



YAMHILL COUNTY CASA PROGRAM

638 NE 5th St. • McMinnville, OR 97128

503-434-6668 • 503-435-2398 F

office@yccasa.org • www.yccasa.org

April 12, 2023

Dear Co-Chairs Steiner and Sanchez and members of the committee,

I am a Board Member with the Yamhill County CASA program. I live in McMinnville.

I ask that you continue to fund court appointed special advocate programs throughout Oregon and approve the Oregon CASA Network's request for \$6.4 million. This amount will be a lifeline for all Oregon CASA programs over the next two years.

For example, the Yamhill County CASA program has an annual budget of about \$235,000, which supports the recruitment and training of CASAs to serve over 135 abused and neglected children in our county annually. **Our program's annual funding from the Oregon CASA Network provides only 21% of our budget; we must raise the remaining \$185,650 every year from local donors and charitable foundations.**

Fundraising like this is the nuts and bolts of the work of every nonprofit organization, but this large amount is a heavy lift for our small staff of three FTE's.

We have strong community support, but no matter how successful our fundraising campaigns and grant writing efforts are, they take valuable time away from our core mission of serving children.

Every dollar the Legislature allocates to the Oregon CASA Network represents more time and expertise that CASA staff and advocates can devote to helping the abused and neglected children of our state.

Thank you for your consideration,

Susan Dirks
Secretary, Board of Directors
Yamhill County CASA Program



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