



## VOICES for CHILDREN

COLUMBIA GORGE CASA  
PO BOX 663  
1308 12th Street  
Hood River, OR 97031  
541-386-3468  
www.gorgeCASA.org  
Like us on Facebook!

### MISSION

The mission of Columbia Gorge CASA is to advocate for the best interests of children in foster care in Wasco, Hood River and Sherman Counties.

### VALUES

- » Child centered decision making.
- » Expedited processes to minimize child trauma.
- » A safe, loving, permanent home for each child.
- » The profound impact that well trained and supported community volunteers can have on the lives of children.
- » Honorable and respectful involvement in the child welfare system, with the courts and all parties.
- » Inclusiveness, diversity, respect for all cultures and ethnicities: for children, families, volunteers, staff, Board, and supporters.
- » Excellence in all our endeavors.

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Our Newest CASA Volunteers with Judge John Olson at their Swearing-in Ceremony on 11/1/18

## COLUMBIA GORGE CASA

### – PROGRAM OVERVIEW –

Last year, almost 200 children in Wasco, Sherman and Hood River counties suddenly found themselves in foster care. These children were removed from their home because of abuse & neglect resulting from exposure to substance abuse, criminal behavior, violence, unstable housing, inconsistent health care and/or parental mental health issues.

Foster care is a rough road to walk down alone for a child, but Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteers walk with them and act as a much-needed voice during this traumatic time. They ensure that the child is receiving needed health, education, and social services by reporting their findings and recommendations to the judge and working closely with DHS case workers, teachers, healthcare providers, counselors, and foster parents. They work to ensure that the child's legal case progresses so that they are placed in a permanent, loving home as soon as possible. Perhaps most importantly, CASAs serve as a consistent adult for that child during their time in foster care.

Columbia Gorge CASA is the only program authorized by the court to recruit, train and supervise community volunteers to advocate for kids in foster care. Last year, 55 CASA volunteers advocated for 142 children in Wasco, Hood River and Sherman counties, but 45 children did not have a CASA because more volunteers are needed.

### – GIVING OPPORTUNITIES –

It costs Columbia Gorge CASA just \$900 to provide a CASA volunteer to a child for an entire year. Community investment in local CASA programs saves thousands of dollars in federal, state and local government expenses. It is an effective program of well-trained and supported court-appointed community volunteers stepping forward to deliver greater government efficiency and significantly improved outcomes for our community's most vulnerable children.

**WE WELCOME YOUR SUPPORT!**

#### VOLUNTEER

Join our dedicated community of volunteers and advocate for a local child in foster care! Our winter training begins January 26th. Call today to begin the application process.



#### DONATE

**CAN'T BE A CASA VOLUNTEER?  
DONATE TO CASA SO OTHERS CAN.**

- » **2018 CASA Annual Appeal** – Double your donation during our largest fundraiser of the year. All donations received during the month of December 2018 will be matched by a generous donor!
- » **CASA Playhouse Raffle** – This spring, support CASA by buying a CASA Playhouse Raffle ticket
- » **Planned Giving**- Give CASA an enduring foundation by contributing to the CASA fund within the Gorge Community Foundation or include CASA in your estate planning.
- » **Corporate Giving**- Like Hattenhauer Distributing, collaborate with CASA in a visible and meaningful way by sponsoring one of our fundraisers or develop a CASA employee match program.