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Volunteer with CASA of Jefferson County honored for work on behalf of local children in foster care

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON | March 20, 2018 – Sister Marita Anne Marrah, long-time volunteer with CASA of Jefferson County, was recently honored with a 2018 Award of Excellence at the annual conference of The [National Court Appointed Special Advocates \(CASA\) Association](#). Together with its state and local member programs, National CASA supports and promotes court-appointed volunteer advocacy so every child who has experienced abuse or neglect in the United States can be safe and thrive in a permanent home.

Sister Marita received the award for her work as a board member involved in fundraising, strategic planning, and budgeting. She grew CASA of Jefferson County from 10 volunteers to more than 60, who serve nearly 100 children. She personally raised more than \$25,000 for the organization and has helped to hire staff, develop the volunteer board, write grants, and mentor others.

“What the board does and what our mission really is is to support our volunteers so they can have be very special mentors to the children in Jefferson County,” said Sister Marita. “When I first started we had about 450 children in foster care, which was very alarming to me, but, now, we have about 750 children in the system and so our work becomes more and more important. We are responsible for speaking for these kids.”

Every board member, staff member, and volunteer looks up to Sister Marita for advice, leadership, and inspiration. They affectionately call her “the little nun that could.”

While she will retire this year from her full-time ministry, she will remain a life-long advocate for children.

National CASA is a network of nearly 1,000 programs that recruit, train and support volunteers to advocate in courtrooms and communities for the best interests of children who have been abused and neglected. These volunteers see their assigned children regularly, staying with them until they are placed in a loving, permanent home. They provide judges the critical information they need to make decisions in the best interest of each child. For many abused children, their CASA volunteer is the only constant adult presence in their lives. More information about National CASA Association is available at www.casaforchildren.org.

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