



# CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates  
**FOR CHILDREN**

CASA FOR CHILDREN OF KLAMATH COUNTY

## 2018 Newsletter

### WELCOME NEW ADVOCATES

#### Sworn-In August 2017



Left to right: Pam Olsen, Michael Pierson, Morgan Jones, Judge Adkisson, Shelley Buckingham, Tom Sims

#### Sworn-In November 2017



Left to right: Dana Thompson, Jennifer Tappan, Tony LaGreca, Christin Truong, Judge Adkisson, Nancy Zarosinski

#### Sworn-In February 2018



Left to right: Dana Thompson, Camille Wilcox, Andrew Sparkes, Jeremy Westover, Charlene Markgraf, Philip Perkins, Linda Sims, Tinaka Difani, Nellie Spicher, Judge Osborne, Lori Baley, Nancy Zarosinski

[www.KlamathFallsCASA.org](http://www.KlamathFallsCASA.org)

 **CASAKlamathCounty**

**541.885.6017**



# A NOTE FROM OUR DIRECTOR



**Karri K. Mirande**  
Executive Director

*Nelson Mandela, the former president of South Africa, once said “**THERE CAN BE NO KEENER REVELATION OF A SOCIETY’S SOUL THAN THE WAY IN WHICH IT TREATS ITS CHILDREN.**”*

*I believe this sentiment and I am in awe of Klamath County’s collective heart and willingness to ALWAYS rise to the occasion and assist those in need, especially its children. Whether it be donors and sponsors providing monies or services or volunteers giving of their time, the community of Klamath County continues to improve the lives of the neediest children amongst us.*

*This past year we reached a record high in the number of volunteers who provide advocacy and direct services to children in foster care. I am not only impressed but grateful, as our advocates are the heart and soul of our organization.*

*Team CASA has once again made some additions and changes to enhance the Recruitment, Training and Support of our volunteers. Nancy Zarosinski is now our full time Trainer and Recruitment Coordinator, Dana Thompson and Andrew Sparkes are our Program Coordinators and Lisa Marie Gerhardt continues as our Executive Assistant. This amazing team works tirelessly to support our advocates and enhance the quality of their advocacy. Thank you Team CASA!*

*I hope you enjoy this year’s newsletter and I look forward to another year where we provide quality advocacy and work to reach our goal of serving 100% of the children referred to our program!*

*Warmly,*

*Karri 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

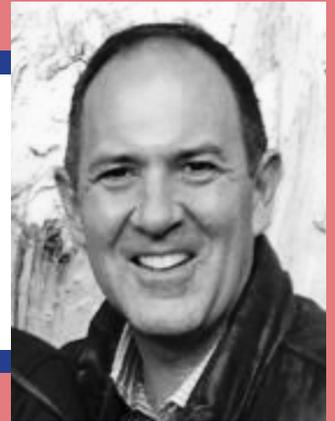


### **Misty Barney**

*Misty is our newest board member, joining in May of 2018. Misty grew up in Klamath County and has over 15 years of experience working in child welfare. Misty has two children and is very active in the rodeo and youth rodeos in Klamath County. She currently works for REACH as an Employment Specialist. Misty spends much of her time coaching YMCA sports, serves two committees for the Klamath Tribe, and continues to do contract work with DHS. We are so happy to have Misty join our Board of Directors.*

### **Doug McInnis**

*Doug has been an active board member since October 2017. Doug has a Bachelor's of Science in Animal Science and a Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine. Doug owns West & East Ridge Animal Clinic. He is an active member of the Oregon and American veterinary medical associations, Klamath Humane Society, Klamath Animal Control, and he is board member of Skylakes Medical Center. He and his wife Joy have lived in Klamath County for 30 years. They have two children and one grandchild. Doug is a generous board member, not only by giving his time but also by donating multiple items to our annual CASAblanca Gala. CASA is so excited to have Doug as part of our team.*



### **Jay Otero**

*Jay joined our board of directors in October of 2017. Jay is a long-term resident of Klamath County, having lived in the area for the past 33 years. He and his wife Diana have raised their children in Klamath and are actively involved in the community. During that time, Jay has been active in our community as a coach, mentor, and director at Klamath Basin Behavioral Health. Jay possesses a Masters in Education from the University of Portland and he has extensive training in cultural diversity and awareness. We are so lucky to have Jay as part of our CASA family.*



## STAFF

### **Andrew Sparkes**

*Andrew is our newest team member. Andrew started as a CASA advocate and transitioned into a Program Coordinator. He brings a vast knowledge of technology services and web design. Andrew graduated from Klamath Union and is an avid cyclist. He also loves theater and can be seen in local productions. Andrew, we are so happy to have you on our team!*



# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



John Adkisson & Barbara Smith

## Barbara Smith, CASA Volunteer of the Year

Barbara Smith is this year's CASA Volunteer of the Year. Barbara has been with CASA since 2012 and has provided advocacy for over 24 children. She is currently serving 11 children and is one of our Peer Coordinators, providing mentoring to our new advocates. Through her PC work she is assisting with seven additional cases. Barbara is always willing to step up and do more. We could not do what we do without her. Congratulations Barbara!

## John Adkisson, Spirit of CASA Award

John Adkisson received this year's Spirit of CASA Award. John has been an advocate since 2015 and has provided advocacy for eight children. Since 2017 he has also served as our Board of Directors CASA Advocate Liaison. John not only advocates for children and the board, but has been actively involved in recruitment efforts at the base and in the community and always assists with CASAblanca. He truly represents the Spirit of CASA. Congratulations John!



Giving runs in the Family  
Judge Marci Adkisson,  
CASA Advocate John Adkisson  
& CASA Intern Rachel Adkisson

## CASA Volunteer Appreciation Event



"ANYONE WHO DOES ANYTHING TO HELP A CHILD IS A HERO TO ME."

- MR. ROGERS

## 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.

541.885.6017

Mon - Thur, 9:00A - 5:00P

3



Save the date  
**MAR 16<sup>th</sup>**  
**2019**

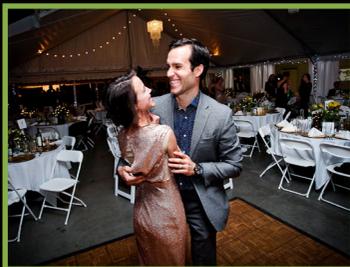
# THE THIRD ANNUAL **CASABLANCA** GALA

If you'd like to sponsor our fourth annual CASAblanca event,  
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:*



**Klamath Union  
Key Club**



**Green Diamond**



**KCC Badgers**



**Soroptimist**



**Phi Delta Theta  
Fraternity**



**Student Interns**



**Pacific Power**



**Knife River**



**OHSU Nursing  
Students**

# 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.*



**Klamath County  
Library Street Fair**



**Glassybaby**



**Red Nose Day**



**Scarecrow Row**



**Gifts for the Child**



**Third Thursday**



**OIT Pink Out**

# SPECIAL PROJECTS

## CASA KID FUND

*Our Casa Kid Fund continues to be a huge success. This past year we were able to provide over 150 foster children with activities and opportunities that have kept them engaged, active, and involved in school and extracurricular activities. The fund has paid for sports and music fees, sports equipment, bicycles, musical instruments, and a plethora of other items. Without Sky Lakes and Green Diamond, 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*



LIFE : HEALING : PEACE



## 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. 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.*

*West Family*  
foundation

# PROGRAM STATISTICS 2017-18



## Children

**263 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.

**140 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.



## CASAs

**58 Active CASA Advocates**

**17 Newly Trained CASA Advocates**



## CASA Volunteer

**824 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.



## CASA Volunteer

**5,924 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 we have reached our fundraising goals for the past two years. Next year our goal is to continue this positive trajectory in our local fundraising with expansions at our annual CASAblanca Gala and the 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. Partnership with Sky Lakes is helping keep our foster children safe, active, and healthy!*



**SKY LAKES**  
MEDICAL CENTER

# CASA ANNUAL REPORT

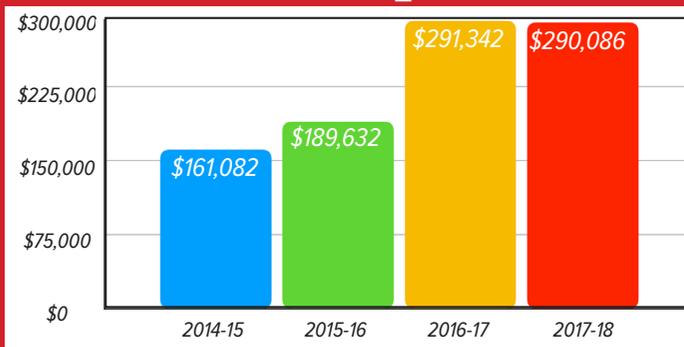
Last year, we were privileged to receive a two-year \$100,000 grant from Cascade Health Alliance (CHA) midway through our fiscal year. We reported that additional income within the 2016-2017 reporting, which had us \$53,236 above last years expenses.

Major program successes this year include the hiring of additional staff members, a website upgrade, a new data software collection system and upgraded printer. Sixty 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 direct services include special projects, 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 (16%), program support (8%), and administrative (16%). 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.

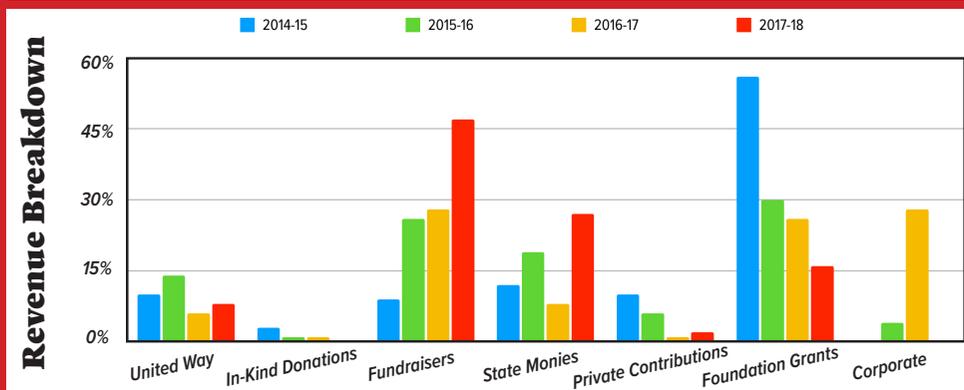
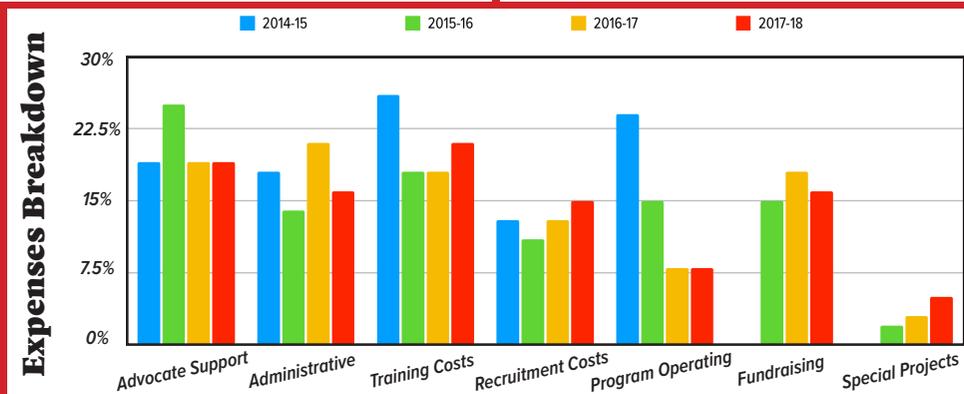
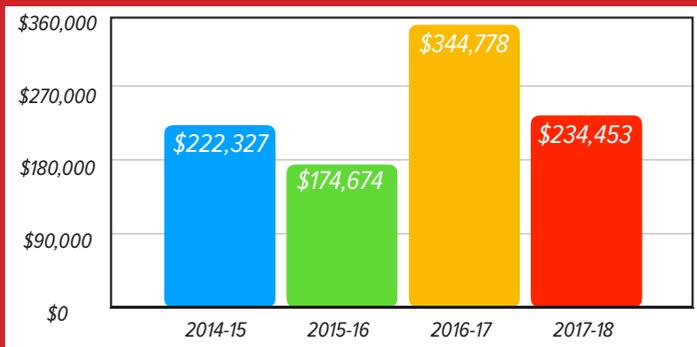
If you would like to learn more regarding sponsorship opportunities for the CASAblanca Gala (our annual fundraiser) or other ways to contribute or volunteer, please contact our office (541) 885-6017.

## Four Years at a Glance

### Annual Expenses



### Annual Revenue



# SPONSORS & CASA TEAM



## CASA Kid Story

*This year's CASA Kid Story involves two sweet girls, ages seven and five, who have been in the foster care system for over two years. During their journey they have switched placements five times and were often separated. Our CASA Advocate, in collaboration with others, worked tirelessly to make sure they had what they needed, including martial arts activities, but ultimately a safe and permanent home... together. In July they were placed in their "forever" home! The girls are very happy and thriving in their new home. They love swimming and took lessons this summer, both are currently learning a second language, and participated in the Princess for a Day Program. CASA is thrilled with this and many of our other success stories.*



## CASA TEAM

*Pictured from left to right*

**Nancy Zarosinski**, Trainer & Recruitment Coordinator  
**Lisa Marie Gerhardt**, Executive Assistant  
**Karri Mirande**, Executive Director  
**Andrew Sparkes**, Program Coordinator  
**Dana Thompson**, Program Coordinator  
**Jeanette Rutherford**, Board Chair

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*KaMi*  
kami  
mirande | visual  
designs  
kamimirande@gmail.com



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Phone: 541-883-3010 Fax: 541-273-1081

Email: shastalitho@yahoo.com

401 South 6th Street  
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General, Thoracic & Vascular Surgery

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