



Providing hope for children in foster care.

2021 Impact Report

Dear Friends,

As I reflect on the last year, I am humbled by the commitment that CASA volunteers have for children in foster care in Central Oregon. The pandemic brought very real challenges for our organization, our volunteers, and, most importantly, the children we serve. Children in foster care have already experienced profound disruption and change. In the past year, they have experienced isolation and disconnection as school, court proceedings, and services like therapy appointments were either cancelled or moved online as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic heightened the critical need for CASA advocacy for children and youth in foster care.

Our volunteers rose to the challenge. Over the year, 176 CASA volunteers gave more than 10,000 total hours to advocate for 356 children. Volunteers attended virtual meetings and court proceedings, they ensured that youth received services despite pandemic closures, and advocated for a safe and permanent home for every child. They continued visiting children in the safest ways possible, including over Facetime and Zoom, socially distanced, and while wearing masks. CASA volunteers continue to be the most consistent adult in a child's life during their time in foster care. Their work has never been more vital.

I am grateful for your continuing support. On behalf of the children and youth we serve, thank you.

Heather Dion, Executive Director.

Heather Dion

Our Impact by the Numbers

In Central Oregon From July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021



176

Volunteer CASA's who advocated tirelessly for children in foster care.



50

New volunteers who completed trauma-informed training and sworn-in as CASAs.



407

Local children entered foster care in our tri-county area due to abuse or neglect.



122

Children reunified with their biological parents or moved into safe, permanent homes through adoption or guardianship.

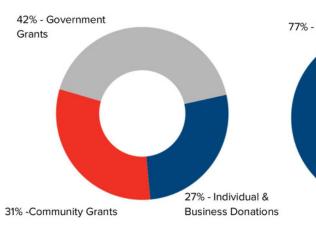


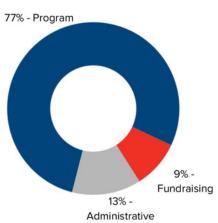
Financial Information

Fiscal Year July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021











Dylan's Story

Showcasing how a CASA volunteer is making a difference

Dylan and his baby sister Eliana lived in a car with their father. They didn't always know where they would move to, when their father would become violent, or who he might would leave them with. Dylan was just three but he had been subjected to violence and trauma. When he entered foster care, he was developmentally behind and barely spoke any words.



Dylan and Eliana met their Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA), Kathy, after moving into his third foster home. As Kathy got to know the children she saw active kids who were "full of life." Even though they moved between several different foster homes, Dylan and Eliana were thriving during their time in foster care. Kathy met with the children at least once a month, watching as they grew and developed. She saw that their father was not visiting with them and did not make any changes to his dangerous and unstable lifestyle. Kathy advocated in court that Dylan's father lose his parental rights, so that the children could be legally free for adoption.

The Smith family wanted to add to their family through adoption. When they learned about Dylan and Eliana, they knew that they wanted to adopt the children. Kathy visited them at the family before the adoption was finalized and reported to the judge, "CASA is thrilled that Dylan and Eliana are now living in a warm loving 'Forever Family'. They are sharing family life in a supportive home that is helping them grow. CASA and the parents know that the trauma that the children have experienced will take lots of love, time, and counseling to help them grow into their new life." Thanks to the support of his CASA, Dylan is growing up in a stable, loving home, and receiving the support that he needs to thrive.



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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 court.

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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