

DECEMBER 2018 • VOL. 5

FOSTER PARENTS

THE OFFICIAL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR FOSTER PARENTS INVOLVED
WITH CASA-VOICES FOR CHILDREN



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HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Thank you for welcoming these children into your home, and giving them a family this holiday season. We know how challenging this experience can be and we are incredibly grateful for your hard work and compassion. Please know that your dedication to helping foster children in need never goes unnoticed!

- CASA-VFC Staff





STAFF SPOTLIGHT:

Sarah Reffett

Sarah has been the Outreach Coordinator for CASA-VFC since August. She is from Alabama and recently moved to Corvallis this past summer with her husband and four pets. Sarah graduated from the University of Alabama with a degree in Journalism and first began volunteering with CASA as a member of UA's Kappa Alpha Theta sorority.

**I CANNOT DO ALL
THE GOOD THAT THE
WORLD NEEDS. BUT
THE WORLD NEEDS
ALL THE GOOD THAT I
CAN DO. -JANA STANFIELD**

REMINDERS

The CASA-VFC office will be **closed** on **Christmas Day**: Tuesday, December 25th and on **New Year's Day**: Tuesday, January 1st.

CASA-VFC staff members will be **on-call** on **Christmas Eve**: Monday, December 24th and on **New Year's Eve**: Monday, December 31st.



Christmas gifts for your kiddo(s) will be available for pick-up on **Thursday, December 20th** and **Friday, December 21st**. We ask that you please speak with your child's advocate and make the appropriate arrangements for getting holiday gifts. If you or your child's advocate are unable to pick up gifts on either of these days, please reach out to us and we will arrange for your gifts to be delivered.

HELP US SPREAD THE WORD!

MY Belle BLOSSOMS
presents

Holiday Gift Drive



benefiting

VOICES for CHILDREN

Now until December 18th

Please bring new, unwrapped gifts to a drop-off location near you:

My Belle Blossoms
900 NW Kings Blvd
Corvallis, OR 97330

Town & Country Realty
455 NW Tyler Ave
Corvallis, OR 97330

Courtyard by Marriott Corvallis
400 SW 1st St
Corvallis, OR 97333

The Reynolds Law Firm
225 SW 4th St
Corvallis, OR 97333

Corvallis Knights Baseball
301 SW 4th St, Suite 100
Corvallis, OR 97333

Central Willamette Credit Union
555 NE Circle Blvd
Corvallis, OR 97330

Dial-a-Bus
4077 SW Research Way
Corvallis, OR 97333

Barker Uerlings Insurance
340 NW 5th St
Corvallis, OR 97330

Allstate Insurance
2101 NW Professional Dr Ste 3
Corvallis, OR 97330

River View Family Eye Care
609 NW Hickory St
Albany, OR 97321



UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER 24-DECEMBER 1 - Come enjoy the Pastega Christmas Light Display, a Corvallis holiday and community tradition since 1981, happening Nov. 23 through Jan. 1 at the Benton County Fairgrounds. The Pastega Christmas Light Display has been bringing holiday joy to Corvallis for forty years. Every year volunteers donate thousands of hours of work to deck the fairgrounds out in holiday lights and displays, including more than 250 figures and mechanized scenes. Visitors can enjoy the Pastega Christmas Light Display from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. daily, Nov. 23 through Jan. 1 at the Benton County Fairgrounds. Drivers can enter the light show through the Reservoir Avenue entrance. Admission is a canned food item for donation.

NOVEMBER 30-DECEMBER 14 - Christmas Storybook Land is an enormous indoor Christmas forest wonderland with over 110 scenes of characters from nursery rhymes, children's stories, and family movies, two elaborate model train displays, a Victorian Village & the North Pole with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Nov. 30-Dec. 14, Monday-Thursday: 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.; Sat. & Sun. 10 a.m. -8:30 p.m.; Fri., Nov. 30-6:30 p.m.- 8:30; Friday, Dec. 7 & 14, 2 p.m.,- 8:30 p.m. Location: 3700 Knox Butte Rd. Albany Oregon. Call 541-928-4656 for more information.

DECEMBER 7-8 - Choreographed by Shelly Svoboda, the Regional School of Ballet has been producing The Nutcracker for over 20 years in Corvallis, Oregon. Audiences are treated to a full-scale production with colorful costumes and engaging choreography. Tickets are available at Burst's Candies and are \$15. The performances are Friday, December 7th at 7 p.m. and Saturday, December 8th at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the Corvallis High School Theater.

DECEMBER 8 - The Mouse King Tea Party is a fun way to introduce young children to The Nutcracker and its characters, and have refreshments served by Nutcracker dancers. Tickets are \$9 and can be purchased at Burst's Candies. The tea will be held at the Corvallis High School Theater on December 8th, 2018 at 12 p.m.

DECEMBER 8 - Downtown Albany and the Albany Pix Theatre are partnering to show a classic Christmas movie for the whole family. This year, "It's a Wonderful Life" will be the feature. Doors open at 9:30 a.m. and the movie starts at 10:00 a.m. Come early especially if you are a large group as the theater fills up quickly for this event! Please bring a non-perishable food item for donation to the Salvation Army Food Drive if you can. For questions, telephone the ADA at 541-928-2469.

DECEMBER 15 - For the 1st time ever, the Linn County Fairgrounds will Explode with Ground Pounding Monster Trucks flying 30 feet in the air. Plus Tuff Trucks and Quad Racers for you Locals. Two shows: 2:00 - 3:00 and 7:30 -9:30 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER 15 - Ring in the holidays with an evening of dancing, singing, and more as the Majestic celebrates all their wonderful arts and culture programs at their annual Majestic Holiday Spectacular. Enjoy dance and music performances, scenes from plays performed at the Majestic from throughout the past year, and more. There will be a silent auction and bake sale also, with all proceeds going to the Majestic Theatre's fundraising goals. Tickets are \$20. 7:30 p.m.

DECEMBER 15-16 - Enjoy old fashioned Christmas caroling on a horse drawn wagon! Clop through the Monteith historic district's lovely homes decked-out in their holiday best, while song leaders guide you with song books and bells! Reservations are required, and space is limited. The tours will take place on two weekends in December beginning at 5 p.m. and leaving every 45 mins. Adults are \$10, and kids under 12 are \$5.

DECEMBER 15 - Bring your camera and take a picture with Santa at the Historic Carousel & Museum in Albany from 11:00 to 1:00. This event is free but donations to the museum are encouraged.

DECEMBER 15 - Molly's Revenge, with special guest vocalist Amelia Hogan, and the Murray Irish Dancers, will present an evening of music, song and dance associated with the festive season. The performance will include Christmas songs both old and new, played with a Celtic twist. Tickets are \$20. Advance tickets are available at Grass Roots Books and Troubadour Music, or online. 7:30-10:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church of Corvallis

DECEMBER 16 - Eugene Ballet: The Nutcracker - There's a joyful magic at every performance as hundreds of aspiring young dancers join the Eugene Ballet Company on stage, while the Sugar Plum Fairy transports all to the Snow Kingdom and the Land of the Sweets. You'll cheer and boo at the battle with the not-so-scary Mouse King and his Pirate Henchmice, as Clara and The Nutcracker win the day. LaSells Stewart Center, Austin Auditorium: 3:00 p.m. Tickets start at \$28.50

DECEMBER 20 - Explore the art studios of downtown Corvallis and browse the work of our local artists! The Corvallis Arts Walk is a grassroots-organized art walk that takes place on the third Thursday of each month in downtown Corvallis, Oregon. Galleries, studios, arts and crafts stores and the occasional pop-up keep their doors open late to host an art related event or demonstration. 4-8 p.m.

DECEMBER 21-23 - Enjoy old fashioned Christmas caroling on a horse drawn wagon! Clop through the Monteith historic district's lovely homes decked-out in their holiday best, while song leaders guide you with song books and bells! Reservations are required, and space is limited. The tours will take place on two weekends in December beginning at 5 p.m. and leaving every 45 mins. Adults are \$10, and kids under 12 are \$5.

DECEMBER ACTIVITY:

Paper Chain December Jokester



Supplies Needed:

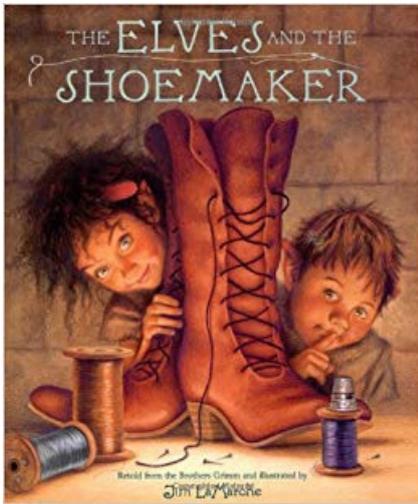
- Scissors
- Construction Paper
- Glue
- Googly Eyes
- Pom Poms
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Stapler



How To:

On the construction paper, use the ruler and pencil to measure out strips that are 11 inches long by 1 inch wide. You'll want as many strips for your calendar, as there are days left in December! Write your favorite holiday jokes onto each strip with a pen or marker. Use a stapler to turn each strip into a ring by stapling the ends together, making sure that your joke is on the inner side of each ring. Be sure to already have yours looped around the previous ring, before stapling! Draw out your hats, antlers and other fun accessories onto the craft foam and cut them out with scissors. Glue your cut outs, googly eyes, and other embellishments onto the top ring. Get creative! Make a tree with green paper or a snowman with white. Each day, pull a ring off and share the joke with your friends and family until December is over!

BOOK OF THE MONTH



The Elves and the Shoemaker By: Brothers Grimm & Jim LaMarche

The story of a poor shoemaker and his wife who suddenly find they are getting help from a mysterious source. They discover their helpers are little elves, whom are working long and hard to finish making shoes. When the man and woman become rich because of the elves, they decide they must give back to the elves in return.

Watch Chrissy Metz read this classic tale with your kiddo(s) online!

[Storyline Online - Strega Nona!](#)

COLORING CORNER



Attached to your newsletter e-mail you will find two coloring pages. Print them out for an afternoon of coloring fun!

Want to show off your creative kiddo(s)? Bring us their completed work and we will hang it at CASA!

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- **The Oregon Zoo** offers discounted admission for foster children and their families. Families, of up to 6 people, may get in for only \$5 a person! For more information, visit www.oregonzoo.org/zoo-all
- **Oregon Parks and Recreation Department** offers free camping and day-use parking to Oregon foster parents, guardians and parents who have adopted Oregon foster children. Foster children, ages 15 years or older, may obtain a fishing license for free. For more information visit oregonstateparks.org, or call OPRD at 1-800-551-6949.
- **The Corvallis Fire Department** has Car Seat Inspection dates to make sure a car seat/booster seat is installed properly. Through this program, the Corvallis Fire Department may also be able to provide a car seat. For more information call 541-766-6961 or visit www.corvallisoregon.gov/fire
- **Corvallis Parks and Recreation** offers family assistance to ensure that everyone in Corvallis can play. Their Family Assistance Scholarship helps to reduce the barrier of cost for those living in Benton County. The scholarship can be used to go to the pool or theater camps, or all kinds of other things. For more information please visit: www.corvallisoregon.gov/parksrec/family-assistance-program
- **The Boys & Girls Club** works closely with CASA-Voices for Children and you can get a reduced cost membership by contacting the CASA office.
- CASA has partnered with the **Oregon State University Gymnastics Academy** to connect foster families with reduced cost gymnastic classes. Contact the CASA office, for more information.
- **The Corvallis-Benton County Public Library** publishes a quarterly newsletter on early literacy topics for parents and caregivers of children ages birth to six-years-old. Each issue contains recommended books, literacy tips, music picks, and more. The library also hosts storytimes and other educational events that are free to the community. For more information, visit cbcpubliclibrary.net/early-literacy-newsletter

WHO TO CALL:

The foster parent 211 line can help you find child care providers: Simply dial **2-1-1**

To report child abuse, please call these **child abuse hotlines:**

Local: 541-757-5019

Toll Free: 866-303-4643



COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES

As a foster parent, it's important to remember that you are not alone! CASA is here to support the children in your care - which means we support you!

When a child is assigned to CASA, they are each appointed an advocate. Advocates are dedicated, highly-trained community members who serve as the eyes and ears of the Court. They get to know the children, all areas of their lives and ensure they receive the services they need. A CASA will speak for the child in the courtroom, representing their best interests and ensuring that they are in a safe environment. A child's advocate will not abandon them. They will be with your kiddo(s) until their case is closed and they are placed in a safe, permanent home.

Working together is essential in providing a safe, stable environment for your kiddo(s). If you have any questions or concerns, reach out to your child's advocate! These wonderful volunteers are ready to help, day and night.



CAMPUS CAUSES

A fun, new way to help raise money for CASA-VFC! Download the FlipGive App and shop your favorite brands and online stores. Each company will then donate a certain percentage of your purchase to CASA-VFC. With Christmas right around the corner, this is a great and easy way to support our organization. Don't forget to share with your friends!

[LEARN MORE HERE](#)

AMAZON SMILE

Did you know that you can raise money for CASA-VFC by simply shopping on Amazon? If you have an Amazon account you can shop from the Amazon Smile website and they will donate .5% of your purchase to CASA-VFC. It's exactly like shopping on Amazon: same items, check-out and pricing. Another great way to support CASA this holiday season!

[LEARN MORE HERE](#)

RESOURCES

Don't forget! We have tons of great resources for you and your kiddos. Please stop by our office, during business hours, and our staff will be glad to help you find any of the following items that you may need:

- Jackets
- Clothing
- Shoes
- Birthday Gifts
- Christmas/Holiday Gifts
- Sports Equipment
- School Supplies
- Duffel Bags/Backpacks
- Quilts
- Books



If we don't have the item you are looking for, please let us know and we will try our best to find it for you!

CONTACT: Alyssa Mahr: service.coordinator@casa-vfc.org

Child Care Stipend for Foster Parents & Relative Caregivers

The Child Care Stipend for Foster Parents is a new service intended to help pay the costs of child care for working foster parents and relative caregivers.

Here are the highlights:

- Foster parents and relative caregivers who are parenting children in DHS custody under the age of 6 can use the stipend to cover child care costs incurred due to employment
- Foster parents and relative caregivers can access up to \$375 a month per child under 6 years old
- Stipends can only be used when the children are being served by licensed, approved or listed child care providers
- Stipend payments are issued in the form of a reimbursement to the foster parent or relative caregiver

To find out if you qualify for this service, contact your case worker or visit:

[VISIT PAGE](#)

DHS policy on the Child Care Stipend for Foster Parents or Relative Caregivers are found in:

[VISIT PAGE](#)

ONLINE RESOURCES

Focus on Foster Families App - This App is designed to support foster children, youth, and their caregivers. Through video interviews and online tools, FOCUS on Foster Families helps users improve their skills related to communication, emotional regulation, problem solving and goal setting.

[VISIT PAGE](#)

Oregon Family Support Network - OFSN is a statewide non-profit organization that supports families who are raising a child with significant mental health challenges. They provide education, support and advocacy for individual families and support systems.

[VISIT PAGE](#)

Foster Parent Lending Library - Free for Oregon Foster, Relative, and Pre-Adoptive Parents! There are over 1,000 books including Childrens' and Spanish titles. Each provider can check out three items at a time, and the check out time is three weeks. Books will be mailed to you with a return address and postage paid canvas pouch.

[VISIT PAGE](#)

Oregon Post Adoption Resource Center - The OPARC provides services for Oregon DHS adoptive and assisted guardianship families. Services included information, assistance, referral, in-depth consultation, advocacy and support, parent education and training.

[VISIT PAGE](#)

FosterParenting.com - Focuses on writing content that will help foster parents and children. They answer a variety of different questions about what it's like to be a foster parent.

[VISIT PAGE](#)

iFoster - Using iFoster's programs and services decreases family needs, improves child and caregiver well-being, improves life-satisfaction, improves grades, and can help youth successfully transition to independence. iFoster provides 100s of Resources through Partnerships with 100s of Companies, Government Agencies and Non-Profits Nationwide. Free and Deeply Discounted Products and Services are available to meet your biggest needs.

[VISIT PAGE](#)

ALL KIDS NEED IS A LITTLE HELP. A LITTLE HOPE. AND SOMEONE WHO BELIEVES IN THEM
-MAGIC JOHNSON

FOSTER CHILDREN AND FOSTER PARENT BILL OF RIGHTS

Foster Children Bill of Rights and Foster Parent Bill of Rights are designed to inform foster children and foster parents of their rights within the child welfare system. Many children's bill of rights provide that they must be posted in a place where children will see them and include provisions requiring foster children to be informed about why they are in foster care and how the process will proceed. If you need a copy of the Foster Children Bill of Rights or the Foster Parent Bill of Rights, please let your advocate, or CASA staff, know. We will happily provide you with a copy for you to display in your home.



CASA-VFC SUPPORTERS

We genuinely appreciate each and every one of our CASA supporters. Their contributions go a long way in supporting our mission. With their help and generosity, we are able to provide the children in our program with the support and care they truly need. Our supporters are a part of our community, and we extend our greatest thanks to each and every one of them. Everything we do here at CASA is possible because of them.

**"Giving is not just about making a donation.
It's about making a difference."**



Fred Meyer



SPRIT MOUNTAIN
COMMUNITY FUND

**AUTZEN
FOUNDATION**

amazon smile



BENTON
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

**TRUST
MANAGEMENT
SERVICES
LLC**



Circle Church of Christ

**Pacific Power
Foundation**



Kiwanis
CLUB OF CORVALLIS SUNRISERS

REACH OUT TO US:

Is there something you liked or didn't like about this month's newsletter?
Or maybe there's something you would like to see in next month's issue?

Whatever it is, we would love to hear from you!

Please contact **Sarah Reffett** with any questions, concerns or suggestions.
outreach.coordinator@casa-vfc.org



Merry
Christmas!

-CASA-VFC Staff

CASA STAFF

Kari Rieck

Executive Director

Katie Gregory

Program Supervisor

Megan Ellertson

Program Assistant

Alyssa Mahr

Service Coordinator

Sarah Reffett

Outreach Coordinator

WE ARE HERE FOR YOU!

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541-753-5838

Web:

www.casa-vfc.org

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www.facebook.com/casavfc