

Helping hands honored



Photos by Timothy J. Gonzalez

Spirit Mountain Community Fund Program Coordinator Angela Sears presents the 2020 Helping Hand Management Staff Award to Willamette Valley Hospice Clinical Manager Barb Farmer on Tuesday, Dec. 22, because of her expertise in pediatric hospice care throughout the years. With 30 years of experience, Farmer is also known as a hospice expert. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she immediately implemented safety measures to protect patients, families and staff. She also assists with testing staff members for COVID-19 so that they can safely provide care at facilities.



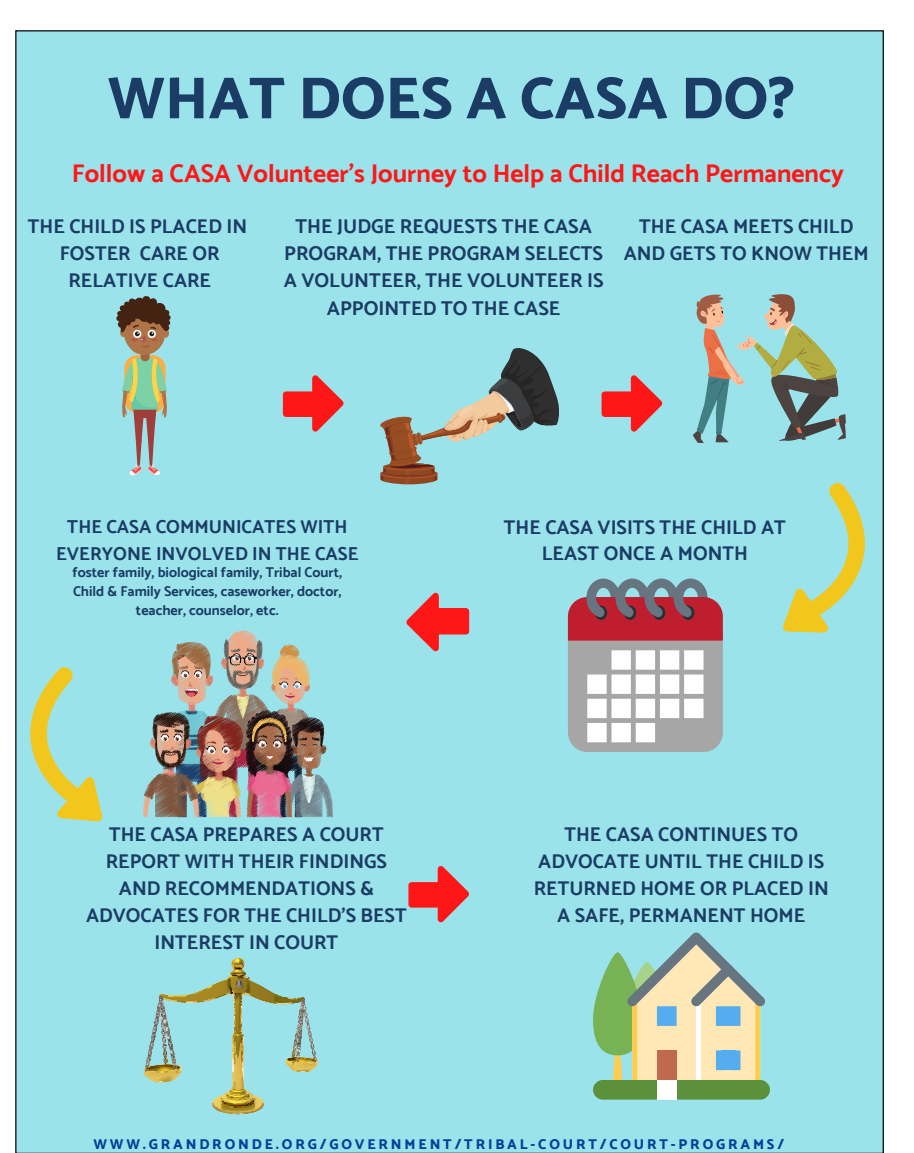
CASA of Linn County Volunteer Coordinator Robin Gardner displays the Spirit Mountain Community Fund 2020 Helping Hand Non-Management Staff Award on Tuesday, Dec. 22. Gardner promised her family that she would retire by 2020. Once 2020 came, the executive director at the time resigned and COVID-19 shut the office down. Therefore, Gardner displayed dedication and commitment to her volunteers and the children they serve by staying on with CASA until the end of 2020 to train new staff who have come onboard.



American Legion Post 10 Albany, Ore., Commander David Solomon holds the 2020 Helping Hand Volunteer Award on Monday, Dec. 14, given annually by Spirit Mountain Community Fund. Solomon, an unpaid volunteer, works numerous hours in the daily operation of American Legion Post 10. He is a retired New York City Fire Department emergency medical services employee who was one of the first responders to the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001. In spite of his injuries and health issues stemming from working “the pile,” he continues to give of himself.

Environmental Assessment available

Tribal home ownership is nearing construction phase. As part of the environmental review process, compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is complete. An Environmental Assessment (EA) was drafted and submitted to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). The BIA has reviewed the EA, and has concurred with the Tribe’s finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) in relation to environmental impacts. The FONSI document is available for review by community members for 15 days from the time of this notice. If you are interested in reviewing the FONSI, please contact Torey Wakeland, Environmental Policy Analyst, at torey.wakeland@grandronde.org. ■



Steps to becoming a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA):

- Chat with Tribal Court staff about CASA volunteer work
- Complete the application and authorize a criminal background check
- Submit authorization for child welfare history check
- Come in for formal interview
- Complete **40** hours of initial or pre-service training and court observation

You must complete all steps above before being sworn in as an active CASA volunteer. You may be screened out at any point prior to swearing in. The pre-service training will familiarize you with the needs of children who have been abused or neglected, the CASA’s role and the Tribal Court and Child Welfare Systems.

To begin the process of becoming a CASA, please contact us by email courtprograms@grandronde.org or phone (503) 879-2303.