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Too many children in the child welfare system loose their families, their rights and their hope.

Join our fight to make sure they don't.

In 2011 CASA of Douglas County

- Provided advocacy for 301 children, compared to 254 in 2010. This is 53% of children who needed an advocate.
- 14 new advocates were trained and received their first cases.
- 57.6% of advocates served on two or more cases.
- 78 volunteer advocates collectively donated 7,850 hours valued at \$147,354. Our cost to serve one child was \$868.
- Other CASA volunteers (board members, office volunteers, etc.) donated 1052 hours valued at \$19,746.

In Douglas County

- 463 children have been in foster care at least once during the past year.
- 296 children were victims of child abuse, with 55% of victims under the age of six.
- Children are in the system an average of 28 months before placement in a permanent home.
- Childhood poverty rates are on an upward trend, having increased 14% in 2010 and averaging 50% higher than the rest of Oregon.

In Oregon

- A recent General Accounting Office (GAO) report documented that staff shortages, high caseloads, high worker turnover and low salaries have a negative effect on delivering services to children.
- Current caseworker caseloads average 24-31 children, compared with maximum effective caseloads of 12-15 recommended by Child Welfare League of America.

CASA of Douglas County
1000 SE Stephens Street
Roseburg, Oregon 97470



I am for this child.



I am for the child...



I am for the child who has attended six schools in four years. Because she has been in five different foster homes. Because her mother, debilitated by drug use, neglected her. I am for her. The child who doesn't understand what is happening. Who now sits, surrounded by strangers who don't know her name, in the back of yet another class. Failing. Because she is without glasses and can't see the chalkboard.

I am for that child. To listen to her. To stand up in court for her. To speak for her. To champion without compromise for what's in her best interest. Because if I am there, she is twice as likely to get out of foster care and into a safe, permanent home.

That is the child I am for. I am a Court Appointed Special Advocate volunteer.

CASA of Douglas County 2011 Annual Report

Letter from Executive Director, Susan Knight

2011 has been a year of challenge and innovation for CASA of Douglas County. The challenging part has been the alarming increase in the number of foster children in our community—today there are more than 375 children compared to 280 eighteen months ago. The innovative part is a strategic plan to build sustainable capacity while carefully “right-sizing” our budget to one that Douglas County can support over time.

We are meeting the challenge by implementing several changes. Three new programs (see box at right) will expand our capacity to advocate for more children, while keeping our budget from growing and providing opportunities for community support.

We are lucky to have the generous, ongoing support from you, our donors, who provided more than 24% of our budget in 2011. There are many other ways to support our mission. “Women Working Wonders” is a new group whose mission is to be the community “voice” for our advocates. Upcoming in August is our annual ladies fundraising event. And I encourage anyone who is interested in learning more about our advocates to attend Dependency Court with one of us—you will come away with an understanding of the impact our volunteers have on the lives of children. As always I welcome any calls from community members who have ideas or questions about CASA (541-672-7001).

I sincerely thank our supporters for helping us be innovative in the face of challenge. Providing a CASA volunteer for every child in Douglas County who needs one is not just a dream. **With your continued support you can help make it a reality.**

Gratefully,




“Thank you for your help. It is such a joy to have you as a CASA. I can trust you. You really make a difference for the kids and you make my work easier/better rather than otherwise.”

Email to a volunteer advocate from DHS/Child Welfare Program caseworker

INNOVATION MEETS CHALLENGE: CASA’S NEW PROGRAMS IN 2011

PEER COORDINATOR MODEL: In our current program model our ability to increase services has been limited by staff capacity. For every 30 CASA volunteers, we have needed to fund one staff supervisor to support the volunteers. The ever-increasing number of new cases necessitates continual expanded funding of new staff.

In our new model, we will be able to serve more children each year by training seasoned, experienced CASA volunteers to support other CASA volunteers. Our current volunteers have responded favorably to this shift and our first peer coordinators are slated to supervise our next class of new advocates, greatly increasing our ability to serve more children without adding paid staff.

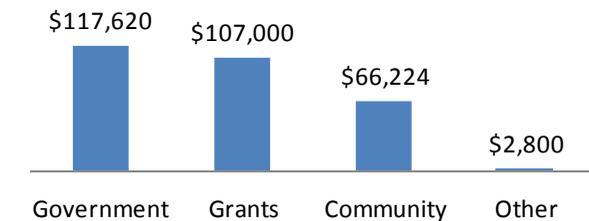
This new model will reduce the cost of advocacy while maintaining our high level of service to children. During the first year we will have four peer coordinators and be able to serve 20 more children with no increase to our budget (saving more than \$35,000).

KIDS IN COMMON: Committed to making the most of our community’s resources to provide effective prevention and intervention, CASA of Douglas County has partnered with Family Development Center and Douglas C.A.R.E.S. to form Kids In Common. The collaboration is working closely with Child Welfare in a coordinated effort to provide wrap around services to vulnerable families in our community, with a specific goal of reducing foster care.

WOMEN WORKING WONDERS: This newly formed group is a dedicated circle of CASA supporters who act as connectors and advocates of the CASA mission by sharing our story with friends, family and professional organizations, helping to build more community awareness. The first meeting was well-attended and the group plans to meet quarterly.

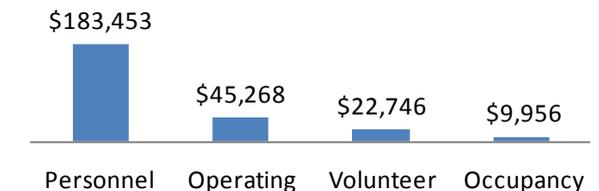
FY 2010-2011 Income

Total \$293,644



FY 2010-2011 Expenses

Total \$261,423



Lift up a child’s voice. A child’s life.