



Summer 2016

NEW ADVOCATES

Sworn in November 16, 2015



Left to right: Laird Naylor, Mary Naylor, Irene Stagner, Breanna Henrick, Stefani Mosby, Donna Triplett, Cheryl Medill, Judge Adkisson

Sworn in February 29, 2016



Left to right: Nancy Zarosinski, Judge Adkisson, Bonnie Ross, Rylee Carleton, Derek Evans, Mary Ann Simard, Don Eykelbosch, Adam Bono, Norma Bono, Krissy Riley, Sally Cobb, Kimberly Thomson, Dana Thompson

WWW.KlamathFallsCASA.org

A Note from our Executive Director...



I look back on this past year and feel tremendous pride in what we have accomplished and enormous gratitude for our volunteers and supporters, who really are the heart and soul of this program.

We have been able to bring back not only a sense of stability to the organization, but a sense of gratification in what we do here at CASA. Our dedicated volunteers provided advocacy to 62% more children than last year and we continue to recruit and train quality individuals to our program. See page 4 under "Look How We've Grown" for exciting details.

Karin Hughes, our Development Director, and I were just recently at the Cow Creek Umpqua Indian Foundation Awards and were astounded by the generosity of spirit and diversity of groups represented in the room. There were organizations whose missions ranged from feeding and clothing the homeless, providing arts education in schools, and those that serve seniors, abused women and at risk children. The common thread was the mission of bringing services and advocacy to those less fortunate.

We heard a wonderful quote that bears repeating, "When you help someone you know, you are being a *Good Friend*... When you help someone you don't know, you are being a good *Human Being*". That is what all of you are, "*Good Human Beings*" and we thank you for all that you have done to help us not only grow, but thrive.

I don't know how many of you love theater, I love it! I was watching the Tony awards after the Orlando tragedy and heard the eloquent and tearful acceptance speech by Lin-Manuel Miranda, creator of Hamilton, and thought I would share it with you as it has such power. "**We live in this world where beautiful and horrible things exist at the same time. We rise and fall from the dying embers, remembrances that hope and love last longer and love is love is love is love is love cannot be killed or swept aside**" These words, however intended for the theater community and its LGBTQ members, could also apply to all of you and the work we do. Our CASAs, are the *beautiful* in this world, the abuse and neglect, the *horrible*, but through our time and advocacy, *love* and *hope*.

I look forward to another year where we provide quality advocacy and where you can spread your *love* and *hope* to more children in Klamath County.

Warmly,

Karin Miranda



VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

Annually, CASA hosts a Volunteer Appreciation luncheon for our dedicated volunteer advocates who selflessly advocate for a child or a sibling group. In fact, the Weiting's, (Spirit of CASA recipients) share a sibling group of 6 children. It works well for them to work together as a couple, especially with this rather large group of siblings.

Our Klamath County Judges also attend and support these hard working volunteers. This year at our luncheon we gave a warm thank



Judge Isaacson and CASA Staff

you to Judge Isaacson for his 30 plus years of service and support. We here at CASA wish him well in his "retirement".

Another special group of volunteers we recognize, is our CASA Peer Coordinators. Our Peer Coordinators are seasoned CASA's who mentor new advocates coming into the program. These volunteer Peer Coordinators review the case assigned, go on initial visits to see the child/children, and also attend court with our new advocates. The Peer Coordinators enable us to serve more children and help foster a sense of community and kinship amongst our advocates.



Lloyd King, Sharon Ellis, Linda Pederson

We currently have 5 Peer Coordinators: Deborah Dallman, Lloyd King, Sharon Ellis, Linda Pederson, and Barbara Smith. A heartfelt thank you goes out to each of our dedicated PC's!

MYRON GITNES-VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Derek Wiseman receives the Myron Gitnes Award for his commitment and dedication to the CASA program



Julie Gilman, Derek Wiseman, Karri Mirande

Derek not only advocated for 8 children, he is also the CASA Board of Directors' Liaison, Students for the Child tutoring program President, and involved in fundraising and outreach for the CASA program.

The Volunteer of the Year award, founded by CASA, is dedicated to Myron Gitnes. Myron was an attorney with Klamath Defender Services. He represented half of the children in dependency court at the time of his passing, and hundreds of children in Klamath County over the years. His advocacy on behalf of children was a sight to behold when he was in action. This

award honors the recipient who most reflects Myron's drive to defend the rights of all children and his collaborative spirit.

SPIRIT OF CASA AWARD

Jim Brown & Tim and Vicki Wieting receive the Spirit of CASA Award



Karin Hughes, Jim Brown, Karri Mirande

Instituted in 2016 as an annual recognition of a CASA volunteer, or volunteers who embody the spirit of the CASA program. These volunteers go above and beyond the standards for advocacy. They work tirelessly and



Tim Wieting, Sharon Ellis, Vicki Wieting

demonstrate to the community the hope and commitment CASA has to the betterment of foster children in Klamath County.

The spirit of CASA recipient engages the community through many avenues, such as the recruitment of advocates, assisting with special projects, and the seeking of additional program resources. Jim was instrumental in our Grid Art Project and hosted a Halloween fundraiser, just to name a few. The Wietings' raised funds for our Backpack Project and volunteer recruitment. We applaud each of you for your outreach and advocacy!



Panoramic view of Volunteer Appreciation luncheon 2016

CASA KID FUND This fund was started by our CASA, Derek Wiseman, when he asked his coworkers to donate their coffee monies. Derek and his Asurion co-workers continue to donate monthly, along with a generous grant from Sky Lakes. These funds have allowed us to send our CASA kids and children in the foster care system to camps, swim lessons, pay for sports

activities fees and equipment, computers, medications, clothing, and services not covered by insurance, and much, much more. Since its inception we have assisted 25 children and continue to work closely with our Advocates and DHS caseworkers to provide these activities and opportu-



nities to our kids. If you have an opportunity, such as a camp or program you think our kids would enjoy, please contact us @ 541 885-6017.



BACKPACK PROJECT The Backpack Project started this past year and has been quite a success. With several private donations, along with the Dutch Bros Backpack Drive for Foster Kids in December, we collected close to 100 backpacks. Each backpack contains a blanket (age and gender specific), a self-care kit, book or journal, a pair of pajamas, socks, mittens and hat, The Foster Children's Bill of Rights and DHS Foster Children Guide (age appropriate) and a stuffed animal. The lovely members of the Linus Project have made beautiful hand-made fleece blankets for each backpack. Members of the Klamath Dental Community, specifically Dr. Wedam and Dr. Tucker, donated toothbrushes and toothpastes and the OHSU/OIT Nursing students collected items for our self-care kits. We also received beautiful handmade hats and gloves from some very creative and generous artisans. The SMART reading pro-

gram donated books and we received stuffed animals from Portland. Thank you to all our donors for making these possible!

The CASAs take the backpacks at the time of their first meeting and we have also just recently provided some to DHS to utilize and distribute at the time of removal from the home. These have been a wonderful addition to our program and have been a big hit with our kids.



LOOK HOW WE'VE GROWN

Look how we've grown!



Children

FY 2014-2015

149 served

FY 2015-2016

238 served



CASAs

45 CASAs

25 Newly Trained

48 CASAs

21 Newly Trained



CASA Volunteer

633 Hours

1,043 Hours



CASA Volunteer

6,334 Miles

12,377 Miles

- *Children Served:** *The number of children our volunteers advocated for in the fiscal year; this includes active as well as those who have found permanent placement.*
- *CASA's:** *The current number of active advocates. Number may fluctuate due to attrition.*
- *Volunteer Hours:** *This number includes contact hours with the child, court time, travel, prep time and other time involved with advocating.*
- *Mileage:** *These are miles traveled by our volunteers and are not reimbursed by our program.*



CASA KIDS STORY

We here at CASA, are lucky to witness and be a part of happy endings for some of our foster children we serve. Recently, a long term sibling group of four, who had been in foster care 18—40 months, respectively, are living with their new "forever" parents. This loving

group of four siblings are overjoyed to be in full-swing of the adoption process.

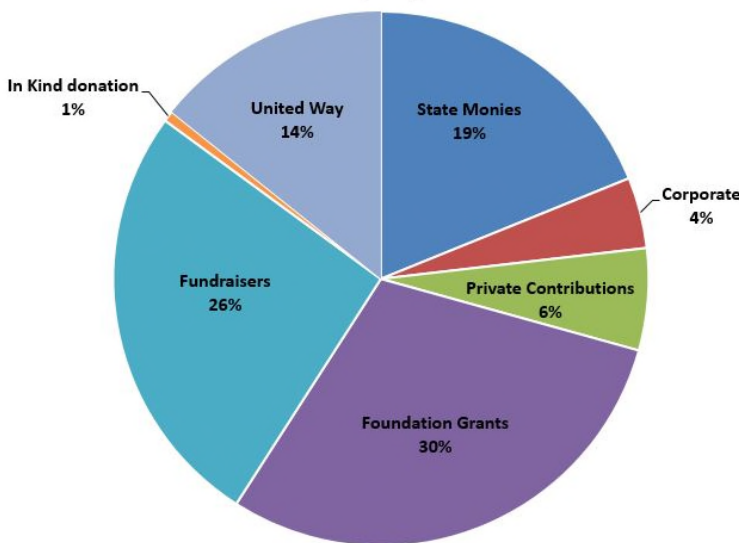
At one point, this sibling group was separated and lived in different homes due to the inability to find a foster home placement that could take all four children.

So we are enormously proud to announce, through the tireless work of CASA, DHS, and the courts, they will be able to have a future together free from their hurtful past in a safe and permanent home. We wish them lots of fulfillment and love!!

FY 2015-2016 Expenses
\$189,631.66



FY 2015-2016
Revenue \$174,674.41



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 of 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.



Karin Hughes
Development Director

We are so grateful to all of our generous donors. With their help we are serving more children than ever!

CASA has seen record levels of local support this past year. This funding is vital to our long-term stability. We appreciate the foundations that support our mission through grant funds, but this funding by its nature, and historically, is much less predictable, and has dropped from 56% to 30% this year. CASA's current strategic plan outlines the crucial goal to be less dependent on this funding. Our conversion to more local funding is also reflected in our expenses. It holds true for non-profits that "you have to spend money to make money," in the form of marketing dollars for increased public awareness of our important work, mission and results. Our increased marketing expenses this year resulted in a 17% increase in fundraised dollars. Last year we reported over \$61,000 in revenue over and above our total expenses. (This accounting is due to several large grants that we received late in the previous year.) As you can see, these dollars carried us through a reduction in revenue this fiscal year.

We value and appreciate every dollar we receive, and make every effort to economize and maximize these dollars to serve our local foster children. Fifty-four percent of our dollars are spent for direct services to our volunteer advocates through Recruitment, Training and Advocate Support. These direct services involve 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/Special Projects (17%), Program Support (15%), and Administrative (14%).

This year, we have also been able 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 page 3 to learn more about these special projects.)

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



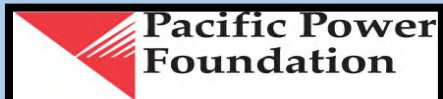
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WHEN COMMUNITY UNITES



THANK YOU KINGSLEY FIELD

U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Jared Boyer, the Kingsley Field Junior Enlisted Council President, presents a check for \$600 to Karin Hughes and Nancy Zarosinski, of Court Appointed Special Advocates which the JENC raised through the Kingsley Field Duathlon, Nov. 7, 2015. The JENC was able to present four different charities with equivalent checks through the funds they raised through this event.



CASA was a recent recipient of 5,000 dollars in support of our child advocacy, training, and volunteer recruitment efforts. Thank you Pacific Power Foundation for supporting Klamath's foster children!



Pictured from Left to Right: Dana Thompson CASA Program Coordinator, Todd Andres Pacific Power, Karri Mirande CASA Executive Director, Jeanette Rutherford CASA Board Secretary, Nancy Zarosinski CASA Program Coordinator.



Our first annual Casablanca Gala was a huge success! Featuring the Esquire Jazz Orchestra, Casino Room, Red Carpet, Plated Dinner, Dancing, and Flip Books Photo Booth!

Save the date: March 18, 2017



Members of Phi Delta Theta Fraternity



"We had such a wonderful time last night at the gorgeous Casablanca Gala!"

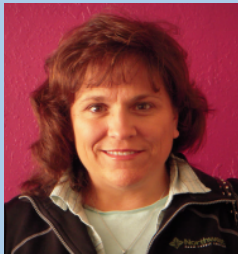


Photographs by Kelly Armijo—Armijo Designs

Volunteer Spotlight 2016



Master Sargent James Schols, has been a CASA volunteer since 2012 and successfully advocated for 4 children. He was instrumental in the success of the Kingsley Field Duathlon, of which CASA was a beneficiary, all while obtaining his Masters degree. James is also involved in the Boy Scouts, is a youth soccer coach, and active reserve at Kingsley Field. He and his wife have 4 busy young boys. We are lucky that he will remain a "Friend of CASA" and help us with future events. Thank you for your service.



Lori Fernlund has been a volunteer with CASA since 2011 and has served 3 children who have found their forever home. Lori not only worked full time at Northwest Farm Credit Services, she raised 4 beautiful, talented children who are now grown and graduated. She also was a dedicated Henley parent and baseball fan. Sadly for us she will be relocating to Baker City! We will certainly miss you, Lori...Thank You!



We'd like to welcome Janice Woodhouse as a member of our CASA Board of Directors. Janice and her husband, Walter, own Woodhouse Farming & Seed Company, a Woodhouse Company LLC. Janice is a very generous and active member of our community; she is a past president of Soroptimist International of Klamath Falls 2014-2015, and a member of the Favel Museum Board of Trustees. Janice's smile, energy, and enthusiasm are infectious!! We are excited and honored to have her as part of our team.



We're also happy to introduce our new CASA Board of Directors' Treasurer, Donna Shelley! She grew up in Klamath, graduated from Henley, and is currently a licensed CPA at Isler Group. Donna is involved with the Oregon Society of CPA's, and Girl Scouts, just to name a few. Donna brings a sense of calm, steadiness, and a wealth of knowledge to the board. We are excited she is part of the CASA family.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

If you have 8 to 10 hours a month you'd like to invest in a child's life by advocating for them to find a safe and permanent home, contact the CASA office for details at 541 885-6017 M-Th, 9 to 5 or go to www.klamathfallscasa.org



THE DREAM TEAM

Nancy Zarosinski, Lisa Carter, Karri Mirande, Dana Thompson, Karin Hughes



CASA Staff

Pictured from left to right



Original art created by local, home grown artist, Kami Ringulet 2014

Julie Gilman, Chair
 Jeanette Rutherford, Secretary
 Donna Shelley, Treasurer
 Dan Bunch, Judicial Liaison

CASA Board of Directors

Derek Wiseman, CASA Liaison
 Katie Harman Ebner, Board Member
 Tonie Kellom, Board Member
 Alison Martin, Board Member

Randy Paul, Board Member
 Justin Rodriguez, Board Member
 Janice Woodhouse, Board Member

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