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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 18, 2023

12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

at the Rogue Valley Country Club

PRESENTING SPONSORS



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OREGON BUSINESS 100 BEST

For the fifth year in a row, we are honored to be recognized as one of the 100 Best Nonprofits in the state of Oregon. This year, we rank #2 in the Small Organizations category! Employees and volunteers at CASA of Jackson County and CASA of Josephine County 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.

Clackamas Workforce Partnership OREGON CITY clackamasworkforce.org Oregon employees: 12 Score: 641.13	1	CASA of Jackson County MEDFORD jacksoncountycasa.org and jococasa.org Oregon employees: 14 Score: 629.66	2	Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Southern Oregon MEDFORD improvedcredit.org Oregon employees: 7 Score: 627.87	3
"CWP has recently gone through a metamorphosis — in growth, activity, professional development, changes in both level of support and in what we do in the community," writes one employee of this workforce-development nonprofit. Perks include remote work, flex scheduling, and use of work hours to volunteer, attend community events, or engage in professional development activities.		"I have never experienced such a supportive, healthy and inspiring work environment," says one employee of this advocacy nonprofit for children in foster care, who praised the company's flexible work schedule and inclusivity. "They show up for their workers and are on top of making changes to make their environment a safe space for everyone. They strive to grow in equity and inclusion efforts, and listen to feedback."		"I love the open communication there is between all the staff members. I really like the fact that we have growth opportunities within the agency and that they are willing to pay for all of our training," writes one employee of this credit-counseling service. "This organization provides a vital service to some of the most vulnerable in our community, including senior citizens and the disabled," writes another.	

New CASA Advocates

SWORN IN OCTOBER 21, 2022



Bottom row: Kimberly McCoy, Gina Vaccaro, Laura Thompson, Evelyn Conroy, Crystal Jones, Alan Betcher, Sarah Britton and Chery Stritenberg. Top Row: Judge Gerking, Adam Duncel, Thomas Eckert, Rusty Keller, Pamela Adams, Michael Hitchcock, Dennis Alvarado, Larry Britten and Judge Charter.

ROGUE THEATER COMPANY FOR CASA

Opening benefit for CASA

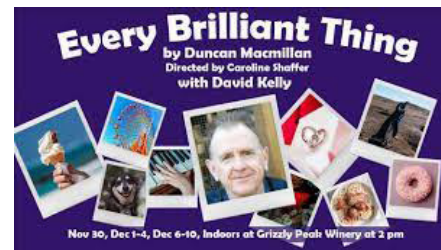
December 1, 2022

2:00pm

at Grizzly Peak Winery

\$40

Followed by wine and talkback with the actor and director



Rogue Theater Company (RTC) in Ashland presents Every Brilliant Thing with Oregon Shakespeare Festival veteran actor David Kelly. A portion of opening day sales will go to CASA.

About Every Brilliant Thing

At the top of the play, David Kelly's character is seven years old and his mom is in the hospital. To cheer her up, he begins a list of every brilliant thing worth living for: Ice cream. Kung Fu movies. Burning things. Laughing so hard you shoot milk out your nose. And on and on. He leaves the list on his mom's pillow. He knows she has read it, because she's corrected his spelling. The list then takes on a life of its own in funny and heartwarming ways.

roguetheatercompany.com or 541-205-9190 | \$5 off per ticket, use coupon C-CASA

COMMUNITY HOPE



Jennifer Mylenek

I was witness to the visible and glorious energy our class of 25 new CASA trainees brought to our training room in October. It is amazing how the building came alive with community and the excitement of embarking on the CASA journey. Virtual training has been a blessing but we have missed being together, face-to-face, far too long. We truly need each other to be our best selves.

I continue to reflect about the isolation the children we serve often face and how important their CASAs are to them. Children do not always know everything their CASAs are doing behind the scenes, but we hear that the most important thing to our kids is that their CASAs visit them, care about them, and can be depended upon to walk beside them. It is this human connection that speaks the loudest to us all and possibly even more so to our children.

We continuously thank and celebrate our 200+ CASA volunteers for being that connection for local children in resource care and for being an inspiration for all of us at CASA.

J Mylenek

Jennifer Mylenek,
Executive Director and Child Advocate

Attend a virtual orientation
offered every Thursday at noon!
Simply email CASA@jacksoncountycasa.org!



Board of Directors

Mark Cromwell, *President*
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Amy Zarosinski, *Treasurer*
Shirley Johnson, *Secretary*
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Vicky McGee, *Family Finding*

CASA GIVING TREES



Each year the CASA Giving Tree campaign is a special way for the community to participate by donating new toys, clothing, and gift cards to underprivileged children who are living in foster or relative care during the holiday season.

These children have been removed from their homes and families due to abuse and/or neglect. This is an opportunity for CASA, the community and the trained volunteers who advocate for these children to ensure they have a holiday season filled with love, hope and joy.

A sincere thank you to our CASA Giving Tree sponsor, Lithia 4 Kids- a partnership we value as we work together to support the children in our community.

Together, Litha 4Kids, our many tree locations, individual family sponsors, special toy drives and community members helped over 555 children last year.

**If you would like to host a tree location or sponsor a CASA family,
please contact Erin Carpenter: ecarpenter@jacksoncountycasa.org**

Tree locations will be listed at www.jacksoncountycasa.org

An Amazon wishlist is available for those who prefer to shop from home.

Donations toward gifts for CASA children may be mailed or completed online.



WHY I CHOSE CASA

Through the years, George Nye has been a hospital chaplain, Life Diplomate of the American Psychotherapy Association, and Pastoral Counselor, and he has been, for the past 17 years, a Court Appointed Special Advocate for CASA of Jackson County. These are George's words:

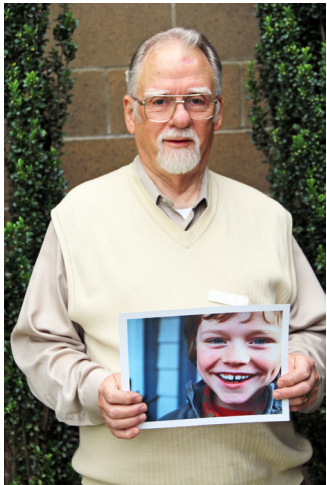
I was sitting in court, one day, at the Defense table for the mother of the child I represented, as a CASA. She had been brought in from jail in shackles, around her ankles and waist. Her wrists were handcuffed to those chains. I would soon be testifying against her in favor of her child. As she sat next to me, she started weeping. Her eyes filled with overflowing tears and her nose began to run. As the judge spoke, I got out some tissues to wipe her eyes and cup the tissues, so that she could blow her nose. I was her enemy in that hearing; but she was the mother of the child whom I represented; and in that moment, she needed someone to stand by her in her grief. Before we can be adversaries in finding the best outcome for the child, we need to acknowledge that we are humans who are, by nature, brothers and sisters in the human family.

As I reflect on my seventeen, plus, years of being a CASA, apart from the visits, interviewing caseworkers and school teachers, when people ask me what it is like to be a CASA, I say that it is the most frustrating job you will ever love. Attending court sessions and negotiating with Social Workers and therapists, what is the essence of my work? I believe that it is to help a person in pain, feel healing.

Over the years, I remember, deeply, the testimony of a young man who had devoted most of his thirty years to a life of crime and drug abuse. He was an addict by the time he was twelve years old. More recently, he had become a single parent to a baby girl. In giving testimony, he told of how his baby developed a medical issue, and she was obviously in pain. He explained that for the first time in his life, he felt someone else's pain. When he was on drugs, he never felt anyone's pain. But in the endless, sleepless hours of holding, comforting and caring for his tiny daughter, parenthood had given him a new experience. Feeling his daughter's pain caused him to bond with her, and, for the first time in his life, to truly love someone. This experience turned his life around. He now knew that he had to get clean and make something of himself. He had to get a job and provide a safe home for his daughter who had taught him love, a new feeling that he never wanted to let go.

A CASA is there to listen, advocate, protect and support, in order to provide the possibility of a safe and healing future for the child whom we represent in court. Most of my cases have lasted two years. My longest case was finally resolved after six years. In the end, each of my CASA children had a future worth celebrating and embracing, significantly because of the patient work of the CASA who has the freedom to visit many agencies and providers that would otherwise not be connected in a coordinated fashion for the benefit of the child, and often for the family.

All of my experiences and relationships, along with being a parent of two children of my own, give me what insights I have into each individual child's life, at the particular moment. These experiences leave me with no official title, outside of "Life Diplomate". I invite you to become a CASA and earn this title. It will change your life.



CASA George

