

Regional CASAs Join Together

Effective December 31, 2014 CASA for Kids of Columbia County will close its doors. On January 1, 2015 CASA of Multnomah and Washington Counties will expand service coverage to include Columbia County—becoming CASA for Children of Multnomah, Washington, and Columbia Counties.

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) for Children is a network of 951 community-based programs that recruit, train and support citizen-volunteers to advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children in courtrooms and communities. Volunteer advocates—empowered directly by the courts—offer judges the critical information they need to ensure that each child’s rights and needs are being attended to while in foster care.

Volunteers stay with children until they are placed in loving permanent homes. For many abused children, a

CASA volunteer is the only constant adult presence in their lives.

Since reopening its doors in 2010, Columbia County’s CASA For Kids, Inc. has served hundreds of children, improved infrastructure, and launched a successful fundraising campaign. Despite heroic efforts, the director and the board have jointly determined that the best course of action is for CASA for Kids Inc. to dissolve as a separate 501c3 at the end of the year, and for CASA of Multnomah and Washington Counties to expand services to Columbia County. This is planned to take effect on January 1, 2015.

Lindsey King will remain in Columbia County—in the current local offices—as a CASA Supervisor. Fundraisers and outreach events will still be held throughout the county and all dollars raised locally will continue to fund Columbia County-specific

initiatives and services.

In the past year more and more CASAs have left the county, making it difficult to recruit and train enough CASAs to keep up with the local need. When a wave of new families came into protective custody in Spring of 2014, the change was so great that DHS responded by adding caseworkers. Beginning in January 2015, CASAs in Columbia County—including those who commute for work into Washington and Multnomah Counties—will have access to increased and improved training opportunities. Additionally, Columbia County children who are placed in foster care or treatment services in Washington and Multnomah Counties will now have nearby program support.

CASA For Children of Multnomah and Washington Counties is the largest and longest-serving CASA in Oregon. Expanding services to Columbia

County will result in increased recruitment numbers and expanded training offerings, which means more CASAs serving more foster children as they navigate the difficulties of the foster care and the court system search for a permanent home. Currently there are 289 children in foster care in Columbia County—the need for CASA is critical—at least 55 more CASA volunteers are needed to serve all the children in our juvenile dependency system.

CASA conducts many volunteer orientations and training sessions per year. Potential volunteers must be 21 years of age or older, and possess no criminal record. CASA welcomes volunteers from all cultures, professions, and ethnic and educational backgrounds. For additional information about CASA or to volunteer, please call 503-988-5115, or visit www.casahelpskids.org.



Vernonia Cares Food Bank
PO Box 126, 627 Adams Avenue
Vernonia OR 97064
November/December 2014

Dear Friends,

People are preparing for the holidays. However, this year, many people will not be able to celebrate because they are faced with serious economic problems. Some have lost jobs, others cannot find employment. Some are restricted by a budget which cannot cover their basic living expenses. For twenty seven years, Vernonia Cares Food Bank seeks to help alleviate hunger and it's root causes in the Vernonia area. We assist over 400 people per month. Twenty-nine percent of our clients are children; senior citizens comprise another eighteen percent.

We depend upon donations of food and money to supply groceries and to keep our doors open for those who need us the most. The United Way of Columbia County provides about one-third of our budget, with volunteers lending support through fundraisers to help meet the other two-thirds of our expenses. We receive no government financial support.

Would you consider a donation to assist us? We are aware that the current economy has stressed everyone's budget. A gift of any amount helps us. Please select where you would like your donation applied. We've enclosed a return envelope for your convenience.

We appreciate donations to our general fund which keeps our pantry open year round.
☐ Yes, please designate this donation towards the General Fund OR

A second option is to designate your gift towards a special holiday food box. It contains the basic groceries for a Christmas meal, including a turkey.
☐ Yes, please designate this donation towards The Holiday Box Fund (estimated cost is \$30) OR

Your gifts may be given in honor of or in memory of those you designate. Their name will be placed in a special ad in The Vernonia Voice during December or January.
☐ Yes, please designate this donation towards an "In honor of" or "In memory of" gift.

Given in memory of _____
 Given in honor of _____
 Please send acknowledgment to (name and address) _____

Enclosed is my donation to Vernonia Cares Food Bank. (Please print clearly)

My Name _____

Street _____

City, State and Zip _____

☐ I would like a tax deductible receipt mailed to me.
☐ No receipt is necessary. My check will be my receipt.



Christmas Dinner In Vernonia



Join us in celebrating the Spirit of Giving this Christmas Season at the 8th Annual Christmas Dinner

**Serving from 1 pm to 4 pm
On Thursday, December 25th
at the Vernonia Senior Center**

Dinner is free to families and friends in Vernonia. No gratuities or donations accepted.

Dinner will include turkey & dressing, ham, cranberries, mashed potatoes & gravy, vegetable, bread, choice of dessert and beverage. Dinners To Go & limited deliveries available!

For more information contact Bill James at 503-359-2310.

Vernonia Dental



Dr. Christopher M. Scheuerman DMD

622 Bridge Street Vernonia, OR 97064
phone (503) 429-0880 -- fax (503) 429-0881

the Birk

Holiday Music Schedule

Saturday, November 22nd at 7pm...
China Davis

Friday, November 28th at 8pm...
Naomi Tee video shoot

Saturday, November 29th at 7pm...
Suburban Slim Band

Thursday, December 4th at 6:30pm...
Kandye Cane Dinner Show

Friday, December 5th at 7pm...
Robert Jon & the Wreck

Saturday, December 6th at 7pm...
Lloyd Jones Trio
with Curtis Salgado & Calton Jackson

Saturday, December 13th at 7pm...
Randy Oxford Band

Dates open for Holiday parties:
503-755-2722