



VOICES for CHILDREN

COLUMBIA GORGE CASA

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MISSION

The mission of Columbia Gorge CASA is to advocate for the needs and well-being of children in foster care through professionally trained and supported community volunteers.

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Our newest casa volunteers with Judge Karen Ostrye at their swearing in ceremony- 11/6/19

COLUMBIA GORGE CASA

– PROGRAM OVERVIEW –

This past year over 165 children in Wasco, Sherman and Hood River counties found themselves in foster care; removed from their homes because of parental substance abuse, criminal behavior, violence, mental health issues, and/or medical neglect.

Foster care is a rough road to walk down alone, but CASA volunteers walk with each child and act as a much-needed voice during this traumatic time. CASAs ensure that the child is receiving needed health, education, and social services by reporting their findings and recommendations to the judge and by working closely with DHS case workers, teachers, health-care providers, counselors, and foster parents. Finally, they advocate 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 often serve as the only consistent adult for the child during their time in foster care – a time when little else is consistent.

Columbia Gorge CASA is the only program in Wasco, Hood River and Sherman counties authorized by the court to recruit, train and supervise community members to advocate for foster kids. This year, 56 CASA volunteers advocated for 130 children, but 35 children did not have a CASA because we did not have enough volunteers.

– GIVING OPPORTUNITIES –

It costs Columbia Gorge CASA less than \$1,000 to provide a CASA volunteer to a child for an entire year. It is an effective program of well-trained and supported court-appointed community members 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 9, 2020. Call today to begin the application process.



DONATE

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

» Can't be a CASA volunteer? Donate so that other's can.

» 2019 CASA Annual Appeal – Double your donation during our largest fundraiser or the year. Donations received during the month of December will be matched by a generous donor!

» CASA Playhouse Raffle – This coming spring, support CASA by buying a CASA Playhouse Raffle ticket. Curtis Homes will build the playhouse, which will have a black and white contemporary farmhouse theme.

» 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- Be like Hattenhauer Distributing and collaborate with CASA in a visible and meaningful way by sponsoring one of our fundraisers or develop a CASA employee match program.