



CASA of Lane County

Annual Report July 2020-June 2021

Our Mission:

**Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Lane County** is a powerful voice for children who are in the child welfare system due to abuse and neglect.

re-sil-ience

1. the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties; toughness
2. the process of adapting well in the face of adversity, trauma, tragedy, threats, or significant sources of stress

2020 was a year for **resilience**, a year to model what the children we serve **embody** every day of their lives. A year to rise above adversity and persevere.

We are grateful to our community for supporting our vital work during this trying year. Please enjoy reading about the **resilience** of CASA - the volunteers, staff, board and children.

**Thank you for your support!**

[Donate Now](#)

2020

by the numbers

460

children had the powerful voice of a CASA volunteer

120

children with CASA volunteers exited the child welfare system into safe, permanent homes

260

CASA volunteers provided 17,563 hours of advocacy

37

volunteer Peer Coordinators supported those advocates

59

new CASA volunteers were sworn in



1st annual

# OVER THE EDGE

May 21 & 22, 2021

presented by:



## OAKWAY CENTER

hosted by:



## HYATT PLACE



Alex Korth, VIP Rappel



The Rappel!

If a picture is worth a thousand words, these photographs say it all!

On May 22nd **twenty-five brave community members** – including the Duck and Sluggo – rappelled from the top of the **Hyatt Place at Oakway Center** to raise money and awareness for **CASA** and for abused and neglected children.

Every “edger”, ranging in age from **11 to 76 years old**, chose to be **courageous like the children we serve**. We were grateful to have Robb “Robo” Holloway, our emcee / DJ as he brought the **ENERGY** to the Oakway Center Plaza while friends, family and shoppers cheered our brave “edgers” Over the Edge!

**Over the Edge Global** has done more than 1,000 events all over the world and we are so grateful for their experts that came to run our event, along with our top notch **OTE Rope Team** and incredible volunteers!

**"Helmet" Sponsor**  
KPD Insurance

**"Landing" Sponsors**  
Hyatt Place  
Kendall Cares  
KEZI

**Duck rappel sponsored by:**  
Selectemp

**"Edger" Sponsors**  
Olsson Industrial Electric  
Triple Oaks Realty  
Roger & Sheila Cox  
Highfill Media  
BrandSafeway

**Tech team lunch provided by:**  
Café Yumm



volunteer Rope Team



Ken Price, KPD Insurance



Amy Newport, Team Kendall Cares



Alan Linhares, CASA & board member



Robo & "DJ" Duck



11 year old Brice Zetlmaier with dad Joel



70 year old CASA, Bobbe Burkhalter



Duck with a view!



Duck with a lead!



Scaffolding on the roof



OTE Nick, Elena & Troy with CASA's Michele



Go Sluggo!

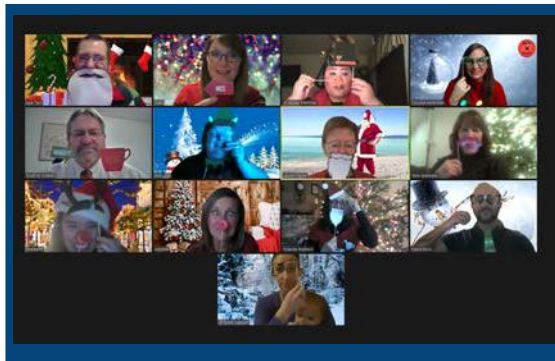
## Save the Date: June 24 - 25, 2022 for OTE 2.0



# Highlights

## ZOOMing Staff Holidays

The CASA staff seen here during their virtual holiday party. Staying connected while apart was important to TEAM CASA. Thanks to the **FUN committee**, each had a goodie bag for the party including props for the group photo. Just one reason why CASA was once again selected to the **100 Best Non Profits to Work For in Oregon**.



2 little girls, ages 5 & 7 with

2 bio parents  
7 grandparents

4 judges

9 DHS case workers

11 addresses

2 churches

5 schools

8 teachers

5 doctors

3 dentists

4 counselors

4 physiological evaluations

13 court dates

8 citizen review board meetings

2 ER visits

1 seven day hospital stay

5 mediators

4 times taken away from parents and

**1 CASA**

Scott Cottrell has been a CASA advocate for 10 years and was a Peer Coordinator briefly before joining the staff as a CASA Supervisor in 2019.



Art work by Kolby, age 9. Drawn to show how he felt safe in his new permanent home.

## Tribute Tree

2020 - 2021 CASA Tribute Tree honorees: Kristin (CASA/PC & current board member/past board president) and Eric Forrest (sponsor/donor), Jane Gilbert (donor), Linda McCarthy (CASA/PC), Ike Olsson/Olsson Electric (sponsor/donor) and Pete Drakatos (donor).



These recipients have made significant impacts on the mission of CASA of Lane County with their selfless service and contributions and we are deeply grateful for the legacy they're creating.

A leaf for each of them with their names has been placed on our Tribute Tree, located in the Training Room at CASA. We plan to honor them with a ceremony at a later, appropriate date.

## Be A Hero For Children VIRTUAL Event

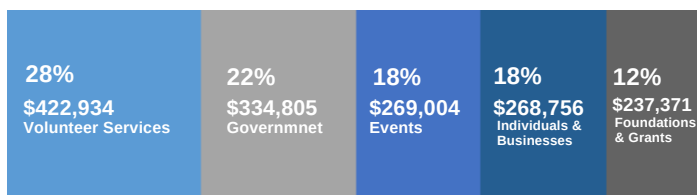
made possible by:



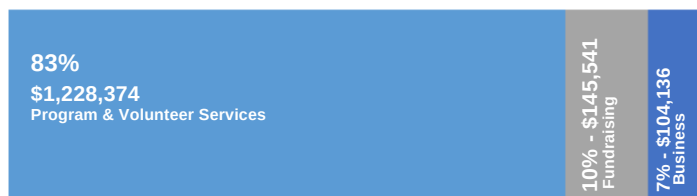
master of ceremonies: Niel Laudati, CASA Board President  
with guest speakers: Sara Stankey and Chelsea Matthews  
with video featuring CASA: Janet Smith  
and CASA youth: Cassandra Benway



## Revenue & Community Support:



## Expenses:



## Financials

Last year 260 CASA advocates contributed 14,819 hours, valued at \$422,934 by the Bureau of Labor and Industry.

The volunteer hours equate to just over 7 full-time staff members.

This in-kind service is listed in both income (what they give in time translated into a dollar amount) and expense (what it would cost us to provide the same advocacy without their gift of time).



# Our Amazing Advocates

## CASAs

Kimberly Adams  
Ayomide Ademorijimi  
Audrey Alvarado  
Cynthia Anderson  
Dustin Anderson  
Megan Anderson  
Rachiel Areyan  
Leslie Arnold  
Kerry Ayres-Palanuk  
Eileen Babbs  
Shannon Baker  
Kristine Barker  
Michelle Barth  
Cheryl Bergevin  
Barbara Berkley  
Teri Berlant  
Debra Bink  
Dale Bixler  
Nicole Bolton  
Anna Bornstein  
Lori Braaten  
Robert Brew  
Sara Brownmiller  
Bobbe Burkhalter  
Karen Burling  
Annalise Burrington  
Jennifer Burt  
Christine Butler  
Nancy Cameron  
Carly Cannon  
Caroline Carpenter  
Dianna Carrizales-Engelmann  
Tamara Cellers  
Paul Cesmat  
Yu-Bin Cho  
Sonji Comey  
Katy Conlin  
Michelle Cordon  
Scott Cottrell  
Gina Crafton  
Charity Crosby  
Elise Crum

James Curtiss  
Gail Cushman  
Elizabeth Custer  
Lauren Dame  
Carolyn Daniels  
Cilka Daniels  
David Davini  
Terril Dean  
Veronica Diaz Carrai  
Chrissa Dockendorf  
Stephen Downey  
Amanda D'Souza  
Michelle Duncan  
Dawn Easley  
Brian Erickson  
Shiela Ericson  
Anuncia Escala  
McKenzie Evans  
Cara Fallon  
Laura Fenimore  
Peter Flier  
Tammy Fonseca  
Bruno Francia  
Darci Francia  
Tanya Fresquez  
Joshua Gates  
Connie Gienger  
Dale Gilad  
Sarah Gill  
Stephanie Gonzales  
Thomas Gregersen  
Kelly Hall  
Jean Harman  
Drew Harrington  
Jennifer Harris  
Leigh Hawes  
Michael Hawley  
Katherine Hecker  
John Helmer  
Marilyn Helton  
Rick Henson  
Christy Hernandez

Dawn Hiaasen  
Allison Howard  
Maia Howes  
Maryl Ice  
Pamela Irvine  
James Jamieson  
Travis Johannes  
Dawnja Johnson  
Martin Johnson  
Natalie Johnston  
Yasmine Kahvaz  
Talon Kennedy  
Emily Kenyon  
Susan Kizer  
Elizabeth Kline  
Rachel Knighten  
Charles Lachman  
Sue Landis  
Elise L'Estrange  
Alan Linhares  
Becky Lombard  
Patrick Lucas  
Martha MacRitchie  
Sarah Madrone  
Katelyn Marks  
Jennifer Marsh  
Jacqueline Martinez  
Hannah Marzocco  
Deborah Mason  
Linda Mattoon  
Laurie McCaskill  
Margot McDonnell  
Brian McMurray  
Ellen McQuilkin  
McKenzie Meline  
Linda Miller  
Marilyn Milne  
Janet Mitchell  
Gloria Mmari  
Sandra Moen  
Kyra Montgomery  
Brenda Moore

Gabrielle Morse  
Thomas Moseman  
Janet Neal  
Keith Neill  
Kody Nguyen  
Timothy Olguin  
Amy Olsen  
Kathylee On  
Deborah Owen  
Jason Owens  
Laurie Parrish  
Cameron Passmore  
Ellen Pavlosek  
Joanne Pedersen  
Virginia Pedersen  
Christine Perlow  
Ralph Peterson  
Jane Poe  
Linda Potter  
Jessica Price  
Susan Rasmussen  
Tara Reich  
Jolayne Reichstein  
Tina Rinaldi  
Jocelyn Rivera  
Janice Rode  
Angela Ruiz  
Jeanne Ruiz  
Daniel Russell  
Glenn Saari  
Sue Saint Onge  
Maryellen Sarrica  
Jonathan Schwartz  
Stephen Sheppard  
Dorothy Shiloh  
Alysha Shipley  
Janet Smith

Julie Smith  
Ronald Smith  
Stuart Smith  
Lisa Spears  
Rebecca Stafford  
Alison Stanton  
Tami Stebbeds  
Christian Steele  
Jenae Steele  
June Stevens  
Kassia Strunk  
Teresa Stubblefield  
Suzanne Taylor  
Chloe Teplick  
Della Thomas  
Theresa Thompson  
Bonnie Todis  
Matthew Tomashek  
Linda Trombly  
Christine Turk  
Barbara Tussing  
Jenny Vondracek  
Lisa Wallace  
Melissa Wanker  
Danielle Ward  
Kelley Watkins  
Arthur West  
Kai Williams  
Candice Wilson  
David Wilson  
Ashley Winter  
Diana Wise  
Emily Yates-Pollard  
Debbie Zeek  
Jessica Zetmaier  
Heidi Zumburum

## Peer Coordinators

Michelle Almond  
Jack Armstrong  
Matthew Barton  
Gail Culbertson  
Christine Cunningham\*  
Gwynn Daniels\*  
Beth Eldridge  
Rebecca Fetrow\*  
Kristin Forrest\*  
Ashlei Fraser\*  
Tracie Gonyea\*  
Corinne Hazzard\*  
Meg Hicks\*

Tim Johnson\*  
Nancy Jordan\*  
Amy Kari\*  
Joel Korin\*  
Sandra Ludeman\*  
Marsha Lytle\*  
Linda McCarthy  
Mary McLellan\*  
Jaylynn Milstein\*  
Jan Montry\*  
Duane Morgan\*  
Kitty Murdoch\*  
Wendy Popp\*

Katherine Roberts\*  
Paige Sharpe  
Robin Spears\*  
Claire Sylvain\*  
Joyce Thomas\*  
Peter Thurston  
Christine Tony\*  
Tiffany VanderZanden  
Timothy Vignos\*  
Luke White\*  
Alexa Young-Mills



"Anyone who does anything to help a child in his life is a hero." *Mr. Rogers*

\*PC plus carried their own case



# A Year of Resilience

## Looking Back

The challenges posed by COVID-19 have been numerous and daunting. But with every pivot, we remained focused on providing the **highest quality advocacy** to children who needed CASA more than ever. Knowing that **children, families, and judges are counting on us** to be fearless and tireless in our advocacy for children's best interests, CASA has, at every turn, endeavored to rise to the occasion no matter the circumstances.



Our **amazing volunteer advocates** exemplified creativity and flexibility as they navigated new ways of connecting with their youth and ensuring their safety. Our dedicated supporters never wavered in their commitment to our work during a time of crisis. We stayed **laser focused on our mission** to help give Lane County's abused and neglected children the bright futures that they deserve.



Over the course of a few days in March, of 2020 we adapted our services to meet the changing needs we saw before us. It was evident to us that the concrete needs faced by the children and families we serve were dramatic, as unemployment, lack of child care, and shuttered schools meant **immediate and drastic impacts**.

Just twelve days after COVID-19 was declared a pandemic, we took our volunteer training, recruitment, and screening efforts completely online and were grateful to see community members eager to become CASA volunteers. Our volunteer **advocates showed remarkable inventiveness** to build rapport with children virtually, and we **increased our efforts to keep kids safe** and to help family placements stay together. Generous supporters made it possible for us to sustain the high quality of our advocacy for children's best interests even through the compounding trauma of a pandemic. **CASA showed up** when children and families needed us most. CASA advocates remained the consistent, stable, and caring adult presence that so many children needed more than ever.



Winter 2021 virtual class of newly graduated CASAs

## Thank you to our Foundations

- Bill Healy Foundation
- Central Lutheran Foundation
- Chambers Family Foundation
- Community Lending Works
- Cottage Grove Community Foundation
- Eugene Active 20/30 Foundation
- First Story and Hayden Homes
- Ford Family Foundation
- Herbert A. Templeton Foundation
- JE Fehsenfeld Family Foundation
- Juan Young Trust
- McKay Family Foundation
- National CASA Association
- OnPoint Community Credit Union
- RBC Foundation
- Serbu Fund of OCF
- Spirit Mountain Community Fund
- Umpqua Bank Charitable Foundation
- United Way of Lane County
- Washington Federal Foundation
- Western Lane Community Foundation
- Wheeler Foundation
- Windermere Foundation
- Woodard Family Foundation



[Donate Now](#)



# Our Generous Supporters 7/1/20-6/30/21

## **\$20,000+**

Eric and Kristin Forrest  
N.B. Giustina Foundation  
Chris Storment and Kelly Beckley

## **\$10,000-\$19,000**

Oakway Center  
First Story / Hayden Homes  
Andy Storment  
David & Pamela Davini  
Elizabeth Holden  
CBT Nuggets  
PenFed Credit Union  
West Side Iron

## **\$5,000-\$9,999**

Olsson Industrial Electric  
Steven & Lisa Korth  
Roger & Sheila Cox  
Springfield Community Parade Corp  
Dr. Daniel & Christy Sheerin  
Ambient IT Solutions  
Besemann Valentine  
David Capps  
Dari Mart  
Evergreen Roofing of Oregon  
Industrial Source  
Joyce Pappel-Kimura  
Reynolds Specialty Contracting  
Steven & Linda Sogge  
Faye and Lucille Stewart Foundation  
Summit Bank

## **\$2,500-\$4,999**

Dan & Johnna Charbonneau  
Tina Ray  
Dowl LLC  
Christopher & Dena Valentine  
Bigfoot Beverages  
Chris Duyck  
PlyVeneer Products  
Joseph & Margaret Adelsberger  
Gordon & Gail Culbertson  
Jim Harrison & Lauren Fuller  
Michael Horwitz  
Selectemp  
Dr. David & Jill Niles  
David & Gail Bakke  
Heidi Saunders  
Columbia Bank  
Aggregate Resource Drilling  
Mario & Holly Mar Conte  
Farwest Steel Corp.  
Franz Family Bakeries  
Kernutt Stokes  
KPD Insurance  
Douglas & Mollie Lefevre  
PeaceHealth

## **\$1,000-\$2,499**

Bill & Tracy Whalen  
Darcee & Stacy Slonecker  
Albert B. and Jean E. Hallstrom Fund  
of OCF  
Silvan Ridge Winery  
Umpqua Bank  
Niel & Demian Laudati  
Theodore Utley  
Eric & Patty Allen  
Coach Glass  
Hershner Hunter  
Jerry's Home Improvement  
Kendall Automotive Group  
Paul Nagai & Tori Beyer  
Oakmont Family Dental  
State Farm Companies Foundation  
Robert & Cheri Weeks  
Eric Geyer  
Papa's Pizza  
Cindy Wedmore  
Eris Conflict Resolution  
Judy Lacock  
Haley & Greg Lyons  
Lee & Allace Plummer  
Jeff Todahl & Gwyn Bachtle  
Connie & Harry Wonham  
Dr. Grace Richter  
Thermo Fisher  
Wayne & Susan Kizer  
Jennifer King  
Dr. Richard & Susan Abraham  
Kris Engel Kartub  
AiG Corporate  
Brian & Michelle Almond  
Matthew & Jacquelyn Barton  
Chambers Construction  
Amy & Ross Kari  
Jessie Jo Curtin  
Gleaves Swearingen  
Niles & Mary Ann Hanson  
Kathleen Hoeg  
David & Marian Jacobs  
Jim & Eileen Jamieson  
Emmy Jenson  
Sydney & Paul Koh  
Lane Forest Products  
Dr. Jae & Jae Lee  
Laurie Leece  
Lewis Luchs  
Bruce & Diane Manchester  
Nancy Miller  
Jaylynn Milstein  
Oregon Community Credit Union  
Monica & Tom Osborne  
Jeri Scharpf  
Dave & Rachel Schiffer  
Catherine Manz & John Smith  
Scott Springer  
The Tamolitch Fund of OCF  
Triple Oaks Realty

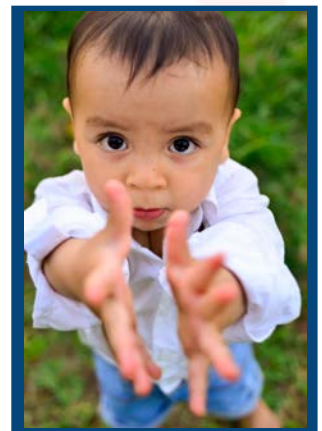
## **\$500-\$999**

Lane County  
Amber Frank  
Sandra Larsen  
Kappa Alpha Theta  
Alan Linhares & Olivia McClelland  
Meredith Nelson  
Linda & James McCarthy  
Colleen & Steve Thompson  
Dave & Norma Driskill  
Darryl & Cassandra Dare  
Jeff & Amy Singer  
Debra Sullivan  
Nancy Garboden  
Bonnie Gutierrez  
Bobbe & Don Burkhalter  
Keith Crudgington  
Patrick & Lynda Keating  
Charity Crosby  
Diane Hauser  
Sofia McManus  
Dennis & Yvonne Mikkelsen  
Cary & Erin Richardson  
Lyle & Theresa Thompson  
Thrivent Financial  
Shae Donnelly  
Jane & Mark Gilbert  
Diane Hazen & Michael Axline  
DeAnn Mathison  
Byron & Andrea Penn  
Ken & Suzanne Price  
Gerald & Veronika Walton  
Dale & Jennifer Hartley  
Roseburg Forest Products  
Dr. Marv & Carol Berkman  
Elsa Bevan  
Lorrie Boyer  
Rick Brathovde  
Glenn & Renee Buchanan  
Joe & Cindy Couey  
Corporate Autodesk Foundation  
David & Kristi Crowell  
Michael & Fran Curtis  
Sharon Duncan  
Dutch Bros  
Melissa Edwards  
ES & A Sign and Awning Co.  
Eugene Disc Golf Club  
Steve & Mary Gaughan  
Jim & Patricia Ginger  
Shayne Hamel  
Rick & Amanda Gardner  
Dave & Bobbi Hyland  
Allen & Nancy Kibbey  
Penelope & Donald Kimball  
Steve & Cyndy Lane  
Brick & Lissy Lantz  
John & Marina Mlynczyk  
Victor & Shelly Nobert

## **\$500-\$999 (continued)**

Mark Ouellette  
Precision Capital  
South Lane Television Inc.  
Randy Turnbow & Martha Rice  
Barbara Whittington  
Neal & Yvonne Zoumboukos

**We wish we had room  
to acknowledge each  
and every donor here!**



## **ways to GIVE**

The supporters on this list gave in a variety of ways to best fit their needs -- both in fulfilling their desire to make an investment in our community and in the benefits they may receive for their philanthropic giving.

These ways include, but are not limited to:

- Monthly Giving
- Retirement Account Assets
- Bequests
- Stocks

Check with your financial advisor to discuss the best way for you to give!

*List does not include purchases of event tickets or registrations, auction item purchases or in-kind donations. Every effort was made to ensure the accuracy of this list. Please accept our sincere apologies for any errors or omissions.*



# 17th annual VIRTUAL Casino Night February 24-27, 2021

presented by:

# CBTnu**o**ets

with honorary chairs:



**Matt & Hollan McLaughlin**



**Jeb & Heather Andrus**

Casino Night exhibited resilience with a huge VIRTUAL success and our **THIRD** best fundraising event **EVER** raising over **\$204,000!**

Zoom Casino game rooms, a virtual wall of wine, raffles AND a virtual silent auction that benefitted local businesses and abused and neglected children gave our guests a LOT to take a gamble on!

Thanks to our clever Casino Night committee for their creative pivoting and planning, our dedicated sponsors who stood by us and of course, our incredibly generous community for "logging on" for the children!

**"Full House" Event Feature Sponsors:**

- Bigfoot Beverages
- Farwest Steel
- Jerry's Home Improvement
- KPD Insurance
- Selectemp Employment Services
- Kernutt Stokes
- Franz Family Bakeries
- Columbia Bank
- Peacehealth
- Dari Mart

**"Blackjack" Banquet Sponsors**

- A-1 Auto Glass
- Hershner Hunter
- Oakmont Dental
- Umpqua Bank

**"Wild Card" Game Sponsors**

- Attic Media
- OCCU
- Gleaves Swearingen, LLP
- Lane Forest Products
- Chambers Construction



**Casino Night LIVE** was a HIT because we have the BEST trio of emcees, our talented and dear friends of CASA - Matt Templeman, Liz Kelly and Matt Hogan. Gratitude to our gracious hosts for the livestream, Oregon Trail Council, BSA and Scott Impehoven.



Casino Night LIVE "tech team" Kody Nguyen, Michele Morgan, Debi Bone, Kristin Forrest, Diane Hauser and Alan Linhares.



Featuring emcees: Matt Templeman, Liz Kelly and Matt Hogan

**"Straight Flush" Title Sponsors:**



OAKWAY CENTER



REYNOLDS | KEVIN COHEN | ACCURATE  
ELECTRIC INC | PLUMBING INC | UNDERGROUND INC



SUMMITBANK

**"4 of a Kind" Wine Wall Sponsor:**



**Media Sponsors:**



**Special thanks** to our Casino Night Committee:

- Shirley Braunstein, Norma Driskill, Kristin Forrest, Lisa Korth, Shannon Pendell and Darcee Slonecker

## Save the Date: Friday, February 4th, 2022

## 2020-2021 Board of Directors

Niel Laudati, *President*  
Jesse Howes, *Vice President*  
Jeff Singer, *Treasurer/Secretary*  
Mario Conte, *Past President*  
Roger Cox  
Rhea Cramer  
David Davini  
Kelsey Davis  
Kristin Forrest  
Lisa Korth  
Alan Linhares  
John Mlynczyk  
Bill Whalen  
Noah Zepeda  
Diana Burnett, *Recorder*

## 2020-2021 CASA Staff

Heather Murphy  
*Executive Director*  
Michele Morgan  
*Development Director*  
Diane Hauser  
*Business Manager*  
Kyle Tarr  
*Program Director*  
Kelsey Martinez  
*Program Director*  
Michelle Almond  
*Volunteer Coordinator*  
Kody Nguyen  
*Training Coordinator*  
Lauren Dame  
*Training Coordinator*  
Debi Bone  
*Operations & Retention Coordinator*  
Lisa Russell  
*Family Finding Specialist*  
Brenda Nepute  
*Intake Coordinator*  
Chrystal Kellerman  
*CASA Supervisor*  
Yolanda Mulhern  
*CASA Supervisor*  
David Ross  
*CASA Supervisor*  
Tami Stebbeds  
*CASA Supervisor*  
Scott Cottrell  
*CASA Supervisor*  
Danielle Ward  
*CASA Supervisor*

## message from the board



Over the past 20 months our community has faced incredible challenges; challenges which were amplified for youth in the foster care system. Throughout a global pandemic and devastating forest fires, CASA volunteers and foster families, experienced increased trauma and loss adding to already difficult situations. However, as these struggles continue, our volunteers and staff members have shown incredible resiliency in their ability to adapt and work towards recovery.



I am so grateful to our staff, volunteers and board members for their strength and commitment to the children suffering abuse and neglect. I'm also humbled by the response of our community members who supported CASA with extraordinary generosity, which helped sustain our organization and our ability to serve 460 children in the face of tremendous adversity.

Challenges will continue, but CASA's mission remains solid - giving children a powerful voice through advocacy for what they want and need to be in permanent and safe homes.

Thank you for your continued support, it is appreciated.

All the best,

Niel Laudati

**over 1,000**

children across Lane County  
spent at least one night in  
the Child Welfare system.

*while CASA provided advocacy for 460, just over 40% received advocacy.*

Thank you for your support.

[Donate Now](#)

follow us:



[casa-lane.org](http://casa-lane.org)

