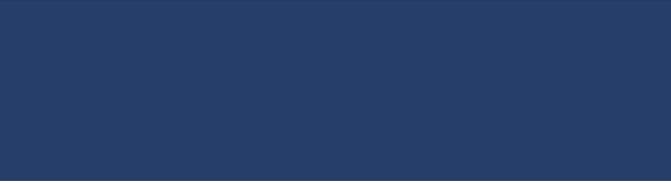


2020

Impact Report



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.

Dear Friends,

From all of us at CASA, we hope you and your family are staying well during these challenging times. Life as we know it this year has been a roller coaster ride. The current national health pandemic has impacted businesses and individuals and especially our community's most vulnerable members, children in foster care. Children are the smallest victims as families struggle under stress, schools move to online learning, and community support services are harder to access. Caring, consistent adults in a child's life are crucial to their success in life and growth.

CASA volunteers are even more important than ever.

Thanks to your support, 180 CASA volunteers advocated for 368 children in foster care last year. They made sure that children who have experienced abused and neglect have a voice in the courtroom and in the community. CASA volunteers took steps to ensure that children received the resources they needed to heal and thrive. **Even as so many things have changed, CASA volunteers continued to be the consistent and caring adults in children's lives.**

We do not know what the future holds, but we know that the future of children in foster care will be better because they have a CASA volunteer on their side. Your support ensures that more children will have this gift in the year ahead. Now, more than ever, I am grateful that we are united to give a voice on behalf of the children in foster care in Central Oregon.

Thank you for caring deeply, and giving generously for abused and neglected children in foster care in Central Oregon. Stay well, wear your mask, and keep caring.



Heather Dion, Executive Director

Your Impact by the Numbers!

From July 1, 2019—June 30, 2020 in Central Oregon:

368

Children served by a
CASA volunteer



168

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



180

Volunteer CASAs who
advocated tirelessly for
children in foster care



99

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



47

New volunteers who
completed trauma-
informed training and



“Liam is a very independent six-year-old who appears to be able to take care of himself.” This note stood out to Jenn, a new CASA volunteer, as she was reading Liam’s DHS case file. She knew immediately that she wanted to advocate for Liam. Jenn knew that a six-year-old child should not have to be independent and take care of himself.



Liam’s mother, homeless and addicted to drugs, often left him with her friends and acquaintances. His birth certificate did not list a father. Liam’s mother mentioned that she thought her ex-boyfriend Chris was Liam’s father, but he had moved out of Central Oregon before Liam was born.

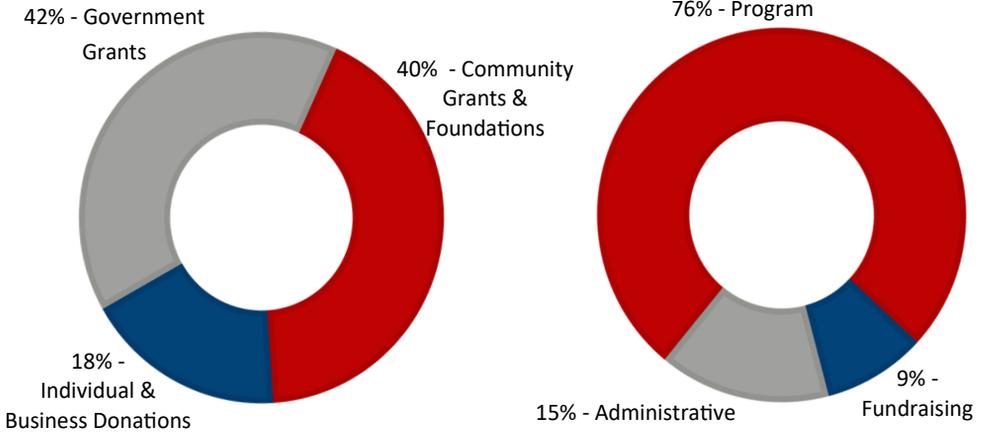
Jenn spent time with Liam. He loved school and told Jenn very proudly that he was friends with his entire class. Jenn connected with his foster parents, teachers, and therapist and became his voice in the courtroom. His mom rarely showed up for visits and Liam did not have any other family. He really was by himself, taking care of himself, at age six.

Jenn advocated for DHS to find Chris and ask him to take a paternity test. It was a longshot, but she felt strongly that Liam should have the chance to have a father. The test proved that he was indeed the father. Liam & Chris talked regularly and began visits. Jenn was impressed by how quickly Chris became a part of Liam’s life. Liam told Chris all about his soccer team and Chris started going to games to cheer for Liam.

Chris knew that he needed help to be a single dad so Jenn worked to find after-school care, sign Liam up for swimming lessons, and get furniture for his new bedroom. Liam lives with his dad now and has stability. Jenn says that most satisfying feeling in the world is knowing that this “independent” little boy has someone to take care of him forever. **This is the power of a CASA in a child’s life.**

Financial Information for Fiscal Year

July 1, 2019—June 30, 2020



Real Advocacy with Virtual Visits

Social distancing did not stop CASA volunteers from advocating for children in foster care.

- * Children and volunteers stayed connected over phone calls, video chats, and mailed letters.
- * Volunteers appeared by telephone and video to give children a voice in the courtroom.
- * New CASA volunteers were trained online and sworn-in by video.





Board of Directors

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CasaOfCentralOregon.org

Deschutes Co.: 541-389-1618 | Crook Co.: 541-447-7220 | Jefferson Co.: 541-475-9426

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 in collaboration 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.