



YAMHILL COUNTY CASA BY THE NUMBERS

CHILDREN IN CARE
87

CHILDREN WHO HAVE A CASA
54

ACTIVE CASA ADVOCATES
32

- In this issue...**
- YC CASA by the Numbers
 - Our Volunteer Supervisor is Taking CASA to New Heights: Meet Angie Hannan
 - Lend Your Voice CASA
 - Celebrating Resource Families: a Dive into Every Child Oregon
 - Bottle Drive: Cans for CASA
 - Community Resources
 - Training Opportunities
 - Donor Spotlight

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Keep Oregon's children safe**

OUR VOLUNTEER SUPERVISOR IS TAKING CASA TO NEW HEIGHTS: MEET ANGIE HANNAN

"Good day everyone! My name is Angie Hannan, I am originally from Queens NY (Bayside), born to Immigrant parents from Italy. I am currently working on getting my Italian Citizenship back and reside a dual citizen for the USA and Italy. In my youth I was blessed enough to have a wonderful large family, being able to travel to Europe and live there for several years as a Nanny for English speaking couples. I then came back to the USA, married and moved here to Oregon. I had two children and then divorced but we remained friends and raised our children together, my ex-husband recently passed after fighting a long battle with PTSD from being shot in the line of duty. I married my current husband in 2009, he is my blessing! We have a lovely home in Newberg, together we have 6 children, 7 grandchildren, 2 horses and 2 dogs. We love the outdoors and traveling in our motorhome, I recently purchased my first Harley Davidson and now we ride together as well with our Harleys Owner Group (HOG). Through comical trial & error, I learned I am a fair-weather rider. I am an Oregon EMT/Paramedic and have certificates in EAS



(Environment, Health, and Safety) as well as HRIS (Human Resources) & Management. I am finishing my BS in Business Management with an emphasis on Sociology from OHSU/OIT this summer where I am a dual degree student, I completed my degree in Paramedicine earlier last year. I have been a volunteer leader for Yamhill County 4H Horse Program Rockin' Rowles, being voted Leader of the Year, as well as for the Oregon Volunteer Firefighters Association (OVFA) holding a director's position for 4 years and on the Oregon State Fire Service Honor Guard for fallen members, Governor Kitzhaber 911 committee for remembrance (I lost a sister in the tower). Last but not least I was formally a CASA for Yamhill County. I am SO HAPPY TO BE HOME!" -Angie

Angie brings a treasure trove of knowledge to Yamhill County CASA from her life experience and education. She strives to make sure all CASA advocates have exactly what they need to succeed and the scaffolding to be the powerful voice for each child we serve. She immediately recognized that we needed to be more flexible in our continuing education and put together an opportunity for advocates to get 15 minutes a week of continuing education that could work with any busy schedule, allowing even the busiest of CASAs to meet the 12-hour annual requirement.

Angie has become a powerful point of contact for advocates needing advice overcoming obstacles in their case. In her first two weeks she stepped in without hesitation in at least two extremely contentious situations and offered sound advice and solid backup. Angie is also excited to be stepping in as facilitator of the book club and continuing education sessions. She will be re-sworn as a CASA on June 24th alongside a new cohort of at least five, if not a few more whose applications are still being processed.

It is with absolute honesty that I say we are so incredibly fortunate to have Angie on our team and I am so excited to see all we can accomplish with her as Volunteer Supervisor.

LEND YOUR VOICE TO CASA!

Have you done research on a Child Welfare related topic?

Would you like to share what you found?

Would you be interested in penning an editorial?

If you are interested in participating, let us know!

As a CASA, composing an article can count toward your continuing education credit.

Email office@yccasa.org with your topics and ideas.

CELEBRATING RESOURCE FAMILIES:

a Dive into Every Child Oregon

by Sarah Johnson

May is national foster care awareness month.

We are going to take this opportunity to tell you all we can about Every Child, the nonprofit recruiting and supporting resource parents throughout Oregon. Their website will tell you the story of their humble beginnings in 2012 as the nonprofit Embrace Oregon. Their team in Portland started with welcome boxes and hospitality at the regional child welfare offices. The mission of Every Child is to mobilize the community to uplift children & families impacted by foster care in Oregon. "Every Child believes in a hopeful future for children and families in Oregon. Every Child connects individuals, businesses, families, and faith communities with acute needs. Every Child relentlessly fights for children in crisis, and commits to finding safe, nurturing places where they can flourish. Every Child provides radical hospitality with a posture of humility and care for children, families, and our partners working in child welfare (Our Mission & Core Values – Every Child Oregon)."

"The momentum grew in Portland, and Embrace Oregon began to experience unprecedented results. Interest began to pour in from other counties across Oregon asking, "How can I start something like this in my community?" In 2015 the interest was turned to action with a statewide expansion of the vision and a name change to Every Child Oregon. Now, across Oregon leaders are building unlikely bridges, stabilizing families for the next generation, and mobilizing Oregonians to care for their neighbors. Partnering with ODHS and community organizations, Every Child works to solve Oregon's foster care crisis through marketing, education, one-on-one connections, and public and private initiatives. As of 2022, Every Child Oregon has a presence in all 36 Oregon counties (How It Started – Every Child Oregon)." In our own community, Every Child is managed by local nonprofit REACH Northwest.

What does Every Child Oregon do? Their website outlines four key objectives.

1. Story-telling

Every Child shares the realities of foster care while demonstrating a positive, collaborative and hopeful tone that challenges the stereotypes associated with the system and those involved.

2. Empowering Volunteers

Every Child provides meaningful ways for anyone and everyone to engage with the child welfare system.

3. Raising Up New Foster Parents

While inviting individuals to get involved at any level, Every Child Oregon is relentless about sharing the need for more resource families and has become the Oregon Department of Human Services' strongest resource family recruiting entity.

The Turanski Family



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4. Supporting Families

As resource families come forward at an unprecedented rate and families of origin get reunified, Every Child provides relational, community, and tangible support for resource families.

Who can be a resource parent?

In most cases, applicants need to be 21 years old. There are unique circumstances where someone between 18 and 20 can become a relative placement. Resource parents can be single, married, or domestic partners. They can work inside or out of the home, they just need sufficient income to support their family. Resource parents must be able to physically care for a child. They also must be able to pass both a child abuse and criminal background check. Applicants with criminal history will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Consideration will be given in light of the overall context of the offense. Oregon law does not allow approval of any applicant with any history or felony conviction involving endangering a child; a felony conviction for violent crime, rape, sexual assault, sexual abuse or homicide; any history of spousal abuse. Applicants are considered regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, religion, or sexual orientation.

There are four different types of resource homes.

General:

Resource parents can provide care to a child for just a few days, weeks, months, and sometimes years. Homes are needed for all types of children, but homes for teens and sibling groups are in high demand. Shelter care or short-term care is for three weeks or less; but the biggest need in Oregon is for long-term care which ensures a child has a stable family environment for as long as they are in foster care.

Relative/Kith-Kin/Child Specific:

In Oregon, when a child comes into state custody, workers search for relatives to care for the children, and preference is given to keeping children in relative homes. Relatives can be actual blood relations or kith/kin, which is an adult with a close relationship with the family and the child such as a family friend. Kith-kin can also be a resource parent that may have been a placement for that child or the child's sibling in the past. A child specific resource parent is someone who knows the child and wants to step up for that specific child, such as a teacher or neighbor, and often doesn't remain certified once that case closes.

Specialized Foster Care:

Also known as therapeutic or proctor foster care, this type of resource parenting is for children who have higher needs or disabilities that require skilled care and supervision to the children. Programs are available through Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) and also through private child welfare agencies such as Maple Star in Salem. More

The Stroud Family

Every
Child

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information on specialized foster care and information about the private child welfare agencies in your community can be found at [fosterplus.org](https://www.fosterplus.org).

Respite Care:

Respite is giving a break to a current resource family. The easiest way to for a resource parent to set up respite care is to ask friends or family members of the child's family to be their respite providers. There is no training required for a respite provider, only a background check. The background check form can be requested through the resource family's ODHS certifier. This background check paperwork can then be handed from the resource parent to any interested individual interested in doing respite care. With respite care, there is no payment from the agency. It is a resource parent working out childcare needs with a background checked individual.

There is a lengthy certification process to become a general resource parent and it may take as long as one year to complete.

Once a potential general resource parent submits an application, ODHS begins a thorough background check on every adult in the home. Once approved for the next step, applicants are required to take training. All adults in the home must pass a background check, but not all are required to go through certification training. In the last year, ODHS has developed new training curriculum. The new training is called Resource and Adoptive Family Training, or RAFT. It is 27 hours of curriculum over nine, 3-hour sessions consisting of video, podcasts and facilitated slide presentations. While the applicant is going through training, ODHS will assign a certification worker to do a home study. The home study consists of interviews with all adults in the home, home visits and safety inspections and in some circumstances obtaining medical information. Once the home study and RAFT training are complete, the home is certified and will work with their caseworker to talk about which children in care would be a good fit for that placement.

For Kith Kin and Relative placements, it is a little different. In most cases the parent will give the name of a relative or kith kin whom they would like the child placed with, and ODHS will reach out to that person. If they agree to be a placement, an emergency certification can be done, allowing the agency to place the child or children with the resource family as soon as they pass the initial background check. The resource parents are still required to complete the RAFT training, but they have a year to do so.

Resource Parents receive funds to help cover the costs to meet the child's needs.

Those funds are based on the cost for the identified five areas of basic needs. According to the [ODHS website](https://www.ods.gov) those are:

- Food - Including the cost to cover a child or young adult's special or unique nutritional needs;
- Clothing - Including purchase and replacement;

The Thom Family

**Every
Child**

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- Housing - Including maintenance of household utilities, furnishings, and equipment;
- Personal incidentals - Including personal care items, entertainment, reading materials, and miscellaneous items; and
- Transportation - The cost of providing transportation, including local travel associated with expenditure for gas and oil, and vehicle maintenance and repair associated with transportation to and from extracurricular, child care, recreational, and cultural activities.

In Yamhill County, that basic needs compensation is \$693 per month for children under five years old, \$733 per month for children ages 6 - 12 years, and \$795 per month for youth over 13 years old. Resource families receive additional funds when a child or youth first enters care for the first 20 days.

Sometimes the level of care a child or youth needs can be higher. To help identify those higher levels of need and ensure the resource family has the supports available to help that child succeed, a Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths assessment (CANS) is done. The assessment is done by a third party outside of ODHS. The CANS helps identify the case planning, service planning, and supervision level needs of the child or youth. With higher levels of needs, additional funding is available for resource families. If the permanency plan changes from reunification, the CANS assessment can also help determine the level of funding available for adoption assistance or guardianship assistance.

While the resource parent plays a huge role in the life of a case, they are not permitted at the table for much of the case planning process.

In order for the resource parent to be a part of the conversation, the parents would need to sign releases of information (ROIs) to allow discussion of case details with them, and that doesn't happen very often. Resource parents are allowed and encouraged to attend all court hearings, but they are not typically allowed at ODHS family decision or family engagement meets. They are also not privy to the details of why the child came into care outside of what is discussed in open court. As CASAs, this is a very important fact to remember. Even though it is sometimes frustrating and difficult not to share information with the adult who spends the most time with the child, CASAs absolutely must maintain confidentiality of the case.

While Foster Care Awareness month wraps up, we encourage you to thank the resource parents you work with. Their late nights, encouraging hugs, consistent structure, open hearts and open homes, have allowed the children Yamhill County CASA serves to find safe and stable sanctuary.

Resources:

[Every Child Resource Parent Resource Book](#)

[Every Child Yamhill Resources](#)

[Royal Family Kids Camp Yamhill County](#)

[ODHS Resource Parent Homepage](#)

[REACH Northwest & Every Child Yamhill County](#)

**McKenzie &
Diana's Story**



BOTTLE DRIVE: CANS FOR CASA

Yamhill County CASA has an ongoing fundraiser with Bottle Drop of Oregon. Since its inception, we've raised an average of \$3,500 a year. Drop by the CASA office on the corner of 5th & Galloway to pick up a blue Bottle Drop bag and bring it back full of your recyclable bottles and cans. We can also arrange pick-up of bottles and cans anywhere in Yamhill County. THANK YOU to our CASA volunteers and community partners at Northwest UAV for collecting, sorting, and depositing all those blue bags!

We do ask the following:

- **Glass, plastic & aluminum can be mixed, but a bag cannot weigh more than 40lbs**
- **When possible, please rinse your recyclables**
- **Please do not donate any cans or bottles used as disposals for tobacco products**
- **Wine bottles are not accepted at this time**
- **Please do not put any cardboard in the bluebags**



Community Resources:

Mental Health:

Yamhill County Health & Human Services Crisis Line: 1-844-842-8200

Newberg Crisis: 503-554-7825 / Yamhill Crisis: 503-662-4233

Suicide Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255 or text 237TALK to 839863

Lutheran Family Services: McMinnville: 503-472-4020

Chehalem Youth and Family Services: Newberg: 503-538-4874

Domestic Violence:

Crisis Line: 503-623-4033

Grand Ronde Domestic & Sexual Violence Prevention Program: 503-879-1660

Henderson House: 503-472-1503

Substance Abuse:

Yamhill County Chemical Dependency: McMinnville 503-434-7527 / Newberg 503-538-8970

Alcohol & Drug Helpline 1-800-923-4357 or text Recovery Now to 839863

Provoking Hope (971) 261-2259 provokinghope.com

Goforth Inspired (503) 857-0394

LGTBQ+ Resources:

Newberg PFLAG pflagnewberg.org

[McMinnville Teen LGBTQ+ Group](#)

Trevor Project Hotline: 1-866-488-7386

Other Resources:

A Family Place: 503-472-4020 familyplacere Relief.org

YCAP: 503-472-0457

YOOP Youth Opportunity Program: Newberg 503-554-1461 / McMinnville 503-883-9768

UNIDOS McMinnville 503-447-3408 unidosyamhillcounty.org

Yamhill County Sheriff Non-Emergency Line: 503-434-6500

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

12 hours of continuing education is required by National CASA annually

CASA CONTINUING EDUCATION SESSIONS

May 24th, 5:30 to 7:00pm Focus on Equity, Diversity & Inclusion

Sarah Johnson facilitating NCASA's Webinar "Culture, Connection and Identity for Indigenous Families in non-Indigenous Systems." A recorded presentation from members of the Casey Family Programs. Founded in 1966, Casey Family Programs works in all 50 states, Washington D.C., Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and with tribal nations across North America to influence long-lasting improvements to the well-being of children, families and the communities where they live.

June 28th, 5:30 to 7:00pm Supporting LGBTQ+ Youth

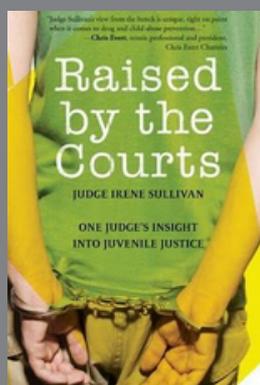
Diane Longaker with Newberg PFLAG and Dr. Christain Rummell will join us in a conversation about how to best support LGBTQ+ youth in care. Dr. Christian Rummell has over 25 years of experience as a researcher, training and technical assistance provider, and practitioner in the youth mentoring field—with specific expertise on mentoring LGBTQ youth. Dr. Rummell is the co-author of the LGBTQ Supplement to the Elements of Effective Practice and is the lead consultant on the Big Brothers Big Sisters of America LGBTQ youth mentoring enhancement initiative. He is also a Research Board Member on the National Mentoring Resource Center. At Portland State University's Center for Interdisciplinary Mentoring Research, Dr. Rummell conducted one of the first studies on the role of mentors in supporting identity development in gay youth. He is currently Principal Consultant at Mentorist.

Not a CASA, but interested in attending a training or event?

Let us know at office@yccasa.org

YCCASA Book Club: Next Meeting is June 15th

Yamhill County CASA Book Club meets virtually the third Wednesday of every month for a "lunch break" hour starting at noon. We are just starting our next book, *Raised by the Courts*, by Judge Irene Sullivan.



Email us at office@yccasa.org to pick up a book and join!

"Judge Irene Sullivan presided over family and juvenile court for twelve years in Clearwater, Florida. In 2010, she wrote a non-fiction book, 'Raised by the Courts: One Judge's Insight into Juvenile Justice.' Her most recent book, 'Traffic Stop' was co-written with Dr. Adele Solazzo and published in 2020. Irene has spoken all over the country on child abuse and delinquency matters and has received several awards for her work in the field. The most personally significant piece of recognition for Irene would be the adoption award in her name that's presented every year in the 6th Circuit Court on National Adoption Day. Even in her retirement, Irene remains committed to family mediation cases, working to resolve family law situations in the best interest of the child." - Amazon

National CASA Trainings

Previous Webinars available to watch:

- [Substance Abuse: An introduction to substance abuse as a disorder](#)
- [Substance Abuse: A family-centered approach to understanding impact](#)
- [Child Trafficking: Recognizing the risks and signs](#)

VIRTUAL TRAINING OUTSIDE OF CASA

- [Full Episode: “Children of the System” \(Ep. 405\) | Our America with Lisa Ling | OWN](#)
- ODHS Child Welfare Foster Parent Orientation:
[Part 1](#) [Part 2](#) [Part 3](#) [Part 4](#) [Part 5](#)
- ODHS Child Welfare coordinates a variety of live/online trainings that CASAs can take advantage of. Sessions range between 1-3 hours long and will be hosted on Zoom. [Click Here](#) to view upcoming sessions. You can register for the session by clicking the link within the class synopsis to attend.
- [National Child Advocacy Center](#) has an extensive list of online trainings with topics ranging from what you could encounter in court to the foundations of Parent Child Interaction Therapy
- [Victim Assistance](#) is a foundational web-based victim assistance training program that offers victim service providers and allied professionals the opportunity to acquire the essential skills and knowledge they need to more effectively assist victims of crime

**YAMHILL COUNTY CASAS, AS ALWAYS, WE ARE HONORED
TO SUPPORT YOU IN THE WORK YOU DO FOR THE
CHILDREN IN OUR COMMUNITY.**

THANK YOU.

SARAH, ANGIE & CINDY

The work we do is made possible in part by support from...

The
Bladine
Family



SPIRIT MOUNTAIN
COMMUNITY FUND



The Confederated Tribes
of Grand Ronde



Newberg Community
Foundation Fund

Trillium Fund of the
Oregon Community
Foundation, Ken Austin
and Lori Parrish



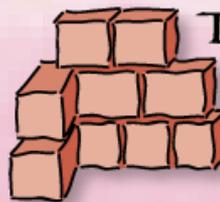
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... and the generosity of our Sustaining Circle Members.

Thank you.