



**CASA of Central Oregon  
2022 Impact Report**

Dear Friends,

A CASA is consistent and persistent. That is how one of our wise CASA volunteers describes her role advocating for children in foster care. Court Appointed Special Advocates, CASA volunteers, show up steadily and reliably for the children they serve, advocating faithfully during the child's time in foster care. The CASA continues to show up for a child regardless of whatever is going on in that child's case or the world.

**Because of you, 381 Central Oregon children had a CASA volunteer to advocate for them.** With your support, 173 volunteers made sure that each of those children had a voice in the community and in the court system. The positive impact for these children cannot be overstated. Thank you.

The next twelve months will bring fresh challenges and exciting opportunities. Together we will continue to ensure that children in our community who have experienced abuse and neglect are connected to caring adults. We will make sure that each child's individual needs are not lost within the system.

We will give each child a voice during their time in foster care.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heather Dion". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Heather Dion, Executive Director

# Families Under Pressure

## The Impact a CASA Can Have

Emma and Brandon were not safe at home. They loved their parents, but their parents fought a lot, especially when they used drugs. Their dad got angry and violent. Their mom struggled with mental illness. When they fought, they got loud and violent. Emma and Brandon hid in their room. Police and child welfare workers had visited several times as things got worse. Finally, it got so bad that Emma and Brandon were removed from their home and put in foster care. That is when they met their CASA, John.



As a CASA advocate, John is trained and ready to step in and advocate for Emma and Brandon. He traveled for six hours each month to visit Emma and Brandon in person at their foster home and see how they were doing. Through this, John gained a deep understanding of what the kids wanted and needed. John connected with all the adults in the children's lives, consistently meeting teachers, doctors, and counselors so that he could advocate on behalf of the children's best interests.

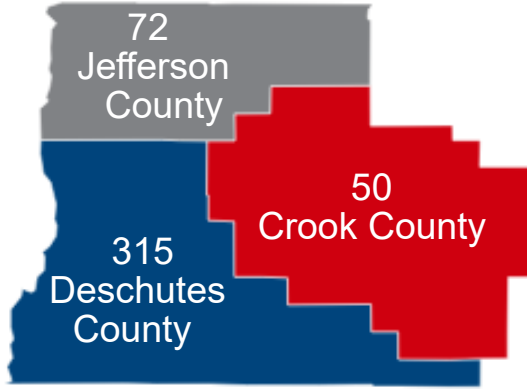
The relationship John built with Emma, Brandon, and their mom was critical in determining when it was safe for the children to return home. John met Emma and Brandon's mom where she was and guided her, in a meaningful way, as she engaged in treatment for her substance abuse and mental health needs. John helped the family receive the support they needed, for as long as they needed it. Then, John advocated in court for the case to close when Emma and Brandon were safe and home, reunited with their mom.

# Our Impact by the Numbers

July 1, 2021 - June 20, 2022

437

Children who spent time in foster care in Central Oregon



## Impact Snapshot:

43

New CASA  
volunteers sworn in  
by a judge

173

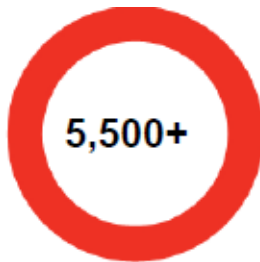
CASAs advocating  
for children in foster  
care

381

Children served by  
a CASA in Central  
Oregon (87%)



Hours CASAs  
Dedicated to  
Casework



Community and  
legal contacts  
by CASAs

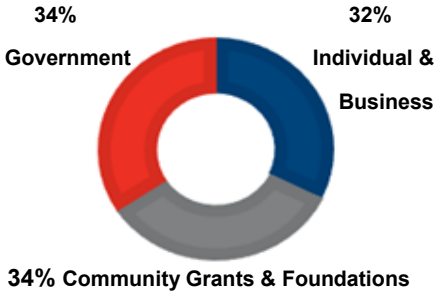


Average Length  
Of Volunteer  
Tenure (Years)

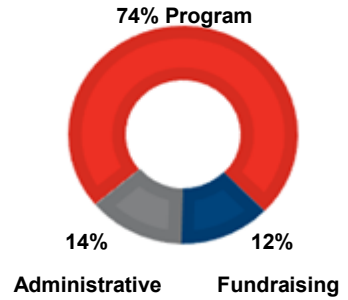
# Financial Information

July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

## Total Revenue



## Total Expenses



## Building Families Up: Reunification

The majority of children exiting foster care are reunited with their families. We know that children experience trauma when separated from their family and, when safely possible, it is in a child's best interest to remain with their family. In Central Oregon, 60% of cases closed with children reuniting with at least one biological parent. CASA volunteers are partners that help identify what support a parent needs to be successful and report on the child's needs during reunification.

## **Our Vision**

All children have the inherent right to be safe, to be treated with dignity and respect, and to learn and grow in the safe embrace of a loving family.

## **Our Mission**

CASA of Central Oregon is a nonprofit organization that recruits, trains, and supports volunteers who advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children in the court system.

CASA volunteers work in the courts and throughout the community with key agencies, legal counsel, and community resources to ensure that every child in foster care in Central Oregon can transition into a safe and permanent home.

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