

NEWSLETTER 2019



Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN
CASA FOR CHILDREN OF KLAMATH COUNTY

WELCOME New Advocates

SWORN-IN AUGUST 2018



Left to right: Tom Bowen, Brian Fitz Gerald, Jody Carter, Judge Adkisson, Andrew Sparkes, Dana Thompson, Nancy Zarosinski

SWORN-IN NOVEMBER 2018



Left to right: Dana Thompson, Sam Minjares, Molly Bland, Judge Adkisson, Chris Rhode, Nancy Zarosinski, Andrew Sparkes

SWORN-IN FEBRUARY 2019



Left to right: Dana Thompson, Jessica Steensland, Stacie Prather, Putri Degroot, Judge Adkisson, Lydia Mendez, Michelle Harper, Andrew Sparkes, Nancy Zarosinski

SWORN-IN JUNE 2019



Left to right: Jennifer Quinn, Pauline Middleton, Erlinda Pena, Teresa Perry, Judge Adkisson, Candice Bumpus, Karen Downs, Nancy Zarosinski



www.KlamathFallsCASA.org



CASAKlamathCounty

(541) 885-6017

A Note from our Director



KARRI K. MIRANDE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

“NEVER DOUBT THAT A SMALL GROUP OF THOUGHTFUL, COMMITTED CITIZENS CAN CHANGE THE WORLD; INDEED, IT’S THE ONLY THING THAT EVER HAS.” - Margaret Mead
Anthropologist, Author, Activist

I love this quote so much and over the past five years I have found it to be so true of our community. The lives of the neediest children in Klamath County have been improved through our community’s collective giving of their time and monies.

We have been able to continue to recruit, train, and support the most dedicated volunteers who have given so selflessly of their time. Collectively, they have contributed over 1,749 hours, which is equivalent to \$44,477 in In-Kind donations, according to the 2019 Independent Sector Report. I am so impressed with their dedication and so grateful, as our advocates are the heart and soul of our organization.

Through the generous support of our many sponsors we were able to exceed our fundraising goal for CASAblanca. All monies raised at this event go toward providing advocacy and direct services to our foster children. Save the date for our fifth annual CASAblanca gala: March 21, 2020!

Team CASA is always looking at new ways to engage the community as well as increase opportunities for involvement. On the third Thursday of every month, we host a Coffee with CASA at Green Blade Bakery from 10:00am - 11:00am. This event gives individuals a chance to learn about CASA, talk to current advocates, and find out about volunteering opportunities while enjoying a cup of Joe on CASA!

I want to especially thank my staff, Board of Directors, and advocates for their commitment to providing quality advocacy to the children in our community. Their dedication and hard work continues to move us toward our goal of serving 100% of the children referred to our program.

I hope you enjoy our newsletter!

Much gratitude,
Kari Mirandé

Mission Statement

The mission of the CASA for Children of Klamath County program is to provide trained volunteer advocates for abused and neglected children who are dependent on the Juvenile Court to ensure their right to a safe and permanent home. Through this advocacy, we will seek a timely and appropriate disposition in the best interest of each child.

Board & Staff Updates

Board of Directors



NOEL KERSEY

We are excited to have Noel join our board! Noel practices juvenile and criminal law and is passionate about helping children navigate the legal system. He enjoys cooking and mountain biking with his wife Alycia and his children Huck and Adele. Welcome, Noel!

A Note from Jeanette Rutherford, Board Chair: Hello from the Board of Directors! As the Chair for the past two years, it has been extremely gratifying to work with our talented, invested, and creative team of board members, staff, CASA advocates and most especially, to see the great energy our CASA kids experience through all of these incredible people. I like to think of Klamath Falls CASA as the “Little CASA that could...” – we do a lot with the generous resources of time, money, and in-kind donations to benefit the CASA kids. The Board of Directors is excited that this often includes enrichment experiences, such as camps, educational opportunities, and helping CASA kids see that they can have healthy and happy lives. Thank you all for your support of CASA for Children of Klamath County!

Staff

KAMI MIRANDE

Kami is our most recent addition to the CASA team. Kami is a graduate of Pacific Lutheran University with a degree in psychology and a minor in studio art. She has been a CASA Advocate in Linn County and has been contracting with us for marketing and graphics. Kami will be working as our Executive Assistant but will continue to do our graphics and marketing. Welcome, Kami Jean!



MARY RATLIFF

Mary joined our program this year as a contract grant writer who has many years of experience writing grants for the Oregon CASA Network and CASA of Douglas County. She is also a contracted Program Coordinator for the Ford Family’s Protect Our Children program. She went to the University of Oregon where she obtained her Bachelor’s degree in Family and Human Services. She also has a Master’s degree in Public Administration and a Graduate Certificate in Non-Profit Management. CASA is so excited to have Mary as part of our team!



CANDICE BUMPUS

Candice joined CASA in the fall of 2018 as our Executive Assistant. Candice recently left to finish her degree in criminal justice. Candice and her husband, Ross, have two young daughters, two dogs, and a cat. Candice is also one of our CASA Advocates and even though she is no longer working with us we are so excited she is still part of our family.



Volunteer Spotlight



JOHN ADKISSON, CASA Volunteer of the Year
John Adkisson is this year's CASA Volunteer of the Year! John has been an advocate since 2015 and has provided advocacy for 12 children. John also serves as our Board of Directors CASA Advocate Liaison and brings beneficial insights to our group. John not only advocates for his children and the board but is also very involved in the execution and success of CASAblanca. This year he was the Co-Emcee with Karri Mirande. Congratulations, John! We are so happy to have you.



LLOYD KING, Spirit of CASA Award
Lloyd King is the recipient of this year's Spirit of CASA award. Lloyd demonstrates to our community the hope and commitment CASA has to the betterment of foster children in Klamath County. Lloyd has provided advocacy to 29 children over his 15 years with our program. He also participates in our Coffee with CASA recruitment events, mentors new advocates as a Peer Coordinator, and is the Chair and Founder of Grandparents as Parents. Lloyd is the heart of CASA. Thank you!



TERESA PERRY, CASA Extern
Teresa Perry is a psychology major at Oregon Institute of Technology. She spent 300 hours with CASA, became an advocate, worked and attended court with our program coordinators, and assisted with many outreach activities and special projects. Teresa has also worked at Tulelake Basin Elementary for 20 years and has participated in many volunteer capacities, including becoming a Booster Club officer and being part of the Tulelake Area Service Club (TASC).



SAVANNAH WATTERBURG, CASA Intern
Savannah was a senior at Mazama High School. Savannah did her senior capstone with CASA and was instrumental in helping orchestrate our fourth annual CASAblanca gala. She also assisted with many community outreach events as well as with our Backpack Project. Savannah will be attending Oregon State University in the fall. Go Savannah!

Protect Our Children

CASA for Children of Klamath County has joined the Ford Family Foundation's **Protect Our Children** project as an Associate Partner. Staff are now certified facilitators to provide Darkness to Light's Stewards of Children training in our community. Stewards trains adults to recognize the signs of child sexual abuse, react responsibly when it does occur, and most importantly, prevent child sexual abuse from occurring. This 2-hour facilitator-led discussion/documentary offers 5 Steps to Protect Our Children. The curriculum includes survivor stories, guidance from experts, and practical, empowering solutions that any adult can adopt to protect the children in their care and in their community. Give Karri or Dana a call at (541) 885-6017 if you or your organization is interested in getting trained!



We live in a world in which we need to share responsibility. It's easy to say "It's not my child, not my community, not my world, not my problem."

Then there are those who see the need and respond. I consider those people my heroes.

- MR. ROGERS



THE FOURTH ANNUAL

CASABLANCA

GALA

If you'd like to sponsor our fifth annual CASAblanca gala, please contact our office
(541) 885-6017

Photography by
Armijo Designs

Community Partners

CASA has been fortunate to have so many community partners who support us by providing services, volunteering, financial support, and sponsorship. We could not do what we do without them. Pictured below are just a few of those who have assisted us through this past year:



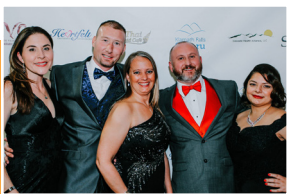
Dancing with Your Stars



Pacific Power



Masonic Lodge #77



Klamath Falls Subaru



Heartfelt



Phi Delta Theta Fraternity



Poppy & Thai Orchid



Oregon Tech Rugby Team



Shasta Family Dental

Community Outreach

CASA participates in many community activities throughout the year with the goal of educating the community of our mission and recruiting new volunteers to help us serve the foster children referred to our program.



Third Thursday



Red Nose Day



Scarecrow Row



Library Learning Fair



Harbor Isles Zumbathon



Sip & Shop

How to Get Involved

COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE
Become a CASA and provide vital advocacy to foster children in need

AMAZONSMILE
Link your Amazon account to CASA for Children of Klamath County and we'll receive a small portion of your purchases at no additional cost to you

BOTTLE DROP
Donate your Bottle Drop returns to CASA for Children of Klamath County

FRED MEYER COMMUNITY REWARDS
Link your Fred Meyer Rewards to CASA for Children of Klamath County and we'll receive a percent donation

FRIENDS OF CASA
Unable to commit to becoming a CASA? Become a Friend of CASA and volunteer during our special events

CASABLANCA GALA SPONSORSHIP
Help sponsor our annual CASABlanca gala or donate items for our silent auction

2020 NEWSLETTER SPONSORSHIP
Help us reach over 1,600 local residents and businesses by sponsoring our annual Newsletter

Special Projects

JULY 2018



The brain-child of our advocate, James Brown, has been such a success! The visualization of volunteer hours has not only encouraged our volunteers to report, but it also showcases the fruits of their labor. Each ball equals one hour. Each of these hours is valued at \$25, according to the 2019 Independent Sector Report. At the beginning of our fiscal year, we created a goal to raise \$50,000 in In-Kind volunteer hours. We are excited to report that we not only doubled our reported hours from last year (2017-2019), but we also raised \$44,477 In-Kind (89%) of our \$50,000 goal!

Way to go CASA advocates and thank you to Jim for the ingenious idea!

Ping Pong Ball Tower



JULY 2019



CASA Kid Fund

Our CASA Kid Fund continues to be a huge success! Since its inception, we have been able to provide over 160 activities and opportunities to foster children, keeping them engaged, active, and involved in school and extracurricular activities. This fund has paid for 60 sports and fitness fees, sent 41 children to camp, covered 14 music lessons, and bought back to school clothes and uniforms for more than 30 kids. We were also able to cover college courses and cost of supplies, a driver's education course, and assisted with therapy and counseling costs.

Without the generosity of Sky Lakes, we would not be able to provide these extras for our kids. We work closely with our advocates, DHS caseworkers, and foster parents to make sure our kids stay strong, active, and engaged in their community.

If you have a program or an activity you think our kids would benefit from, please contact our office at (541) 885-6017



Backpack Project

We saw a need and tackled it head on with the help of many local sponsors and the West Family Foundation. Their generosity has enabled us to provide each child in care with a backpack filled with life's essentials. Since the inception of this project, we have given out over 150 backpacks! Each backpack contains a blanket, a self-care kit, a book or journal, a pair of socks, mittens, a hat, a pillowcase, pajamas, the Foster Children's Bill of Rights, and the DHS Foster Children's Guide. These backpacks are given out at the time of removal or when our advocates visit for the first time.

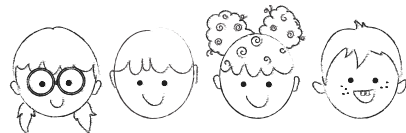
Thank you to the members of the Linus Project, Klamath Union Key Club, Dr. Tucker and Dr. Gailis, OHSU/OIT Nursing students, SMART, Jean Handy, and many other local artisans. We are especially grateful to the West Family Foundation for continuing their support of this very special project.



OHSU Nursing Students

Program Statistics 2018-2019

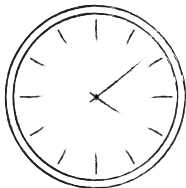
CASA Annual Report



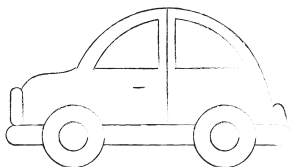
CHILDREN



ADVOCATES



ADVOCATE HOURS



ADVOCATE MILES

225 foster children referred to CASA for Children of Klamath County Program. This is the number of children referred into the program. Dependent on status of case, a CASA may or may not be assigned.

131 foster children served by CASA Advocates. This is the number of children that have had a CASA assigned to their case during our fiscal year.

51 Active CASA Advocates

17 Newly Trained CASA Advocates

1,749 Volunteer Hours. This is the number of hours with the child, court time, travel, prep time, and other activities involved in advocating. This is a self-report and the number may be higher.

8,452 Volunteer Miles traveled. These are the miles traveled by our volunteers and are not reimbursed by our program. This is a self-report and the number may be higher.

Thank you to all of our donors! With your assistance we have been able to continue our services and provide much needed advocacy to our local foster children. CASA's long-term financial goal is for sustainability and continued growth in order to serve 100% of the children referred to our program. We continue to diversify funding streams to meet these strategic goals and are excited to report that once again, we have reached our fundraising goals. Next year our goal is to continue this positive trajectory in our local fundraising with expansions at our annual CASAblanca Gala and Fall Ask. Local fundraising is vital to sustainability as we see grants come and go and fluctuations in government support.

A special thank you to Sky Lakes Medical Center for their generosity this past year as our principal sponsor for CASAblanca and the primary supporter of the CASA Kid Fund. We would also like to thank Cascade Health Alliance (CHA). We could not do what we do without their ongoing support. Partnerships with Sky Lakes and CHA are vital to helping keep our foster children safe, active, and healthy!



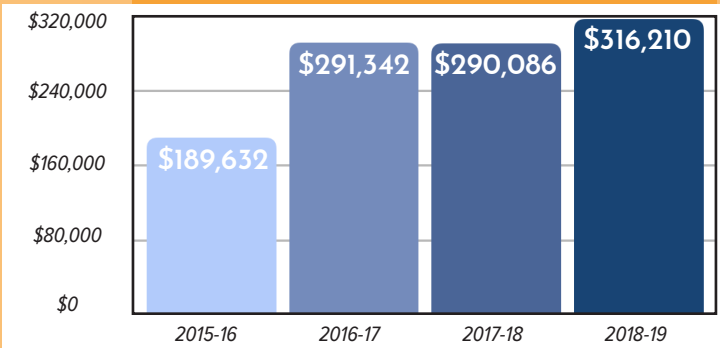
This year we hired a new grant writer, Mary Ratliff, who has continued to increase our foundations, trusts, and corporate giving.

Fifty percent of our dollars were spent for direct services to the children we serve and to our volunteer advocates through special projects, recruitment, training, and advocate support. These services include extensive background checks, interviews, 30 hours of training, court attendance for active cases, assistance on child visits, 12 annual hours of continuing education, and court report writing assistance. The remaining expenditures are allocated to fundraising (19%), program support (12%), administrative (10%), and Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) (9%). We continue to provide extra support to local foster children in the form of backpacks loaded with age-appropriate essentials, Gifts for the Child during the holidays, and activities and items through our CASA Kid Fund (please see Special Projects, pg. 6.) The goal of all our efforts remains serving 100% of the children referred to our program.

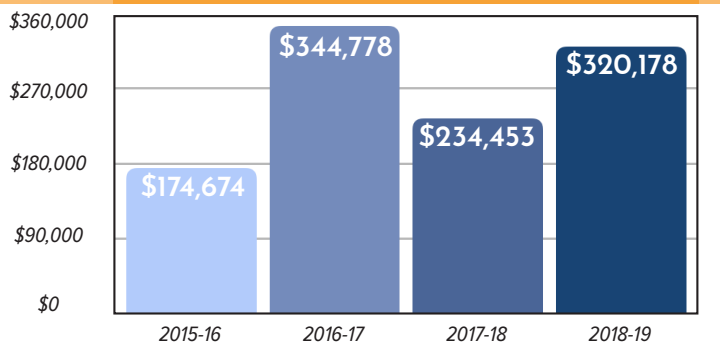
If you would like to learn more regarding sponsorship opportunities for our annual CASAblanca Gala, newsletter, Gifts for the Child, or other ways to contribute or volunteer, please contact our office at (541) 885-6017.

Four Years at a Glance

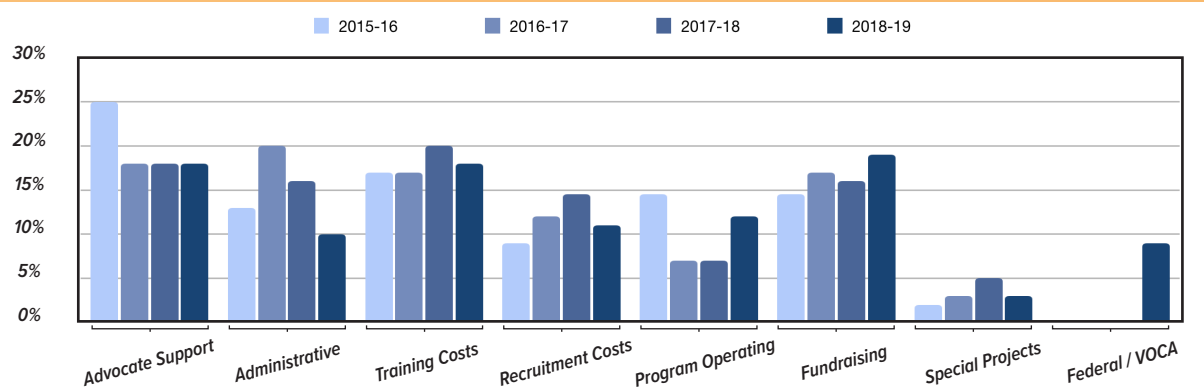
ANNUAL EXPENSES



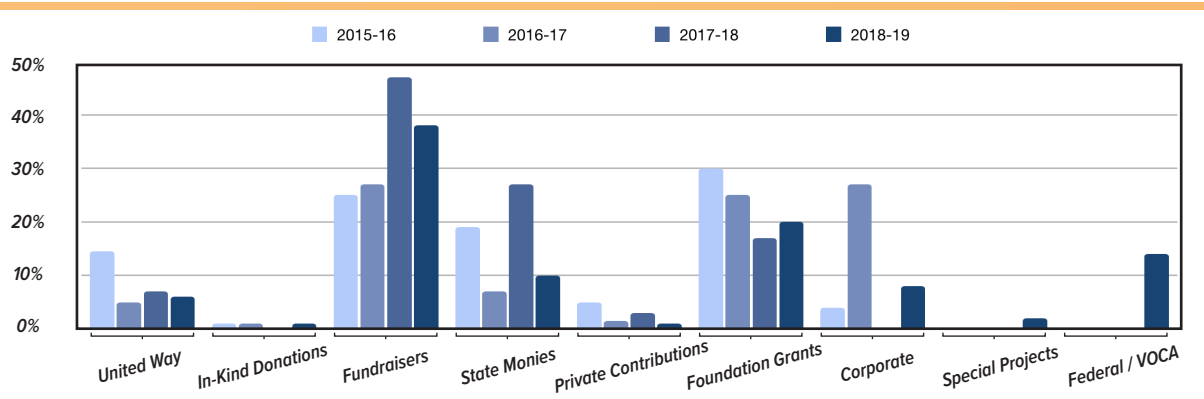
ANNUAL REVENUE



EXPENSES BREAKDOWN

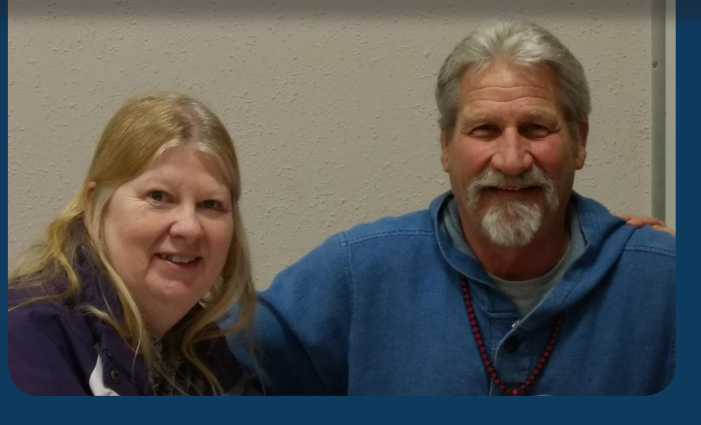


REVENUE BREAKDOWN



Kid Story & CASA Team

Newsletter Sponsors



CASA KID STORY

This year's CASA Kid Story involves six siblings, ranging in age from one month to seven years at the onset of CASA's involvement. These children have been in the foster system for the majority of their lives and have a very complex family history.

Our CASA Advocate team took on these children and have truly become a constant and supportive force. They have advocated for them in all aspects of their lives, enrolled them in sports and music activities, assisted with school projects, and at one point they even provided respite placement. The children have all either been adopted or returned home and our advocates still continue to serve as surrogate grandparents and are still very much involved.

CASA loves being a part of these success stories!



CASA TEAM

Pictured from left to right
NANCY ZAROSINSKI, Training & Recruitment Coordinator
DANA THOMPSON, Program Coordinator
ANDREW SPARKES, Program Coordinator
KARRI MIRANDE, Executive Director
CANDICE BUMPUS, Executive Assistant

Not pictured: KAMI MIRANDE, Executive Assistant

NEWSLETTER DESIGNED BY

— KAMI —
MIRANDE

VISUAL DESIGNS • EST. 2018

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