



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

CASA OF JACKSON COUNTY, INC.

www.JacksonCountyCASA.org

541.734.2272

409 N. Front St.

Medford OR 97501

CASA of Josephine County

www.JoCoCASA.org

541-474-5486

384 NW D. St.

Grants Pass OR 97526

Board of Directors:

Marco Boccato, President

Jackson County Deputy
District Attorney

John Watt, Vice President

Government Relations
John Watt & Assoc.

Amy Zarosinski, Treasurer

CFO Rubicon Investments

Shirley Johnson, Secretary

Retired Business Manager

Erik Carlson, Past President

Rogue Credit Union. AVP

Jacob Ansuere

Marketing Manager, Seven Feathers
Casino and Resort

Shane J. Antholz, Attorney

Hornecker Cowling LLP

Jim Berryman, Current CASA

Retired Physician

Amy DiCostanzo, Owner,

Papillon Rough/La Strada Boutique

Dann Hauser

Carpe DM Marketing. President
Camelot Theater, Executive Director

Bruce Laidlaw, Current CASA

Retired Attorney

Jim Wright

Retired Executive

Jennifer Mylenek

CASA Executive Director, non-voting



March 18, 2019

To State of Oregon Legislators:

This letter is in support of legislative funding for Community Family Court (CFC) and the Oregon Department of Justice for continued administration of treatment courts. CFC has provided a practical response to parents who struggle with substance abuse and/or child neglect by applying a method of support and accountability provided by relevant community partners and Community Family Court Judges. Working with parent/s in this manner helps them find healing and success, diverting them from incarceration and diverting children from foster care by keeping families together. The healthy outcomes to families because of the treatment court system are immeasurable, but the cost savings to foster care and the corrections systems are also more than significant.

The following are two examples I want to share with you.

A CASA Volunteer commented: CFC is so important for the family. It provides the wrap-around services and monitoring the families need as they get their kids back and are so new in recovery. I appreciate it as a CASA because everyone is at the table and talking about everything affecting the family's stability in great detail. The families are supported 360 degrees. Susie Wahl (CFC Coordinator) and our Judges do a fantastic job motivating the family and building their healthy support network alongside them. Every case should be in Community Family Court.

A family's personal story at graduation from CFC:

"Thanks for everything you do. Here is the story of two heroin addicts and the unbelievable story of survival is a true miracle because of people like you. I had zero chance of survival and I survived ☺ our son's prognosis of cerebral palsy. I had 14 years of heroin addiction, overdoses, infections, facing prison...because of people like you, this (success) was possible. No judgment from the start and believing in something that could never happen...but you did. Thank you!!! We love our baby and love life and know how precious it is and the second chance we have been given. We will work to do more good in our sober life and pay it forward."

The success stories are abundant, thanks to the special dedication and effort of our Judges and so many others. The success stories give us all renewed hope and remind us why we enlisted in this work to begin with. I hope you will support this request that will provide for the continued success of treatment courts in Oregon.

Respectfully,

Jennifer Mylenek
Jennifer Mylenek

Executive Director

CASA of Jackson and Josephine Counties

Mission Statement



The mission of CASA of Jackson County is to utilize the strength of our highly trained volunteer advocates to be the voice for abused, neglected and vulnerable children who are wards of the court and are in need of nurturing, safe and permanent homes. CASA of Jackson County is a 501C3, non-profit organization. Tax id: 94-3215621. No goods or services were given in exchange for this donation.