

CASA of Del Norte receives significant donation

August 23, 2022



CASA of Del Norte received a \$25,000 donation from the Caldwell Clan fund. This is a significant donation from a local donor from the Del Norte County rural community where fundraising is difficult due to the competition of over 180 other nonprofits.

CASA of Del Norte's mission is to recruit, train and supervise volunteers from the community to advocate for children in foster care. Once trained, volunteers are sworn in as officers of the court and assigned to their own case. The goal of the advocate is to be the eyes and ears of the court and advocate for the child's best interest during the child welfare case. The child welfare system is a national crisis because it's an overburdened system. Volunteers are needed to ensure children's needs are met during a crucial time in their life.

CASAs advocate for medical and mental health, educational advocacy, placement stability and permanency. CASAs look for gaps in services and spend time with their assigned child to get to know them on a personal level.

CASA is part of a national network of highly qualified nonprofits with trained staff to support volunteers. Judicial Council calls for CASAs to be assigned to every child's case but there's not enough volunteers to meet the need.

Funds from private donors like this help with sustainability so they can serve more children.

Currently, there are approximately 130 open cases in Del Norte County. CASA of Del Norte serves about 40 cases per year. As new cases are continuously opening, there's an on-going need for new volunteers to be trained and assigned.