



What's Best for the Children?

Two children, a dad in jail, a mom hooked on meth, and an aunt who wants the children but might not have the energy to raise them. Over the next two years, I would come to know them very well.

I'm Dave DeHaven, a volunteer with Yamhill County Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). I live in Newberg and I've been a CASA volunteer for nine years. I've worked on seven cases.

After accepting this case, I began reading the material in the file provided by the Department of Human Services. I learned the children's father was in prison once again for domestic violence and substance abuse. The children's mother used drugs, too, which is why their second grade son was placed in foster care with the dad's aunt.

The mother was asked to complete parenting classes and stay off drugs. She could do neither. After their second child was born, mom took off. The baby was also placed with the aunt.

The aunt had always been involved in the family. Although she was in her mid-60s, she was in overall good health, she loved the children and she wanted to raise them.

Here's what the Department of Human Services needed to know: Could the mother or father put their lives back together and become active parents? And if not, could this older woman handle the permanent job of raising young children?

I closed the file folder. I decided to begin by talking to the children, the father, the aunt...and the mother, if I could find her.

– To be continued on Saturday –

Yamhill County Court Appointed Special Advocates are volunteers who are trained to serve children who have been abused or neglected.



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

More information is at
www.yccasa.org or **(503) 434-6668**

Our next training begins Sept. 19.

Apply online or request more information.

Some of the details of this case have been changed to preserve the anonymity of the people involved in it.

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