, please contact Erin Carpenter  
541-734-2272 | [ecarpenter@jacksoncountycasa.org](mailto:ecarpenter@jacksoncountycasa.org)



## New CASA Advocates

**SWORN IN JUNE 1, 2018**



Left Top: Will Reishman, Julia McFadden, Carrie Andrews, Leah Harris, Nash Harris, Joey Passarella, Ashley Walport, Matthew Sheehan, Lance Haddon, David Widup

Left Bottom: Lauren Schaffer, Diane Fletcher, Judge Bloom, Kimberli Langston, John Weston, Erin Coke

the **CASA**

**GIVING TREE**

Lift up a child's voice. A child's life.  
[www.JacksonCountyCASA.org](http://www.JacksonCountyCASA.org)

CASA OF JACKSON COUNTY, INC.

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## COMMUNITY HOPE



**Jennifer Mylenek**  
Executive Director

Much has happened in a short time for CASA. It started with our *Give a Child Hope! Campaign* that resulted in CASA acquiring a larger building, at which point we envisioned significant staff and volunteer increases happening within two to four years. We have been in our new home less than a year and have already added two additional staff and increased the number of CASAs to 210 and children served to 729 (17-18 FY). The larger space has also allowed our Program team to hold in-service and continuing education classes here on site, keeping CASA in one, centralized location.

Thanks to a dream team of CASAs, staff, board, and supporters, we can see the light at the end of the tunnel. Our waiting list of children is down to 234 from over 460, which puts hope in our hearts that every child will have a CASA in the not too distant future.

Thank you for strengthening CASA's work on behalf of children in so many ways-- by donating, volunteering, recommending, or through your prayers. We are grateful.

*J Mylenek*

Jennifer Mylenek,  
Executive Director and Child Advocate

## Board of Directors

Marco Boccato, *President*  
John Watt, *Vice President*  
Amy Zarosinski, *Treasurer*  
Shirley Johnson, *Secretary*  
Erik Carlson, *Past President*  
Jacob Ansures  
Shane Antholz



Dr. James Berryman  
Amy Di Costanzo  
Dann Hauser  
Bruce Laidlaw  
Jennifer Mylenek, *Executive Director* (non-voting)  
Jim Wright

## CASA Staff

Jennifer Mylenek, *Executive Director*  
Wenonoa Spivak, *Deputy Director*  
Erin Carpenter, *Development & Media Manager*  
Deborah King, *Office Support Coordinator*  
Dan Mata, *Lead Case Supervisor*  
Katina Dittberner, *Case Supervisor*  
Angela Ford, *Case Supervisor*

Megan Kimball, *Case Supervisor*  
Alicia Linton, *Case Supervisor*  
Sharon Madara, *Case Supervisor*  
Chelsea McMahan, *Case Supervisor*  
Vicky McGee, *Family Finding*  
Jami Pope, *Family Finding*  
Marisol Rodriguez, *Family Finding*

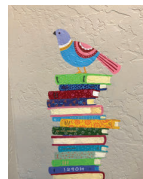
## LINNY'S BOOK NOOK



Linda Matthews, currently of San Diego, served on the CASA Board of Directors for 5 years. When she heard about our *Give A Child Hope! Campaign*, she was one of the first long time supporters to donate. Knowing Linda's generous heart and love for children, we knew that sponsoring the children's library would be the perfect placement for her.

Linda personally recruited local artist, Mary Hill, to paint a mural at the entrance of the library, formally named "Linny's Book Nook".

Often, when CASA volunteers are meeting a child for the first time, a book is the perfect introduction. Linny's Book Nook accepts both new and gently used book donations. Many local organizations collect and donate books to CASA. For this, our CASA children are grateful!



## S&B JAMES CONSTRUCTION



Bruce Laidlaw, Amy Di Costanzo, Jennifer Mylenek, Shane Antholz, Allen Purdy, Dann Hauser, Shane MacLauchlan, Marco Boccato, Dr. Jim Berryman, Amy Zarosinski and Jim Wright.

The CASA of Jackson County Board of Directors would like to recognize S&B James Construction for their outstanding community leadership and partnership in helping CASA transform an existing building into our new home. Every detail and consideration was made with thought and care from the S&B James team and their partners. Words could never express what their gift means to us.

## THE HONORABLE PATRICIA CRAIN



Many CASAs and staff gathered as the Honorable Patricia Crain retired from the bench on August 31. She served as a lawyer for 20 years before being elected to the bench, where she presided for 21 years. She specialized in juvenile court and the county's adult drug court. She was the longest serving Judge while active on the bench in Jackson County.

Even more remarkably, Judge Crain helped develop Jackson County's drug courts, which help defendants recover and become contributing community members and in the case of Community Family Court, helps defendants recover and become a family again with their children.

I know from speaking with women in the legal profession here, that Judge Crain served as an inspiration for them to pursue legal careers. Judge Crain is distinguished by her pragmatic and yet thoughtful approach to families in her courtroom. I remember her telling a family, during a lighter moment, to eat more blueberries. CASAs have always appreciated Judge Crain's approachability during CASA training, graduation, and in the courtroom.

With the deepest respect for all of Judge Crain's work, we wish her the best.

Jennifer Mylenek, *Executive Director*  
CASA of Jackson County, Inc.

## STARFISH SOCIETY

Would you like to make a measurable impact on the lives of abused and neglected children but do not know where to begin? Register to donate monthly and become a life changing member of our CASA Starfish Society. Automatic donations -of any amount- are easy to set up and ensure that we have the resources to sustain operations. When you become a monthly donor, you will join a special group of people reaching out each month to children in our community. Together, we can make an impactful difference and give hope of a better life.

## HONORING THE OLSRUD FAMILY



tribute of CASA Melanie Olsrud, her husband Steve, and his parents, Sherm and Wanda Olsrud.

We invite all CASA supporters to join us and give back! Volunteers are needed for childcare, construction and assembly, food preparation, tool and material distribution, art and custom features. More information is available at [www.playmedford.com](http://www.playmedford.com), 541-774-2695 or [michael.mace@cityofmedford.org](mailto:michael.mace@cityofmedford.org).



CASA Melanie Olsrud

## HAPPY ENDINGS



Three Siblings came into care with domestic violence in the home; both mom and dad had major issues with using methamphetamines. Their environment was so unsanitary it was unsafe for the children to be in the home. The children wanted to be with their parents, but the parents did not comply with DHS assessments and refused treatment. Therefore, the children were separated, and the oldest teen boy ran away. The teen boy started to get in trouble and would not return until he could be placed with his father. His father was the only thing he wanted and he could not understand why they were being ripped apart.

A CASA volunteer was appointed to all three children. The two girls were placed in a Community Foster Home that provided love and care. They were safe, but the CASA was not satisfied knowing that the teenager was out in the streets alone, with no shelter or support. The CASA continuously reached out to the Case-worker and the local Police Department to help find him. A few months went by and the teen boy was finally found in a neighboring state. The CASA was able to make a connection with him by attending meetings, court hearings, and visiting him in a detention center weekly. After nearly two months of interacting with the child, DHS found a family relative approximately 3.5 hours outside of Jackson County. The teen was not set on moving but the CASA expressed the importance of being with family, and felt it could be a good connection for him.

The CASA program has an internal policy for CASAs to visit their children at least once a month, but it is not mandatory when a child is placed outside Jackson County. However, that did not stop this particular CASA who drove 3.5 hours just to see the teen. A few months went by as the CASA continued to visit all the children. The mother had finally accepted treatment and admitted herself into a treatment facility near the relative home where she could see her son. The two girls heard about their brother being with family, and knew that mom was doing better. A plan was drawn up to start allowing the girls to visit with this family member, and even allowed visits to happen with the mother. Within a short period, the girls were moved with their brother and of course, their CASA followed through with visits. "How else could a person know what is truly going on with the family unless they visit?" is what this volunteer stated. The children are in a guardianship plan with the family members that agreed to be a long-term placement for the children. Mom continues to be involved as she focuses on her sobriety, remaining a part of their lives as they move forward.

