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



## VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION WEEK

APRIL 17-23, 2022



For your dedication to abused and neglected children in our community  
For your innovative approach to serving in uncertain times  
For your compassion and consistent presence in the lives of others

**Thank you, CASA Volunteers.**  
**You are our heroes.**



*"CASA provides me a clear, professional, and effective way to provide support to those in need in my immediate community."*

*"There is little in the world where helping one person can make a difference. Volunteering as a CASA has allowed me to help ensure the safety of numerous children."*

*"I like to feel that I am part of a positive process for children in need, solidifying their lives."*



## POSITIVE CHANGE

JUNE 1-30, 2022

The Positive Change program raises money for local non-profit organizations working to better our community. We believe in the power of change and the power of community. Next time you check out, say "I'd like to round-up for Positive Change," and we'll round-up the total of your purchase to the nearest dollar, or you can donate any desired amount. For the month of June, CASA of Jackson County will receive 100% of the donated funds, plus an additional mini grant from the Co-op (currently \$400 each month). Positive Change combines these two beliefs into one powerful program. The Positive Change program is one of the many ways the Co-op fulfills the seventh cooperative principle: Concern for Community.

## CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH

Keeping children safe by supporting families and reporting suspected abuse or neglect is everyone's responsibility. This call to action is not just for families and those who work on behalf of children; rather, it is the sounding of an alarm to the mail carrier, delivery person, grocery store clerk, pastor, drug store cashier, virtual teacher, and next-door neighbor. Will you join us in keeping a watchful eye on our children?



**National Child Abuse Hotline:**  
**1-800-422-4453**

[www.childhelp.org](http://www.childhelp.org)

**#EyesOnChildren**

## WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT CASA

### Donate online:

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

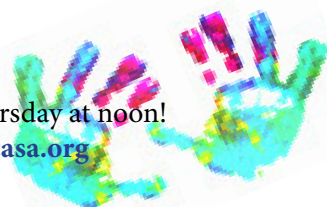
### Donate by Mail:

(Envelope enclosed!)

### Volunteer:

Virtual orientations are available every Thursday at noon!

Simply email: [casa@jacksoncountycasa.org](mailto:casa@jacksoncountycasa.org)



# Building Foundations

**May 6, 2022**  
**6 - 6:30 pm**  
*A Virtual Event!*

Silent Auction will close at 8 p.m. on May 10th

*Please join us*

541-734-2272  
[ecarpenter@jacksoncountycasa.org](mailto:ecarpenter@jacksoncountycasa.org)

**Register Online at: [CASABuildingFoundations2022.ggo.bid](https://casabuildingfoundations2022.ggo.bid)**



# COMMUNITY HOPE



The question, why am I here, is one we are destined to ask ourselves at one time or another. Maybe your “why” is to accomplish a milestone in your work or personal life, raise your children, serve your community, write a book, or run a marathon.

CASA Judy Korepta had already reached work milestones, family milestones, and more when she discovered CASA. Judy’s latest “why” found its roots in serving as a CASA volunteer for the past 17 years, advocating for safety and permanency for 61 children. In January, Judy was awarded CASA’s annual Basgen Award for exemplifying former CASA and board member Tom Basgen’s qualities of integrity, persistence, and the impeccable character he employed on behalf of every child for whom he advocated. Tom is no longer with us, but his spirit is alive and well and shared by over 240 CASAs, who have found part of their “why” as they give voice to hundreds of local children each day.

I am fortunate to be able to support an organization of volunteers, like Judy and Tom, who chose to take the path less traveled, but critically important to so many local children.

I wish to acknowledge and thank every person who chose CASA as their “why”. You all have done more than I believe you know in this life and for children.

*J Mylenek*  
Jennifer Mylenek,  
Executive Director and Child Advocate



## Board of Directors

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## CASA Staff

Jennifer Mylenek, *Executive Director*  
Erin Carpenter, *Development & Media Manager*  
Susie Merrill, *Office Support Coordinator*  
Melissa Donner, *Case Supervisor*  
Angela Ford, *Case Supervisor*  
Alicia Linton, *Case Supervisor*

Sharon Madara, *Case Supervisor*  
Cristina Petrone *Case Supervisor*  
Nef Rangel, *Case Supervisor*  
Vicky McGee, *Family Finding*  
Melissa Olson, *Family Finding*

# CONTINUING TO HAVE AN IMPACT

When the pandemic hit I was really worried about how I could continue to have an impact. Especially since initial reports coming from the Polaris Project were showing an increase in trafficking crises calls due to the pandemic. I felt the weight of sitting at home knowing vulnerabilities were increasing for at-risk populations. That’s when I remembered about CASA, an organization that supports children in the foster care system. I knew from my work the ways in which the foster care system intersects with trafficking and that homeless youth are especially at risk of being targeted by traffickers. The pandemic gave me an opportunity to focus on those issues here in my local community because my busy travel schedule came to a standstill.



CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) is a volunteer org that provides advocacy for children in the system. Becoming a CASA requires 30 hours of training, background checks and an appointment from a judge. CASAs exist to be a steady presence for children as they navigate really tough stuff. Statistics show that children who are appointed a CASA are 97% less likely to be re-homed in an abusive situation. Sometimes it just takes one person caring to change the life of a child. CASA does that.

I am celebrating my one-year anniversary of becoming a CASA. Over the past twelve months, I have been a CASA to three incredible kiddos who have persevered through some of the biggest challenges you can imagine. I have learned so much from being immersed behind the scenes of court hearings, DHS meetings, teacher conferences, foster parent visits, doctor appointments, custody meetings and more. All the while trying to imagine what it much be like to go through all that as a child alone.

Being a CASA has changed my life. It’s given me hope to see all the caring people who work in the foster care system. It’s also given me the ability to focus locally. CASA is a nationwide org with offices in nearly every city. Jackson County, where I live, has about 200 foster care kiddos on the waiting list for a CASA. CASA is always looking for more advocates. Visit your local CASA office. Every Kiddos deserves just one consistent caring adult!

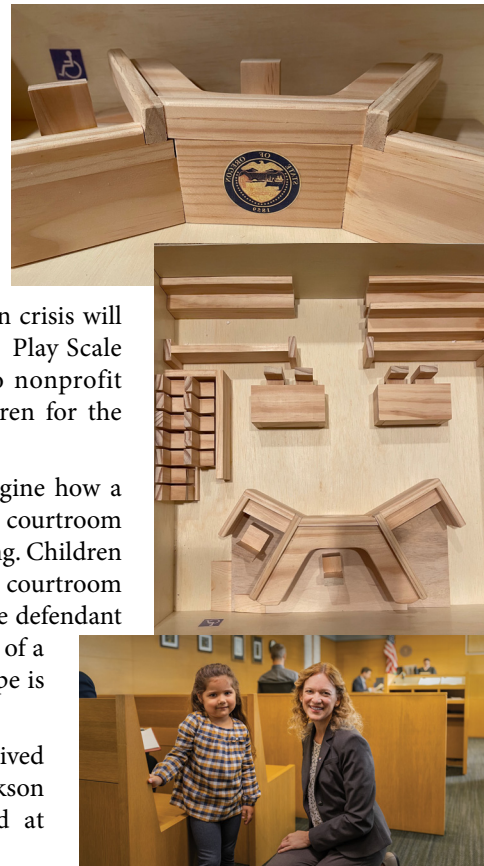
# PLAY SCALE COURTROOMS

Imagination Dollhouses for Children has been designing, building and donating hand-made dollhouses to nonprofit organizations working with abused children nationwide since 2008. In 2021, Imagination Dollhouses for Children became a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

With a mission to provide, at no cost to the organization, a well-built, colorful, and easily navigable dollhouse in which children in crisis will feel comfortable exercising their imagination. Play Scale Courtrooms are also provided at no cost to nonprofit organizations that must prepare young children for the ordeal of testifying in court.

Courtrooms are scary - even for adults! Imagine how a child feels. Play Scale Courtrooms bring the courtroom down to a child’s size and make it less threatening. Children who will have to testify are shown the whole courtroom and where various people will sit, including the defendant and the child. When a child can see the inside of a courtroom in a nonthreatening setting, the hope is that the child will feel more in control.

With greatest appreciation, CASA recently received one of these specialty courtrooms here in Jackson County. More information may be found at [imaginationdollhouses.org](http://imaginationdollhouses.org).



## THANK YOU TO OUR I AM FOR THE CHILD LUNCHEON SUPPORTERS

FOR HELPING TO

*Shine a light on a safe  
path for children*



## PRESENTING SPONSOR

**Jeannie Taylor**

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## GOLD SPONSORS

*Southern Oregon*



**Jim and Judy  
Wright**

**Gary and Judy  
Korepta**



## TABLE SPONSORS

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Star Body Works and Star 24 Hour Towing  
Supercuts

## A SPECIAL THANK YOU

Mark Cromwell  
The Honorable Joe Charter

Daniel Delgado  
Mike and Ginger Woolstenhulme

*The Sixth Annual Tom Basgen Inspiration Award was presented to CASA Judy Korepta.*