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



## Children in foster care and their CASA Advocates are in need of your support now more than ever.

Our team at CASA is committed to doing everything we can to protect the health and safety of our communities during this challenging and unprecedented time.

Despite quarantine and protective measures, CASAs are still staying connected to their kids remotely, in addition to attending court and other meetings virtually. CASAs will absolutely continue to communicate via phone, email, and Skype with the children for whom they are advocating. In the midst of this pandemic, with children at home and away from school, children in foster care may be at an increased risk for abuse and neglect. CASA's work remains vital for our community's most vulnerable children especially in these uncertain and rapidly changing times. Our Case Supervisors are working diligently from home, monitoring cases daily, checking court reports and ensuring all new information reaches our CASA volunteers immediately. We are a strong, determined team.

You can ensure that we are able to continue advocacy and support for the children we serve. CASA needs your support today, now more than ever! Please stand with us as we continue to advocate for the children most in need in our community. We are their constant presence and we will continue to be.



## Ways you can support CASA

### Donate online:

It is a safe and secure way to give. [www.jacksoncountycasa.org](http://www.jacksoncountycasa.org)

### Donate by Mail:

(Envelope enclosed!)

### Volunteer:

Digital orientations are available!  
CASA University Training Opportunities Ongoing  
Simply email: [wspivak@jacksoncountycasa.org](mailto:wspivak@jacksoncountycasa.org)

## New CASA Advocates

### SWORN IN FEBRUARY 21, 2020



Jim Coleman, Anne Coleman, Don Davis, Sue McWhorter, James McWhorter, Cathy Martone, Devin Shea, Linda Gheysen, Susan Smeltzer, Kevin Drahn, The Honorable Kelly Ravassipour, Pam Heuser, Teek Sharma, Nancy James, Anne Michels, Dave Benton, Juliet Haydon, Kat Whyte, Bryce Anderson, Mariah Henry, Mary Wright, John Karns, Cinda Harmes, John Prendergast, Ally Grimes, Lorraine Anderson



Russ Kuhn, the Honorable Benjamin Bloom

## COMING FULL CIRCLE

In 2015, a young girl named Ally walked into the CASA office looking for community volunteer options for her Senior Project at South Medford High School. Ally was a former foster and CASA child, and brought us great joy in joining the CASA family once again. As part of her project, she shared her story at our "I Am For the Child Luncheon" in January of 2016, speaking in front of 300 people. Her true, heartfelt story remains on our website today.

In the Fall of 2019, Ally once again appeared in the CASA office, this time to attend a CASA orientation. She was accepted into training, graduated as a CASA in February of 2020 and is now advocating for children in care.

"Becoming a CASA has been the most rewarding, eye-opening experience I've had. I am extremely thankful to my previous CASAs and the opportunity to give back," says Ally.



CASAs John and Kathy Wilkerson,  
the Honorable Kelly Ravassipour and CASA Ally Grimes



## COMMUNITY HOPE



**Jennifer Mylenek**  
Executive Director

This temporary state of isolation, uncertainty, and fear of the unknown is the everyday norm for foster children. Foster children do not get to call the shots or choose where they will be placed, for how long, or with whom. They go through most days not knowing what the next will bring and that uncertainty can last for years, not just months. Recognizing this in a profound way during my own isolation and uncertainty has also made me grateful for the people who break through these barriers for children by giving them someone to count on and a voice—CASA volunteers.

In recognition of Child Abuse Awareness month, we want to honor our CASA volunteers for everything they do for their assigned children. Right now, CASAs are working harder than ever, ensuring remote contact with their assigned children, calling into court hearings and making daily remote contact with CASA staff. We have seen CASAs

and staff step up to meet the challenge of ensuring children feel connected, cared for, and have their needs met during this unprecedented time.

Nationwide and statewide reports anticipate there will be more cases of abuse and/or neglect that enter the courts once the isolation period ends. We hope you will help support not only our current work, but help us prepare for the work ahead to ensure the safety of children. If you are thinking of becoming a CASA, please contact us. If you are already a CASA, thank you. If you are able to financially support CASA, we need you.

*J Mylenek*

Jennifer Mylenek, Executive Director and Child Advocate

**Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline 800-422-4453**

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Jennifer Mylenek, *Executive Director*

## CASA Staff

Jennifer Mylenek, *Executive Director*  
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Marisol Rodriguez, *Family Finding*



## VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION WEEK

APRIL 19-25, 2020



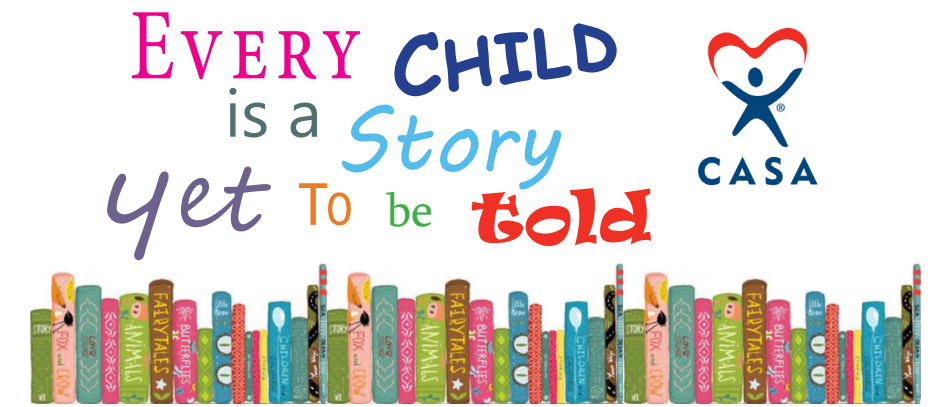
## CHARITABLE DONATIONS INCREASED THROUGH CARES ACT.

CASA has been deeply affected financially by the pandemic. Our daily operations rely on three fundraisers that have all been postponed or cancelled. While everyone is affected in one way or another by COVID-19, our children might be among the most vulnerable. They are out of sight and safety without being in daily view of neighbors, educators and community members. The courts are operating on a skeleton model with most parties phoning in. The CASA's report about the child is even more valuable to the judges during this time. We need to be able to keep our CASAs on the frontlines and prepare for the expected increase in child abuse reports when self-quarantining ends.

Thankfully, our government has recognized the devastating impact COVID-19 will cause for non-profit funding. In response, they have created a charitable giving incentive which among other things, lifts the cap on annual contributions for those who itemize when filing. Raising it from 60% of adjusted gross income to 100%. There are other benefits for universal or non-itemizer deductions that apply to all taxpayers for contributions up to \$300.

CASA is a Platinum rated charity on Charity Navigator, is in compliance with National and State CASA guidelines and policies, and has won Best Non Profit to work for in Oregon.

Please consult your tax advisor for more information. This information is not meant as tax advice.



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## A SPECIAL THANK YOU

Marco Boccato  
Mark Cromwell

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Sarah Minshall

Rogue Valley Country Club  
Laura Wilson

The Fourth Annual Tom Basgen Inspiration Award was presented to CASA Laura Wilson.