

# CASA of Central Oregon

## 2017 Impact Report

*Giving a Voice to Children in Foster Care*





Dear friends,

This year, you gave 399 vulnerable children the power of a CASA volunteer. Because of you, these local children had a voice inside and outside the courtroom, which means they had better access to services and were more likely leave foster care quickly for a safe and permanent home. Thank you.

A CASA volunteer's work is vital. The cases are complex and children's lives are at stake. Volunteers come back day after day, year after year, to advocate for children who do not have another adult to speak for them.

The work is more important than ever. A child in foster care in Central Oregon will have, on average, four different caseworkers, and three different foster placements, **but just one CASA volunteer advocate.**

*The CASA volunteer is often the only consistent adult in a child's life during his or her time in foster care.*

We could not do this work without you. Thank you for your continued generous support. You are making a positive impact on the lives of children in foster care.

With gratitude,

Jenna App

Executive Director

CASA of Central Oregon

# Hurting to Happy: A story of CASA Advocacy

Trenton missed his parents. He didn't like it when they used drugs, but he still loved them. When he went into foster care, he had to move. Trenton couldn't focus at his new school.

His little sister Tierra missed her mom and didn't understand why they didn't see her very much. Tierra had a lot of ear infections and cried at night with pain.



In the family court system, Trenton and Tierra were just two of hundreds of children to be managed by a DHS case worker and a judge. But Barbara, their Court Appointed Special Advocate, or CASA, knew that these kids were more than just a number. They were unique and special children with specific needs. Without Barbara's care and advocacy, they could get lost in the system.

Barbara regularly met with everyone in Trenton and Tierra's lives, including their foster parents, birth parents, and therapists, to give a full report on the children to the court. She advocated for the kids outside of court, attending parent-teacher conferences and enrolling Trenton in after-school activities. When Tierra's doctor recommended that she get tubes in her ears to treat her chronic ear infections, Barbara followed up with the paperwork to get the procedure approved and scheduled.

While Barbara watched the kids grow and learn, she also saw their mom working to get her life back on track. When their mom left her abusive partner and created a stable home, Barbara recommended to the court that the children should be reunited with their mother.

Not long ago Barbara visited Trenton and Tierra in their new home. Trenton was smiling and doing well in school. Tierra showed off her new room and hadn't had an ear ache in months. Their mother gave Barbara a hug and thanked her for being there for the kids. Barbara left knowing her advocacy had helped an angry boy and a hurting girl transform into two happy, healthy children.

From July 1, 2017—June 30, 2018 in Central Oregon:

*Because of You...*

# **399 children in foster care had the powerful voice of a CASA**

151

CASA volunteers changed  
children's lives every day

506

Children spent at least one  
night in Central Oregon's  
foster care system



171

Children were placed in  
safe, permanent homes  
when their cases closed

7

Average age of a child in  
foster care in Central  
Oregon

8,192

Hours that volunteer  
CASAs spent advocating  
for children

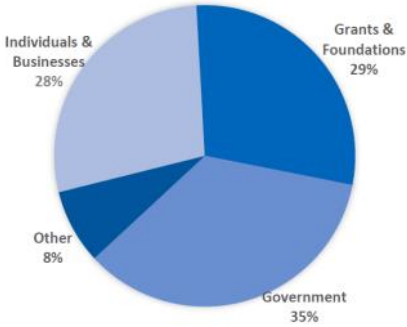


65,492

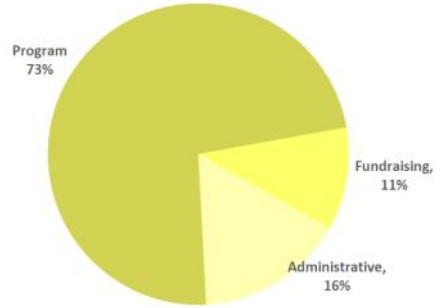
Miles that volunteers  
drove to visit and advocate  
for kids

# Financial Information for Fiscal Year 2017

Total Revenue—\$518,129



Total Expenses—\$487,998



## *A child with a CASA:*

- ◆ Spends less time in foster care
- ◆ Is less likely to re-enter foster care
- ◆ Is more likely to be adopted
- ◆ Does better in school
- ◆ Is more likely to receive the services that they need to heal from trauma

Oregon State law says that a CASA should be appointed to every child in the child welfare system.

But this statute is not fully funded. *If CASA of Central Oregon relied on state funding to serve children in foster care, only 10% of children would have had an advocate in 2017. **Because of community support, 79% of Central Oregon children had an advocate last year.*** Even with our generous community, 107 children did not have their own advocate and were

## 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 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.



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**CasaOfCentralOregon.org**

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