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*New CASA Advocates*

**SWORN IN MARCH 7, 2025**



Left to Right: Mary Wolf, Shelby Parker, Jeff Andrews, Julie Jeffries, Tricia Hirschboeck, Jill Hobson, Judge Hoppe, Daniel Swartz, Fran Bull, Julie Barry and Kim Wisnovsky.

*Infant Supply Drive*

*Supporting local children!*



Crater High School ASB's Service Committee has chosen to run a donation drive May 1-23, 2025 in order to provide infant supplies for CASA. This drive will collect supplies such as diapers, toys and other essentials to help infants in foster care. We unanimously decided to have the drive for CASA because we are aware of the meaningful work and good that this organization does and its impact on the community. As a team, our goal is to help as many people in our community as we can and this donation drive is one way we can give back.

Donations may be dropped off at Crater High School, attn: ASB Committee, or directly to CASA at 409 N. Front Street, Medford

For questions, please contact Mackaylin at Saunders10264533@district6.org



## COMMUNITY HOPE



Jennifer Mylenek

I heard a story that filled my heart, and I want to share it with you. One of our staff members was ordering food at a local restaurant, her CASA name badge clipped to her shirt. The person taking her order noticed and paused. Then, with a spark of recognition, she began to share a piece of her past—a story nearly two decades in the making. She told our staff member that she had a CASA. Well, actually, her daughter had a CASA. But as is often the case, it felt like the CASA was hers, too. Back then, she was a young mother fighting for a better life. Every morning, she walked two miles to take her daughter to daycare, then caught the bus to her new job. At the end of the day, she made the same long trek back—picking up her daughter, returning to her sober housing, and doing it all over again the next day.

Through it all, her CASA stood beside them—offering support, encouragement, and an unwavering belief in their future.

Today, all these years later, she still has that job. She still keeps in touch with her CASA. And her daughter?

Her daughter is attending SOU.

This is why we do what we do. Because sometimes, the steady presence of one caring adult can change the course of a life—and, in this case, two.

*J Mylenek*

Jennifer Mylenek,  
Executive Director and Child Advocate

### Volunteer:

Digital informational sessions are available!  
Email: [CASA@jacksoncountycasa.org](mailto:CASA@jacksoncountycasa.org)

### Donate:

[www.jacksoncountycasa.org](http://www.jacksoncountycasa.org)

### Support:

Interested in hosting a drive or third party event?  
Contact: [ecarpenter@jacksoncountycasa.org](mailto:ecarpenter@jacksoncountycasa.org)



## Board of Directors

Jim Wright, *President*  
Kyle Pace, *Vice President*  
Amy Zarosinski, *Treasurer*  
Shirley Johnson, *Secretary*  
John Watt, *Immediate Past President*  
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Jennifer Mylenek, *Executive Director*

## CASA Staff

Jennifer Mylenek, *Executive Director*  
Cristina Petrone, *Program Director*  
Erin Carpenter, *Development & Media Manager*  
Sarah Beth Wright, *Development Associate*  
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Caitlin Stainbrook, *Data Specialist*  
Cassie Strickland, *Case Supervisor*

## APRIL IS NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH



Keeping children safe by supporting families and reporting suspected abuse or neglect is everyone's responsibility. This call to action is not just for families and those who work on behalf of children; rather, it is the sounding of an alarm to the mail carrier, delivery person, grocery store clerk, pastor, drug store cashier, teacher, and next-door neighbor. Join us in keeping a safe, watchful eye on our children.



Oregon Child Abuse Hotline:  
855-503-SAFE (7233)

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

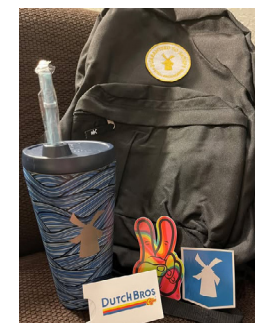


If you are interested in volunteering and supporting CASA, there are many opportunities for people within our community to show support for the children we advocate for. Workplace and school drives, groups of friends, neighbors, dinner clubs, families and individuals can all make an impact by hosting a fundraising drive. We are always in need of diapers, clothing, educational and sensory items, various school supplies, art supplies, etc. CASA has a 100% community supported fund for summer camps, music and swim lessons, karate and school sports trips.

We also love to have packaged gifts for teenagers and gift cards to allow them to shop on their own, see a movie, etc. Over the holidays, we had sponsors put together movie and coffee themed baskets for teens and they were celebrated. There are no words to describe the thoughtful impact they had on an age group that is often forgotten.

In addition, if you are creative and talented at putting themed gifts together, Auction season is approaching in May and June and we need gift baskets and silent auction items!

If you have questions, an idea to share or are interested in planning a specialty drive, please contact Erin Carpenter at [ecarpenter@jacksoncountycasa.org](mailto:ecarpenter@jacksoncountycasa.org) or at 541-734-2272.



## JOIN US FOR A CASA INFORMATIONAL SESSION



Every Thursday  
12-1pm  
ZOOM

Interested in becoming a CASA Volunteer but want to know more?

Register to attend one of our weekly informational sessions



C Court  
A Appointed  
S Special  
A Advocates

[www.jacksoncountycasa.org](http://www.jacksoncountycasa.org) | Email: [casa@jacksoncountycasa.org](mailto:casa@jacksoncountycasa.org)

## HAPPY ENDINGS



We love to share celebrated success stories of happy endings, especially happy endings directly attributed to the dedication and devotion of a CASA volunteer! This is the story of two siblings, now age seven and three, coping with years of living in a meth-house, domestic violence and foster care.

As required by Oregon State law, DHS did everything they could to reunify the family over the years, working with community partners to heal the family unit and placing the children with family friends when on and off parental chaos that often accompanies drug addiction occurred. During the process, two years passed by. Then CASA Robert stepped into the picture. Within 15 months, the children were adopted by close family friends, stepping into a safe, healthy permanency.

This story exemplifies why there are CASA's assigned to cases, providing another pair of trained eyes collecting and reporting information, facilitating services, advocating in court. This is a unique service opportunity because CASA's go one-on-one with the child, one child at a time. It is not a job for everyone. As we often say, "We're looking for tough softies."

Today there are over 200 "tough softies" on the job in Jackson County – we appreciate and celebrate each one of them.