

CASA: Advocates find role equally rewarding, tending

Continued from page 4

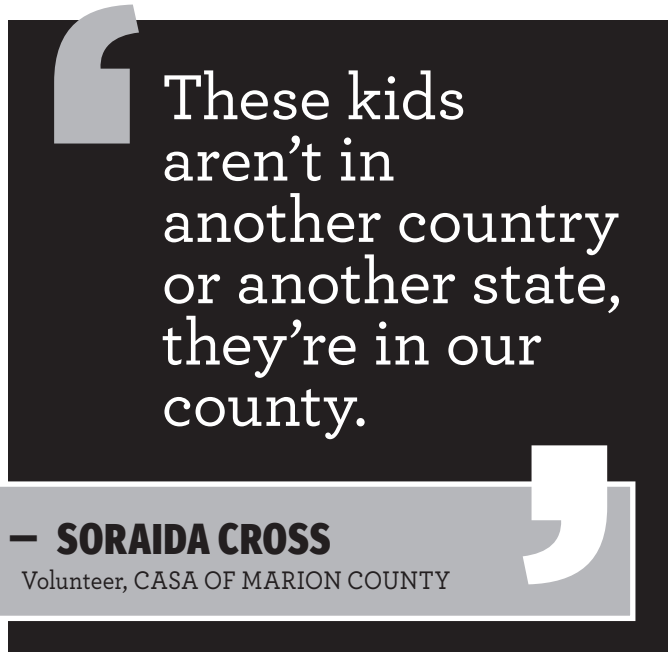
"You aren't going into it to be the best friend of the foster family, that's not the point of you being there. You care about them but you are mainly advocating for the kids for what is best them," Jim said.

All four volunteers said the training was very intensive and time consuming. However, they agreed that it is worth it to see the kids happy and safe.

"I would dedicate all the time in the world just to see that. It makes it all worth it," Cross said.

Those who can't volunteer can still help or learn more about CASA can stop by the office or look online for more resources.

"If they were curious, it'd be kind of nice if people just dropped into the office. They would be impressed with just how warm and friendly and personable the staff is," Jim said,



These kids aren't in another country or another state, they're in our county.

- SORAIDA CROSS
Volunteer, CASA OF MARION COUNTY

Another way people can help is by donating which can be done through the website or in-person.

Starr believes that everyone should also consider themselves a mandatory reporter and if they have concerns about a child's well-being, they can report it to the Oregon Child Abuse hotline at 1-855-503-7233. CASA also currently has plans for the future of the organization.

"We are currently in the process of absorbing the Safe Families for Children

program from Catholic Community Services and are getting ready to launch a new pilot program in partnership with ODHS Child Welfare in Marion County that will work to reunify children with their parents faster with trained volunteer safety supports in place," Starr said.

For more information on CASA and becoming a volunteer, visit www.casamarion.org.

Manager honored at KCL

Vicki Brammeier was recently honored as the 2021 recipient of the annual Art Burr Library Champion Award at the Keizer Community Library.

The award honors an individual, organization or community organization for extraordinary service to the library. Brammeier was promoted to library manager after serving as a circulation desk volunteer, a member of the volunteer committee and chairperson of the IT committee.

"She embodies the values of the Art Burr Library Champion award. Over the course of her time as a volunteer, Vicki has provided leadership in small and large ways to enable the library to flourish," said the library board members in a recent newsletter.



V. Brammeier

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