CASA volunteers sought to help foster children in court cases

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its efforts to sustain and expand the program in Columbia County. "The grant is a key part, but we also need people to come forward and advocate for the best interests of our foster children," Bourn said.

"For people who cannot commit the volunteer hours necessary to be CASA advocate, we also need volunteers to help out the organization in many other ways," Bourn said. CASA for Kids also needs nonadvocate volunteers to serve on its board, help with fundraising, and assist in the office.

The local nonprofit organization is part of a national movement to protect the rights of foster children. In 1977, a family court judge in Seattle created CASA to train and support volunteers from all walks of life to speak out and act as advocates for the best interests of abused and neglected children.

Judges, attorneys, child welfare workers and parents overwhelmingly report that volunteers make a difference with the children they serve. CASA volunteers are highly effective in getting their recommendations accepted in court, and their reports lead to a higher number of services being ordered for children and families. A child with a CASA advo-

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of cate is:

• More likely to be adopted and find a safe, permanent home;

Half as likely to re-enter foster care;

• Substantially less likely to spend time in long-term foster care;

• Less likely to have poor conduct in school;

• More likely to pass all school courses; and

• More likely to receive court-ordered services because of the volunteer's detailed knowledge of the child's circumstances, and these services can be more carefully targeted so that service dollars are used more effectively. For more information contact CASA for Kids executive director Kathryn Bourn at 503-

at info@casaforkidsinc.org.

366-4133 or email the program

4-H results from fairs in 2011

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Poultry Showmanship: Champion – Crystal-Ann Carreon. Presentations: Joint

Champion at State Fair – M Crystal-Ann Carreon.

Pygmy Goat Showmanship: Champion – Levi Carreon.

Rabbit Breeds: Champion – Kaitlyn Eyrrick and Katherine Goodman. Reserve Grand

Champion – Katherine Goodman.

Rabbit Showmanship: Champion – Kaitlyn Eyrrick. Reserve Champion – Harral Morgan.

Swine Breeds: Champion – Harral Morgan.

Swine Showmanship: Champion – Harral Morgan.

Trail: Reserve Grand Champion – McKenzie Tarkalson.

