

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



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



EVERY CHILD
is a Story
Yet To be Told



CASA'S ANNUAL I AM FOR THE CHILD LUNCHEON

January 15, 2020

12:00 - 1:30 p.m.

at the Rogue Valley Country Club

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

Presenting Sponsor ~ \$5,000

Platinum Sponsor ~ \$2,500

Gold Sponsor ~ \$1,000

Table Sponsor ~ \$500

For reservations or to sponsor, please call or email Erin Carpenter
541-734-2272 | ecarpenter@jacksoncountycasa.org



New CASA Advocates

SWORN IN MAY 31, 2019



Left to Right: Leigh Grestoni, Angelica Mendoza, Eric McLaughlin, Peg Sisul, Judge Ravassipour, Bob Perlson, Larkin Hastings, Amanda Cole, Lorraine Santana Park.



Laurel Zdeblick, Judge Bloom and Molly Erwin



Ashley Buenger and Judge Ravassipour

SWORN IN SEPTEMBER 20, 2019



Sarah Herndon, Letty Smith, Eric Stahlman, The Honorable Benjamin Bloom, Michelle Brooks, JJ Latu, Corrie Phillips, Charles Johnson, Karen McDonald, Janet Pierce, Melissa Donner, Marissa Stone, Brooke Erb, Will Bolinger, Michael Kirkland, Joe Dittberner, Daniel Delgado, Judy Newton, Jackie Riley, Teresa Durham, Kathy Loram



Judge Bloom and Stephanie Dabney



COMMUNITY HOPE



Jennifer Mylenek
Executive Director

Someone asked me recently, what has kept me motivated in my role at CASA for over 13 years. One personality flaw admittedly that has kept me motivated is my compulsion to finish a project. And CASA is a project that will not be finished until we have a CASA for every child who needs one and stable funding to support the work. The fact that I believe these ideals can happen, keeps me going (but to some makes me look overly optimistic). That's okay, because if we do not believe the best can happen for our kids, it is possible no one will. In the end, hope must accompany all of our efforts in order that we may truly change a child's life.

At our recent CASA Impact of One conference, we heard from several speakers who grew up in foster care, that it was the hope their CASAs gave them that changed their lives. Their CASAs modeled hope for them during difficult times and encouraged them with the

hope of a better future. In the words of one CASA to her CASA child, "Foster care won't last forever. Imagine who you will be when it's over". That child grew up to be Multnomah County Circuit Judge Xiomara Torres.

Thank you to everyone reading this newsletter and for investing your time to learn more about CASA!

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*



Amy Di Costanzo
Mark Cromwell
Vicki Forehand
Dann Hauser
Bruce Laidlaw
Kyle Pace
Jim Wright

Dr. James Berryman

Jennifer Mylenek, *Executive Director* (non-voting)

CASA Staff

Jennifer Mylenek, *Executive Director*
Wenonoa Spivak, *Deputy Director*
Erin Carpenter, *Development & Media Manager*
Karla Molina Cortes, *Office Support Coordinator*
Dan Mata, *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*

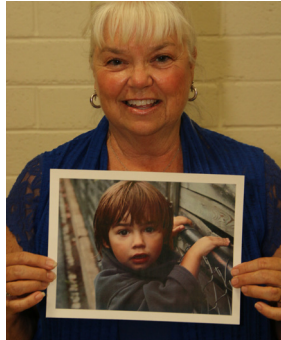
OREGON BUSINESS 100 BEST NONPROFITS 2019

We are honored to make the list for the Oregon Business 100 Best Nonprofits to work for in 2019! Employees and volunteers at CASA of Jackson County and CASA of Josephine Coun-

ty work diligently each day to advocate for children who have been abused and neglected. This work is a never ending, challenging effort. We could not do it without the support of our community.

WHY KEEP AT IT?

by Karen Walters, CASA and Peer Coordinator, 15 years



and effort will change the life of that child, because every child is worth it!

My first case was an easy start. As a retired teacher, the mom was a former student. I knew the family and some background. The child's father was the problem and the mother was desperately in need of guidance and direction. Once headed in the right direction, with a team surrounding her, she was self-motivated and committed to safely parenting her child. She focused her efforts, accepted her responsibility and did everything she needed to be reunited and move happily out of the caseload of DHS and into the world of stable family life. Happy ending! Bring on another case!

Thirteen years ago I took on my 3rd CASA case --- two kids, two parents with issues of substance abuse, domestic violence, criminal involvement and a serious lack of relationship with truth. The kids were being fostered by relatives and things were moving forward. Then a little sibling was born medically fragile. The relatives could not take him into their home and the siblings never lived together. The older two were eventually taken into guardianship the little kiddo stayed with the foster family. Their paths were not without twists and turns, but that youngest sibling became the second adopted child in a family with older siblings – a great placement for him. Fast forward several years and maintaining a relationship with the family, to last month when I was invited to his graduation and joyfully attended to witness this incredible achievement for "my guy".

Then, there was the case of two siblings, removed from their mother four different times before finally, they were adopted into a relative family. They are growing up with all the crazy fun and chaotic wonderfulness of a busy family living on enough property to have 4-H animals. Updates from their adoptive mom are heart-warming and fill me with the pleasure of knowing they are safe, well-loved and valued endlessly for exactly who they are!

Not all cases turn out perfectly, but how could you not feel great satisfaction when you know you can make a difference in the life of a child and a family forever? In the words of John F. Kennedy, "One person can make a difference, and everyone should try." So I say, "Bring on the next fifteen years!"

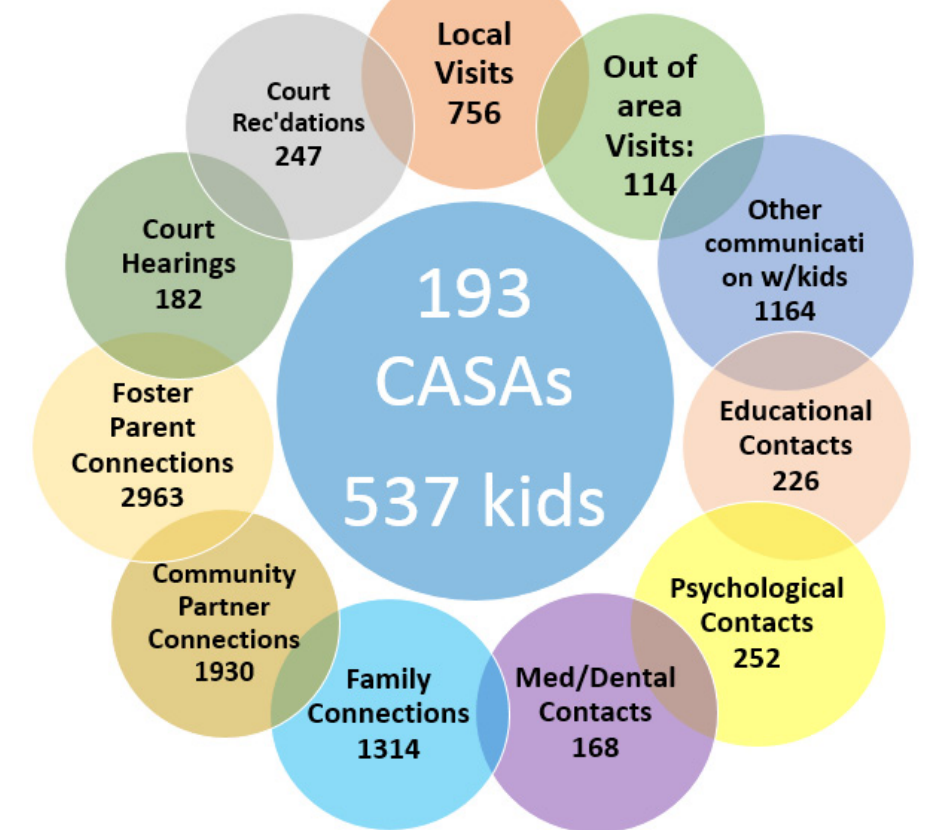
ANNUAL GARRISON'S CASA DRIVE

Every year, the week before Thanksgiving and the week before Christmas, if you write a \$50 check to CASA of Jackson County, Brian Garrison will give you a 10% discount off any item in return. The savings for the customer are just as beneficial as the financial support given to CASA at the end of the year. Thank you Garrison's for your support!



**Garrison's
Home.**

CASA ADVOCACY JULY-SEPTEMBER!



the **CASA**

GIVING TREE

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

4LITHIA KIDS

Proudly Sponsored By