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CASA
Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

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



**THANK YOU
TO OUR
I AM FOR THE CHILD
LUNCHEON SUPPORTERS
January 17, 2024**



Every dream begins with a wish.

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New CASA Advocates

SWORN IN MARCH 1, 2024



Bottom row: Gloria Spencer, Peggy Wright, Steve Dreben, Mairaed Hill, Judge Hoppe, Hayley Azuras, Kailey Swafford, Cara Sparks, Debbie McConnell, Justin Idiart, Amanda Meyncke. Top Row: Ben Fisher, Ashley Bell, Venessa Hart, Marty Albert, Monica Gillooly, Douglas Vincent, Brendan Binger, Damien Rennie, Rachel Rennie, Amanda Meyncke.

HAPPY ENDINGS



Siblings Jana (10) and Josh (8) came into the system and were placed in community foster care. Both parents were using heroin and leaving drug paraphernalia around the home within reach of the children. Mom also suffers from untreated depression and was not sending the children to school, failing to meet grade-level standards. Jana, particularly, is very social and missed her friends. Josh gets frustrated because he is confused about when they will be able to go back to mom and dad.

Two weeks after the kids came into care, the CASA program appointed a CASA volunteer to advocate for the children. The CASA immediately went to meet the kids, taking them something special based on what they liked – new art supplies for Jana and a cool book about soccer players for Josh. The kids were quiet but respectful during the first several visits with the CASA. During this time, the CASA was talking to the children's teachers, reviewing their medical files, and was able to meet the parents. Mom seemed overwhelmed and thought the CASA was going to initially tell her all the things she had done wrong with her children to bring her to this place. On the contrary, the CASA was able to share with mom how strong she was and how much the children talked about mom and missed her.

Three months later, the children are chatterboxes and look forward to the CASA's visit and news about how their mom is doing. They are on the road to being reunified with mom, who has been very open to treatment. Dad has stepped away from the family and is not pursuing treatment at this time. The CASA was instrumental in helping mom believe in herself, get connected to help, and focusing on the love and the hope that was so present in the situation. The CASA's encouragement, and compassion went a long way to help this family, and our community.

**FORD REAL ESTATE'S
— THIRD ANNUAL —
CHARITY
SHRED EVENT**

APRIL 18TH - 11 AM TO 1 PM

JOIN US FOR SOME COFFEE,
DONUTS, AND PAPER SHREDDING!

WHAT TO SHRED

- Legal Documents
- Financial Statements
- Tax Records (7+ years old)
- Accounting Files/Records
- Personnel Files
- Audits/Surveys
- Bank Statements
- Receipts/Invoices
- Computer Reports
- Credit Card Numbers

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Hosted at Ford Real Estate
624 S. Riverside Ave, Medford, Oregon
(541) 200-3095

SCAN HERE



COMMUNITY HOPE



Jennifer Mylenek

We often hear from CASAs who feel like they are not doing enough on their cases. Sometimes a case is going really well and there is not much to do! We wish they were all that way but, sadly, those cases are the exceptions. While a CASA might not feel their impact, we know how important their work is in the life of a child. CASAs:

1. Visit the child regularly, developing a connection. This is monumental for a child's healing and something no one else does, except the CASA in most cases.
2. Investigate the child's story and bring it to the court. No one else writes a child focused report to the court besides the CASA.
3. If possible, meeting the parent and remaining objective by reserving judgement and saving space for that parent to express themselves. Everyone has their own story and a CASAs job is to show respect for all parties and to look for their strengths.

4. Support the very busy caseworker with updates and changes. We talk to caseworkers all the time who LOVE their CASAs for all the help they provide.

5. Support resource parents through thoughtful interactions. Resource parents have a tough job and appreciate CASAs who help them feel supported. We have been told by resource parents that the CASA helped them feel heard and valued.

There is so much more that CASAs do, but even if a case is going well, the above five items are happening and critically needed in our overburdened, understaffed system to ensure a child is safe and on the road to permanency.

CASAs are remarkable people who often face big challenges when navigating the complex world of child neglect or abuse; but I am awed every day by how well they do it. Thank you to all of our CASAs.

JMylenek
Jennifer Mylenek,
Executive Director and Child Advocate

Donate online:

www.jacksoncountycasa.org

Volunteer:

Digital orientations are available!
Simply email: CASA@jacksoncountycasa.org

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APRIL IS NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION 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, teacher, and next-door neighbor. Join us in keeping a safe, watchful eye on our children.



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

www.childhelp.org

#EyesOnChildren

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION WEEK

APRIL 21-27, 2024



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.



JOIN US FOR THE 1ST ANNUAL SOUTHERN OREGON

'Start by Believing'

Community Event



DID YOU KNOW?

- 1 in 10 children are sexually abused
 - 1 in 2 women have been sexually abused
 - ONLY 1 in 5 people report sexual abuse
- It's time to 'Start by Believing' victims of sexual violence in our communities.*

You're Invited to Attend

Tuesday, April 16
1 - 3 PM
Smullin Health Education Center
2825 E. Barnett Rd
Medford, OR 97504

PLEASE RSVP
SEATING IS LIMITED
FREE TO THE PUBLIC

emcewen@community-works.com
OR sign-up online @
community-works.org/start-by-believing

COMMUNITY WORKS
Domestic Violence · Sexual Abuse · Sex Trafficking
RESOURCE CENTER

Join us as we listen, learn, and collaborate with local experts from Jackson County. We are better together!



MC: Barbara Johnson
Executive Director
Community Works

Southern Oregon's Expert Panel Includes:



In Recognition of...

- Sexual Assault Awareness Month
- Child Abuse Prevention Month
- National Crime Victim's Rights Week

'Start by Believing'

Community Event | Tuesday, April 16 | 1 - 3 PM | SMULLIN CENTER



Two key responses that have a positive effect on survivors:

- (1) Being believed, and
- (2) Having someone to talk to

*Community Works, EVAWI (End Violence Against Women International) and 'Start by Believing' focus on victim-centered, trauma-informed approaches for providing care for victims of sexual abuse in Southern Oregon. startbybelieving.org

*Community Works operates their programs, services, and activities in compliance with Federal Non Discrimination Laws.

THE EASTER BUNNY VISITS CASA

With the help of ten-year-old, Jack Baker, the Easter Bunny received over 200 Easter Bags to deliver to CASA children. Last year, when choosing his community project to earn his charity patch for the Black Belt Excellence Achievement Program at Premier Martial Arts, Jack was concerned the Easter Bunny would not be able to find CASA children in their local Resource Care homes. This year he brought in five additional karate kids to help so they could earn their charity badges. Together, they raised a total of \$3,254 to create the Easter bags.

"Jack and the other karate student's thoughtfulness, generosity and hard work to collect funds, choose items and assemble these bags is completely selfless and very admirable," says Jennifer Mylenek, Executive Director of CASA of Jackson and Josephine Counties. "We want them to know he has helped to make a lot of children and youth feel valued and loved."