

FEBRUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER

CASA for Children of Klamath County



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A NOTE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Happy February!

As always, we hope you are all staying warm and taking care of yourselves!

We're gearing up for all the changes happening at CASA this month. Many of you know Hannah Levine, who has been a CASA since 2022. I'm so happy to announce that she has joined our staff as our newest Program Coordinator! Hannah has been a dedicated advocate and foster parent and we're so excited she's joining the team. Welcome, Hannah!

I'm also delighted to announce that Yetty Akins, MD has joined our Board of Directors! Her passion for community and healthcare make her an incredible addition to our Board. Welcome, Yetty!

Unfortunately, Andrea Jensen, one of our long time Board members, is stepping away to spend more time with family. Thank goodness for us she promises to stay involved! She will be greatly missed.

As you may know, after much consideration, we are choosing to forego our beloved CASAblanca Gala in 2025. While CASAblanca is our largest fundraiser of the year and a much-needed night out for many Klamath folk, it takes nearly half a year of tedious preparation and arduous labor to bring to life. Instead, we will be focusing our efforts on recruiting and training as many CASAs as possible this year, as the children of Klamath County who desperately need our advocacy remain our top priority.

Q: Will CASAblanca ever return?

A: We have every intention of bringing the CASAblanca Gala back in the future, but for right now our objectives lie elsewhere.

If you're willing to take on another case, please let us know, as we'd like to decrease the number of children on our waitlist as soon as possible.

We appreciate all you do for our local children in care. Without your time and devotion, many would go unserved.

Stay warm and we hope you get to spend some quality time with those you love.

Warmly,

CASA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jeanette Rutherford
Board Chair

Jay Otero
Vice Chair

Pat Baldini
Treasurer

Brittany Montjoy
Secretary

Judge Roxanne Osborne
Judicial Liaison

Tammy Oates
Foster Parent Liaison

Yetty Akins

Noel Kersey

Doug McInnis

Justin Rodriguez



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

CASA FOR CHILDREN OF KLAMATH COUNTY

♥ STAFF & BOARD UPDATES ♥

STAFF



WELCOME HANNAH LEVINE

Hannah Levine lives in Chiloquin with her family and has been a dedicated CASA since May 2022, a role that inspired her to become a foster parent. Over the past seven years, she has worn many hats as an entrepreneur, building Ninja Mountain Bike Performance with her partner, Richard. In her free time, Hannah organizes the Chiloquin Youth Bike Club, works as a substitute teacher, loves exploring the outdoors, and is helping revitalize downtown Chiloquin.

Hannah has been a wonderful asset to our organization and we're so happy to announce she will be coming on part time as our newest Program Coordinator.

BOARD



WELCOME YETTY AKINS

Yetty Akins is a Board certified physician serving in the Klamath area since 2016. She is a passionate advocate for the most vulnerable patient population in our community, as reflected by her commitment and work with Sky Lakes Medical Center. Her passion for serving and making a difference in the lives of children in the foster care system compelled her to join the CASA Board of Directors. In her spare time, she enjoys traveling and reading.

With her health care expertise and deep love of community, we are so excited to introduce Yetty, the newest addition to our Board of Directors.

BOARD



FAREWELL ANDREA JENSEN

Andrea Jensen joined our Board of Directors in 2020. She has an undergraduate degree in Business Management from Purdue and she is an Air Force veteran. She loves improving our community, teaching fitness and yoga classes, and spending time with her husband, Geoff, and their three kids.

Over the past four years, Andrea has volunteered much of her free time to our various events. She and her family have dedicated many hours to our annual CASAblanca Gala every year, which is a huge undertaking in and of itself. Andrea has had an incredible impact on our program and she will be dearly missed. Thank you, Andrea!

2025 CASA Pre-Service Training

All training takes place online from
5:30PM - 8:00PM PST.



February Schedule

2/4	Chapter 1	Volunteer Role, Competencies, Parameters, Child Welfare Law/System
2/6	Chapter 2	Children's Needs, Attachment, MSL, Best Interest, Abuse and Neglect
2/11	Chapter 2.5	ACES, Communication, Interview, Effective Recommendations
2/13	Chapter 4	Mental Illness, Poverty, Confidentiality, Case Notes
2/18	Chapter 5	Substance Abuse, Culture, Diversity
2/20	Chapter 6	Domestic Violence, Culture and Perceptions, Advocacy
2/25	Chapter 7	Resilience, Concurrent Planning, Educational Challenges, Advocacy Across Ages, LGBTQ Youth
2/27	Chapter 8	Review, Local Documents, Panel of Volunteers, Support

Note: Training dates that land on holidays will be offered as independent study or makeup.

In addition to the virtual classroom sessions and some work on your own, prior to case assignment, you will need to have at least 3 court hearing observations and tour the DHS Office.

Virtual Hours: 20
Pre-Work Hours: 10

Dana Thompson

Outreach & Operations Coordinator
danat@klamathfallscasa.org



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

CASA FOR CHILDREN OF KLAMATH COUNTY



541.885.6017



klamathfallscasa.org



Klamath Falls CASA

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

Articles

- [*Respite Care: A Lifeline for Foster Parents and Children in Care**](#)
By Every Child Oregon
- [*Parenting a Child With Trauma: Resources for Foster Parents**](#)
By Foster Plus

Books

- [*All About Love: New Visions*](#)
By bell hooks
- [*In Pursuit of Love: One Woman's Journey from Trafficked to Triumphant*](#)
By Rebecca Bender

**Clickable Link*

Please remember to track your educational hours on Optima.

IMPORTANT DATES

February

- Black History Month
- Teen Dating Violence Prevention Month
- Family Empowerment Month
- 2/2 Groundhog Day
- 2/4 CASA Pre-Service Training Begins
- 2/14 Valentine's Day
- 2/17 President's Day

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2/26 Hannah Levine
Aja Phelps



541.885.6017
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