MEND OUR CHILDREN
MEND OUR COMMUNITY

PIEDMONT CASA ANNUAL EVALUATION REPORT
July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017
About Piedmont CASA

Our Mission
Piedmont Court Appointed Special Advocates, Inc. (CASA) provides trained Volunteers and professional staff to advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children and youth, promoting and supporting safe, permanent and nurturing homes for these victims in the child welfare system, the community, and before the courts of the 16th Judicial District of Virginia.

Our History
In 1995, our agency started with two Volunteers and two children. Since that time, Piedmont CASA has trained 648 Volunteers who have served over 1,800 abused and neglected children in Charlottesville and the counties of Albemarle, Greene, and Louisa. Local judges have found the program so valuable that they automatically refer every new case alleging abuse and neglect to Piedmont CASA.

Our Year
In fiscal year 2017, we served 294 abused and neglected children - the second year in a row we experienced a record-breaking increase. It was an 18% increase over the 250 we expected to serve, a 10% increase over our previous high of 267 in FY 2016, and a 33% increase over FY 2015, when we served 221. This may indicate that we are seeing not a spike, but rather a pattern of increasing need for CASA Volunteers in our community.

Volunteers do not get paid ... no fees are charged ... and no other program provides this service

Drawings in this report are from the Kids4Kids Gallery, a collection of artwork donated by kids in our community to help tell the story of Piedmont CASA kids.
In FY 2016, we had a sharp spike in the number of children referred to us by the Courts. There are indications that this increase is becoming the new normal. Instead of going back down in FY 2017, our referral numbers increased another 4%: from 215 to 223.

There was a 71% increase in the number of referrals found to be appropriate and assigned CASA Volunteers: from 75 to 128.

There was a 25% increase in the number of family groups who were the subject of independent investigations: from 122 to 153.

There was a 53% increase in the number of hearings attended: from 316 to 484.

There was a 10% increase in the number of cases closed: from 81 to 89.

The length of time active CASA Volunteers served with the program decreased 10%: from 48 to 43 months.

FY 2017 was the second year of sharp increases

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In FY 2017, we continued to experience a sharp increase in the number of children coming through the courts in need of a CASA Volunteer. For the second year in a row, we served more young victims than ever before: 294. Even though this annual evaluation is being written in the first quarter of FY 2018, we are already serving 217 boys and girls. By the end of the fiscal year in June 2018, we expect to have served 300.

The number of children served by region in FY 2017:
- Albemarle County: 117 (40%)
- City of Charlottesville: 126 (43%)
- Louisa County: 50 (17%)
- Greene County: 1 (0%)

Without intervention, child abuse victims are:
- 25% more likely to experience teen pregnancy
- 59% more likely to be arrested as a juvenile
- 28% more likely to be arrested as an adult
- 30% more likely to commit a violent crime

To help ensure that maltreated kids get all the medical, psychiatric, and educational interventions they need...
...they need Piedmont CASA Volunteers
The hundreds of children and youth we serve each year range in age from newborn to eighteen, and now include eligible young adults aged 18 to 21. They reside in Charlottesville and the counties of Albemarle, Greene, and Louisa. More than 95% come from homes where the family income is at or below 300% of the federal poverty line. They are Caucasian, Asian, African-American, and Native American. Approximately 13% are Hispanic. They are almost evenly divided between boys and girls. But they all have two things in common: their safety was so compromised that the courts had to intervene, and they are part of our community.

In FY 2017, prevalent family risk factors included domestic violence, economic instability, mental health issues, and substance abuse. (Family Risk Factor reports submitted by CASA Volunteers and compiled in CASA Manager, an Outcomes Measurement Evaluation Tool for Virginia CASAs.)
How do men and women in our community become Piedmont CASA Volunteers?

We are always recruiting Volunteers using every avenue available to us, from public service radio spots to television interviews to newspaper stories to social media announcements. We talk to clubs, churches, and businesses. We distribute posters and flyers, and seize any opportunity for speaking publicly about our mission and the ongoing need for CASA Volunteers. Our Board, Friends of CASA, and donors also help spread the word.

**Screening**

CASA Volunteers must be at least 21 and must complete a written application, participate in personal interviews, and undergo extensive background checks.

**Training**

Piedmont CASA Volunteers must successfully complete 32 hours of training. Using the National CASA Association curriculum, this pre-service training focuses on cultural and ethnic diversity, the social, psychological, and medical components of child abuse and neglect, the juvenile court system, the policies and procedures of child protective services and foster care, and the policies and procedures of the CASA program. Investigation and advocacy techniques, court report writing, and community resources are also part of the curriculum. We are now in our third year of the Fostering Futures program, a new training curriculum for Volunteers who serve youth, ages 14 to 18, as well as eligible young people up to the age of 21.

24 new Volunteers in fiscal year 2017

On November 15, 2016, thirteen new Piedmont CASA Volunteers were sworn in at the Induction Ceremony. Left to right: Stacy Stinchfield, Mary Hanna, Erik Zornes, Colleen Carew, Renee O’Leary, Adele Khakimova, Lee Metzger, Paula Dunsmore, Judge Berry, Amy Anderson, Leah Beard, Wade Foster, Deanna Beckwith and Jeff Gleason.

On April 18, 2017, ten new Piedmont CASA Volunteers were inducted. Left to right: Hatsy Vallar, Amanda Urban, Thomas Bright, Jessica Friedman, Mark Cave, Judge Tinsley, Michael Cordell, Amy Stewart, Greg Bragg, Meredith Kalnite, and Dan Meador. Photos by Larry Bouterie. Not shown: Alicia Milligan.
What are the responsibilities of
Piedmont CASA Volunteers?

Each Volunteer works with only one child or sibling group. This focus ensures that the needs and desires of the children remain at the forefront of case planning and judicial proceedings. CASA Volunteers interview parents, caretakers, foster parents, social workers, therapists, educators, and other service providers; they attend service planning meetings and Family Partnership Meetings; and they meet with children in a variety of settings at least monthly.

In addition, they provide parents/legal custodians with information about FAMIS (Family Access to Medical Insurance Security Plan, a program that provides low-cost health insurance for children in families that earn too much for Medicaid but do not have private health insurance) and Crime Victims Compensation assistance (where appropriate). They also provide the local United Way Resource Guide.

CASA Volunteers collaborate extensively with social workers and treatment providers to ensure that all parties stay informed about progress and issues in each case, and that the children receive the services they need. Their investigations culminate with fact-based reports to the judge that include recommendations on how best to meet the needs of each child.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Last year, 120 Volunteers in the program completed 2,334 hours of in-service training. Topics included Substance Abuse, Aging Out of Foster Care, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Trauma-Informed Foster Care, Mental Health Issues, Advocacy Skills, Family Dynamics, Sexual Abuse, The Court’s Expectations of CASA (with the Honorable Edward DeJ. Berry), Open Adoption, Domestic Violence, Maltreatment of Children, Pregnancy and Methadone, Teen Suicide and Death, and Suicide Awareness.

RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Conduct independent investigations
2. Submit written reports with recommendations to the Court
3. Monitor the case to ensure the Court’s orders are followed and the child is receiving needed services
4. Assist the guardian ad litem
5. Report suspected child abuse to Child Protective Services
The Department of Criminal Justice values the time Piedmont CASA Volunteers spent advocating for our children in FY 2017 at $242,036.93

In FY 2017, our CASA Volunteers served more children than ever before: 294, breaking the record of 267 set the previous year. This is not a record we want to break. It is an alarming indicator of a rapidly increasing need right here in our community. We feel it, as do our CASA Volunteers. We get more calls from the Court about upcoming cases for new abused and neglected children. Supervisors attend more preliminary hearings and invest more time in determining the appropriateness of the case for CASA. Volunteers attended 484 hearings, conducted 153 independent investigations, and documented 9,277 hours of meetings with children, parents, physicians, therapists, social workers, attorneys, and others. We know the actual hours our CASA Volunteers invested was considerably higher, but when they are focusing on their advocacy, they don’t always watch the clock.

According to National CASA Association data, children with CASA Volunteers receive more services than children without an advocate. These services—whether medical, dental, educational, or psychological—often prove to be crucial to the children’s ability to recover from the devastating effects of the neglect or abuse they have suffered. Also, a child with a CASA Volunteer spends less time in foster care than child victims without an advocate. When children move out of foster care and into permanent homes, they benefit from lifelong connections, stable homes, and positive role models.

Taming dragons for children

On October 19, 2016, Piedmont CASA Volunteer Chuck Gross received the Ruth Stone Advocate of the Year for his eight stellar years of dedicated work with nine children.

On the same evening, Judge Edward DeJ. Berry was honored for his 23 years of taming dragons for children in the 16th District of the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court.

Eleven-year-old Sam sat outside the courtroom, sobbing. He’d just been told he couldn’t live with his grandfather - he was going into foster care.

Then Sam got a CASA Volunteer. She interviewed his grandfather and discovered that he was able to take care of Sam - and very much wanted to. She met with Sam’s therapist, who also considered this to be in the boy’s best interest.

With a growing consensus, Sam’s Volunteer began working closely with the guardian ad litem to gain support for the move. When the foster care worker also agreed, Sam was overjoyed.

Today, Sam is still in DSS custody, but is living with his grandfather on a trial basis. His CASA Volunteer checks in regularly to help ensure that the transition goes well.

Because Sam’s CASA Volunteer got to know him, was thorough in her research, and was effective in getting others to support her position, Sam’s custody is going to be transferred to his beloved grandfather.

When kids are burdened with major problems at home, they can’t just slide them off like backpacks when they walk out the front door. They wear their burdens everywhere, including school. Todd’s burden made him withdrawn, socially uncomfortable, different. And being different made him a target.

Todd was bullied so badly at school that he was hospitalized.

Everyone agreed he had to go to a different school this year. But by late summer, his Piedmont CASA Volunteer was worried. Todd’s mother was supposed to do the paperwork but she was too ill. Todd was scared and running out of time, so his CASA stepped up to the plate. She went to his old school and got his records. She completed the paperwork and got his mother’s signature. Then she drove the application to his new school, where he was accepted.

Even though this process was outside a CASA’s realm of responsibility, it was essential for Todd’s well-being. Todd’s CASA Volunteer paid attention - then she went above and beyond to ensure that this year, Todd would not be bullied.

Two stories that exemplify how important it is for abused and neglected kids to have CASA Volunteers
As if June 30, 2017, there were 176 children with CASA Volunteers whose cases were active. Of those, 126 (56%) were in out-of-home placements. The average number of placement changes per child in placement was 2.09 (including initial removals from home).

145 (49%) experienced a total of 186 placement changes during the period. Sixty-six were initial removals from home. Of the 120 changes after the initial removal, 89 were changes to placements of equal or less restriction, and 31 were changes to more restrictive placements due to the children’s need for more services.

Of the 176 children who remained in the custody of the Department of Social Services at the end of the year, 56 (32%) lived in their own home or with a relative, and 93 (53%) lived in family-setting foster homes. Seventeen (10%) of the children were in adoptive or pre-adoptive placements. The remaining 10 (5%) were in group homes, residential treatment facilities, short-term diagnostic facilities, or trial placements.

99.66% of our children remained free from founded re-abuse while served by Piedmont CASA.

Of the 18 children (16%) who presented with physical health concerns, 17 (94%) received appropriate treatment and/or showed improved conditions by case closing. Health issues faced by this group of children included physical disability, inflicted injury, heart condition, vision disorder, subdural hematoma, urinary tract issues, Down Syndrome, substance-exposed infants, premature birth, and birth defects.

Of the 52 children (46%) who presented with mental health conditions, 51 (98%) were offered some form of appropriate therapeutic intervention by case closing. Two (2) older youth chose not to participate. Conditions included: general anxiety disorder, PTSD, ODD, attachment disorder, ADHD, depression, suicidal ideation, aggression and parentification. Treatments included trauma-based therapy, individual therapy, family therapy, attachment therapy, in-home counseling, in-patient treatment and medication, individual therapy, family therapy, in-home counseling, in-patient treatment, and medication.

Seventy-nine (79 or 70%) of our children were of school age. Based on teacher reports and report cards, a total of 81 (103%) were performing at grade-level and/or receiving remedial services. Two (2) students graduated from high school. One (1) is attending college and the other is exploring post-secondary opportunities. One (1) was nearing completion of her GED. Educational assistance included IEPs, tutoring, ESL services, remedial support and an educational support specialist. Occasionally children on grade level receive remedial support services.
Measuring Piedmont CASA’s Impact

On Strengthening the Community

Piedmont CASA collaborations are formed with the primary goal of ensuring the safety of children, but focus also on strengthening families as well as community education and outreach.

The Charlottesville and Albemarle Multidisciplinary Teams (MDT) meet monthly to staff cases involving child sexual abuse and/or serious physical injury. This interdisciplinary collaboration with the police department, Child Protective Services (CPS), prosecutors, and mental health professionals helps to improve the investigation and prosecution of child abuse and ensures the provision of appropriate mental health services to child victims. Each team member brings special expertise and case knowledge. The CASA Supervisor in particular focuses attention on the safety, stability, and mental health needs of the children.

The Family Drug Treatment Court (FTC)—a collaborative project between the Charlottesville and Albemarle Departments of Social Services, Piedmont CASA, the Region Ten Community Services Board, and the Court—is designed to protect children from abuse and neglect precipitated by the substance abuse of a parent or caregiver. This interdisciplinary team works with participants to develop case plans for the parent’s treatment and family service needs, as well as for the child’s safety and health needs, both physical and mental. These efforts are reinforced by intensive judicial monitoring. Piedmont CASA participates in weekly case management team meetings and court hearings to ensure the children’s needs are considered in the parent’s treatment plan.

The Charlottesville and Louisa County Best Practice Teams work to implement the Court Improvement Program in dependency cases and to provide regional training to improve practice in the dependency courts. Piedmont CASA is an active, essential member.

The Louisa Interagency Council (LIAC) was formed to develop strategies that will keep citizens informed about the needs of the community, the resources that are available, and how they can become involved or get access. Piedmont CASA consistently takes advantage of community awareness events organized by the LIAC.

Each fall, Piedmont CASA partners with the University of Virginia School of Law Pro Bono Program. We accept up to five law students into each CASA training session, and provide training and supervision to give them hands-on experience working as child advocates in the juvenile court.

Every August, the men and women of GE Intelligent Platforms collect and donate school supplies and backpacks for our CASA kids. Last December, GE partnered with the JAG Legal Center and School Club and the Junior League of Charlottesville to donate hundreds of holiday presents.

In partnership with ReadyKids, Piedmont CASA has established a Trauma-Informed Community Network. The goal is to engage diverse professionals from across the region so that our children and their families have continuous trauma-informed care.
Increasing Community Involvement

Making Connections and Building Awareness

To help build awareness about child abuse and neglect across the community, Piedmont CASA maintains an active social media presence on Facebook, Pinterest, and Twitter. We also produce radio PSAs and print materials, and are always available for speaking engagements and community training. In FY 2017, we attended or participated in scores of events around the community, some of which are noted in the photos below.

Board of Directors Chair Julie Christopher welcomes Delegate David Toscano to Piedmont CASA’s Appreciation Reception on October 19, 2016. The event was hosted by Julie Christopher and Marge Connelly in honor of Volunteers, supporters, and friends of Piedmont CASA. It was held at UVA Morven Farm. Photo by Jennifer Byrne Photography.
Piedmont CASA partnered with a coalition of nonprofits to launch The Bluebird Parade for foster children on May 5. (May is National Foster Care Awareness Month.) In the months leading up to the Bluebird Parade, artists, families, and organizations donated hundreds of bluebird works of art. Contributors ranged from the Alzheimer’s Association to Mollie Michie Pre-School to LexisNexis to Firnew Farm Artists’ Circle.

The Bluebird Parade took place on the Downtown Mall during the First Fridays ArtWalk. About 200 men, women, and children carried 247 bluebird works of art - one unique bluebird to represent each child in foster care in our community.

The Foster Care Adoption and Awareness Coalition consists of: Community Attention Foster Families (CAFF), the Departments of Social Services in Albemarle and Charlottesville, DePaul Community Resources, Foster Care Alumni of America, PeoplePlaces, and Piedmont CASA.
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Making Connections and Building Awareness

TOP - An amazing team from the UVA Medical School painted the Piedmont CASA parking lot, stained and sealed the front doors, painted the railing, back door and CASA sign, replaced locks, and spruced up the yard on the United Way Day of Caring. Standing l-r: Anne Williams, Mary Gray, Robin Clatterbuck, Pamela Sprouse, Team Leader Leah Beard, Ashley Opfar, and Scott Kozuch. Kneeling l-r: Laura Gonyar, Kellie Gildersleeve, and Megan Seekford (9-21-16); SECOND ROW ABOVE - UVA ProjectSERVE student volunteers came by the office to code and hand-address hundreds of envelopes. Top row- Schyler McDonnell, Olivia Prillaman, Katie Mead. Middle- Samantha Crawley, Jessica Fei. Bottom- ElnéVeldman, Sabrina Lingenfelter, Julianna LaRose, Kara Wertz (8-26-16); Six UVA Law students volunteered for Piedmont CASA on PILA (Public Interest Law Association) Service Day. L-R: Chase Lindsey, Kyle Smith, Maya Rich, Sarah Speight, Gina Sato, Liam O’Conner (8-21-16); BELOW CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Junior League of Charlottesville volunteers donated their time to help ensure that our Fall Appeal letter went out on time and in good order. L-R: Maggie, Moira, Amber, Ashley, Kelly, Melissa, Sarah, Megan. (10-24-16); Kappa Alpha Theta Sorority hand-addressing envelopes for the Spring Appeal. Evie Taylor, Sammie Magargee, Fleming Redd, Collins Grant, Allie Williams, Annika Tallis, and Grace Mountcastle.
Piedmont CASA does not charge fees. We rely on a comprehensive development plan and the generosity of community members and friends. We seek funding each year from a variety of public and private sources: government grants, foundations, corporations, and individuals. We pursue this diversity so that our work is not jeopardized should a particular funding stream dry up; child advocacy is too important.

**Child Abuse is Costly**

The costs of abuse are staggering for both victims and society. Let’s just look at one year in the United States. In 2008, there were three million reports of child abuse and neglect. That breaks down to six complaints per minute, every day. At the end of the year, 772,000 children were classified as maltreated, and 1,740 died. The financial cost to the nation was $124 billion. *(Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Report, 2011, the most recent year for which these statistics are available.)*

For the children, health repercussions for that one year of abuse and neglect were numerous: improper brain development, impaired learning, blindness, head trauma, physical injuries, and anxiety. They also have higher risks for smoking, alcoholism, drug abuse, heart, lung and liver diseases as well as obesity, cancer, and high blood pressure. All this from just one year of maltreatment. Add multiple years of abuse and neglect, and the risks for these health problems increase in frequency and severity.

The estimated average lifetime cost per child victim is $210,012. This includes $43,178 in healthcare costs and $144,360 in productivity losses. This damage is comparable with other health conditions like stroke, (lifetime cost $159,846) or type 2 diabetes (lifetime cost between $181,000 and $253,000).

**CASA is Cost-Effective**

• The cost of keeping one child in a Virginia juvenile justice facility for one year is approximately $260,019.
• With the funds used to incarcerate that one child, Piedmont CASA Volunteers can serve over 100 kids.
• Historically, one CASA Volunteer cuts the amount of time a child spends in foster care by an average of 7.5 months - which translates into an annual savings of $24,375.
The number of children who need and deserve CASA Volunteers continues to increase. You have supported us so generously and for that we are deeply appreciative. In order to meet the need I hope you will consider introducing CASA to co-workers, friends and family. You are well versed in what it takes to be a Volunteer. Please suggest that those people who may be interested call us to learn more. We’d love to hear from them and answer any questions they may have. Your personal recommendation would mean a lot.

Piedmont CASA prides itself on the quality of its pre-service training and the opportunities we provide so that experienced Volunteers can continue to hone their skills. Through our own professional development, we have learned about topics and strategies that are worth incorporating.

The Henrico CASA program developed a case study that introduces trainees to the system and situations they are likely to encounter in Virginia. The Department of Criminal Justice Services funded their effort to create a training toolbox that is available to all twenty-seven programs in the Commonwealth, along with the technical assistance needed to implement it. The programs that have adopted this curriculum are inducting new Volunteers who are better prepared to manage the complexity of their cases and are more confident, particularly when writing their first Court reports. We will incorporate the case study in 2018.

Experienced CASA Volunteers are required to complete twelve hours of in-service training annually. We offer a wide variety of learning opportunities and make independent study resources readily available. This year we will enhance and improve this program so that our Volunteers can become subject-matter experts on topics such as trauma and educational advocacy.

The Greater Charlottesville TICN continues to thrive. The first-year strategic plan included the goal of conducting a self-assessment that would provide useful information to individual organizations and to the Network community as a whole. We have completed that and are analyzing the data. Piedmont CASA received its report and has a better understanding of how trauma-informed we are as an agency. The results will help guide training priorities.

Since its inception the Trauma Network has enjoyed support from public and private agencies. We are now working in partnership with the United Way, the Early Education and Care Task Force and the Mental Health and Wellness Coalition to accomplish the second goal on the strategic plan. We will co-host a series of trainings conducted by Dr. Allison Sampson-Jackson that will begin with a community forum, progress to a seminar series that includes a Train the Trainer component, and conclude with high-level training delivered to Trauma-Informed Leadership teams. They will return to their systems and organizations as trauma leaders. This resident expertise will ensure that the most effective level of trauma-informed care information is dispersed to all staff on a regular basis that is tied to their daily work.
As of June 2017, our new Bridges to Success program was fully staffed. After only six months, the Coaches are already serving twenty young people, among them teenagers who had chosen not to engage with any other professionals. This is the first time some of these boys and girls have not only been able to set goals, but have been offered the critical support necessary to accomplish them.

Since joining the Bridges to Success program, 9 young people have secured internships or employment. 3 are connected with the Great Expectations program at PVCC, and 5 have chosen to continue to receive services and support from the Department of Social Services after turning 18.

Judicial Transition

We said goodbye to Judge Berry on July 31. From all reports he is enjoying his retirement and spending lots of time with his grandchildren.

As expected, Judge Deborah S. Tinsley and Judge David M. Barredo are already making their mark. The Louisa Court is participating in a statewide pilot that is expected to have a positive impact on the performance of Guardians ad litem. Judge Barredo made a seamless transition into Family Treatment Court in January. As of August 1, he assumed responsibility for the dependency docket in Charlottesville/Albemarle and continues to preside in Greene.

The Best Practice Court teams for all three jurisdictions are being reinstituted. I anticipate that PCASA will continue to take a leadership role in the area of training.
We Couldn’t Do It Without You

Jimmy Miller’s Bracket Breakfast for Piedmont CASA

At 7:30 a.m. on March 13, 2017, the 4th Annual Jimmy ‘Magic Man’ Miller’s Bracket Breakfast was full steam ahead. Dave Koehn and Rachel Ryan emceed. This year, local author John Grisham joined panelists Barry Parkhill, Ricky Stokes, and Rick Wampler. The event raised $23,433 for Piedmont CASA and increased awareness about the plight of abused and neglected children in our community.

Sponsors who made the Bracket Breakfast possible

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Top photo courtesy of Jennifer Byrne Photography.
John Grisham photo courtesy of The Daily Progress.
Foundation, Government, Corporation, and Church Support
FY 2017: July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017

Every year, Friends of CASA members generously donate their time to help us reach our goals

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Thanks to the DELTI CHI CHAPTER OF KAPPA ALPHA THETA SORORITY for 20 years of support!

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UVA’s ProjectSERVE | The Village School

August 2016
For fourteen years, the fabulous men and women of GE Intelligent Platforms have been making sure that Piedmont CASA boys and girls are prepared when they go back to school, by providing them with brand new backpacks and supplies.

December 2016
Piedmont CASA kids all around our community got holiday presents from three generous organizations: GE Intelligent Platforms, JAG Legal Center and School Club, and the Junior League of Charlottesville.
2016-17 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Bridges Coach, Gwen Jones (f/t)  
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Foster kids don’t see the world through rose-colored glasses. They can’t afford to.

In order to survive, abused and neglected boys and girls develop protective filters so strong that they screen out opportunities along with the pain. Who could blame them? When the world doesn’t show you its good side, it’s easy to conclude that side is not for you.

So how do we show them that it is?

BRIDGES COACHES

Bridges Coaches start mentoring foster teenagers at age 14 and work beside them as long as they are in care, which could be up to age 18 to 21. This gives our Coaches time to get behind those overprotective filters. Because when you open a teenager’s eyes to their own possibilities - horizons expand. Scales fall away so that dreams can coalesce into tangible goals. Once teenagers believe in themselves and have long-term goals, Bridges Coaches guide them in building the tools and making the connections they need to achieve them.

Bridges Coaches show older kids in care how to build bridges to the other side of the world. The side they thought was out of reach.
Piedmont CASA will continue to raise awareness about child abuse and neglect and the need to support the children and families who are affected.

Piedmont CASA will always strive to have a Volunteer for every abused and neglected child in our community. To that end, we will persistently recruit, screen and train new CASA Volunteers.

Piedmont CASA will promote strong collaborations with our partners in the child welfare system so that the children we serve have every opportunity to achieve safety and stability in permanent homes and receive the services they need to heal and grow.

Piedmont CASA will constantly endeavor to improve our program in order to enhance the short and long-term outcomes for the children and youth we serve.