The abused and neglected children we serve are the heart of everything we do. Each red square throughout this report tells a story about, or shares a quote from, one of our kids. Because beating just beneath the facts and figures, the finances and statistics, is the living pulse of our community’s most vulnerable population.
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
Piedmont CASA has a 23-year history of providing well-trained and effective court advocates for abused and neglected children. Since 1995, the program has trained more than 700 community members who have advocated for over 2,000 children. Local judges find the program so valuable that they request a Piedmont CASA Volunteer for every new child who enters their court with an underlying allegation of abuse and neglect. As a program, Piedmont CASA is unsurpassed in making use of our community’s most valuable asset, its citizens, who as Volunteers donate their time and skill in service to abused and neglected children.

During interviews for joining the Great Expectations program at Piedmont Virginia Community College, two CASA teens were asked to talk about a favorite memory. They each described an experience with their Piedmont CASA Bridges Coach.

Our Year
In Fiscal Year 2018, we provided advocates for 293 abused and neglected children - the third year in a row our community experienced this high level of need for Piedmont CASA Volunteers.

Our Motivation
Abuse and neglect injures children right down to the molecular level. A recent study found that maltreated boys and girls had DNA differences in 122 genes, each of which contributed to a behavioral change such as an inability to concentrate or to control fear and anger.

Without intervention, these genetic alterations can lead to a lifetime of health problems: major depression, suicide, PTSD, drug and alcohol abuse, heart disease, cancer, and more. And those illnesses lead to social consequences like homelessness, unemployment, criminal behavior, and shortened lifespans. It is a personal tragedy for these young victims, and a hardship for our community.

Our objective is to change those outcomes by providing the kind of intervention maltreated children need to thrive: trauma-informed care in every setting, more medical care and educational support, less time in foster care, and, at the conclusion of each case, safe and permanent homes that support their well-being and development.
### Highlights of Fiscal Year 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Volunteers do not get paid ... no fees are charged ... and no other program provides this service</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Piedmont CASA conducted two 32-hour training sessions and inducted 30 new CASA Volunteers.</td>
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<tr>
<td>100% of the children served by the program whose cases closed during FY 2018 remained free from new, founded incidents of abuse and/or neglect.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At the end of the fiscal year (June 30, 2018) there were 20 children on our waitlist.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CASA Volunteers spent approximately 9,883 hours meeting with children, parents, physicians, therapists, social workers, and attorneys, as well as attending court and other case-related meetings. They spent an additional 5,482 hours in ongoing training.</td>
</tr>
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**Being able to live in a safe, permanent home at six months of age instead of waiting another year was crucial for Simon's long-term stability and well-being. Thanks to the well-informed and effective advocacy of his Piedmont CASA Volunteer, he did.**

| In FY 2018, the Courts referred 173 new children to Piedmont CASA. |
| Of those referrals, 113 were found to be appropriate and assigned CASA Volunteers. Every foster child who needed an advocate, received one. |
| Our Volunteers conducted independent investigations for children in 151 family groups. |
| 509 hearings were attended by CASA Volunteers and/or their CASA Supervisors. |
| 154 court reports were submitted to the Judges. |
| These court reports contained 848 recommendations based on careful research. Of those recommendations, 778 (91.75%) were accepted. |
| There was a 104% increase in the number of cases closed: from 89 to 182. |
| The length of time active CASA Volunteers served with the program increased 2%: from 43 to 44 months. |
According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the most serious health problem we have in the U.S. is the complex trauma caused by Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). Without intervention, childhood abuse and neglect can lead to improper brain development, impaired learning, and anxiety. It can trigger a higher risk for heart, lung, and liver diseases as well as obesity, cancer, and high blood pressure. Absent effective trauma-informed treatment, victimized children are less likely to succeed in school and obtain gainful employment when they grow up. They are more likely to get in trouble with the law and, tragically, perpetuate the cycle of abuse and neglect with their own children.

- 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

Our Volunteers actively promote the intervention these young victims need. They are well trained to assist the court and child welfare system in ensuring safety, appropriate placement, and the services necessary to ensure physical health, mental health, and educational stability.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Children served by region in FY 2018:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Albemarle County: 112 (38%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Charlottesville: 130 (44%)</td>
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Children’s capacity to thrive in spite of bad environments is an incredible feat of biology.

Piedmont CASA Volunteers and Coaches strengthen that capacity by helping to provide positive role models, physical and mental stability, and rich experiences in the physical world.
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+. They reside in Charlottesville and the counties of Albemarle, Greene, and Louisa. More than 85% come from homes surviving at or below the federal poverty line. They are Caucasian, African-American, Multiracial, Asian, and Native American. Approximately 9% are Hispanic. They are almost evenly divided between boys and girls.

All our CASA children 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 2018, 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.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FISCAL YEAR</th>
<th>NEW CHILDREN SERVED</th>
<th>TOTAL CHILDREN SERVED</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>234</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>221</td>
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<td>2016</td>
<td>215</td>
<td>267</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>224</td>
<td>294</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>293</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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**

Beginning in FY 2019, Piedmont CASA Volunteers must successfully complete a new training based on an enhanced version of the National CASA Association curriculum. This 42-hour course incorporates a Virginia case study that will provide students with hands-on experience. Classes will also cover 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 covered as well. This new training will continue to include the *Fostering Futures* curriculum for Volunteers who serve youth, ages 14 to 18, as well as eligible young people up to the age of 21.

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**30 new Volunteers in fiscal year 2018**


*Photos courtesy of Larry Bouterie.*
What do Piedmont CASA Volunteers do?

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.

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.

Responsibilities

1. Conduct independent investigations
2. Submit written reports with recommendations to the Court
3. Collaborate extensively with other organizations and professionals working on the case
4. Aid guardian ad litem in providing effective legal representation
5. Monitor the case to ensure the Court’s orders are followed and the child is receiving needed services
6. Report suspected child abuse to Child Protective Services

Continuing Education

Last year, 125 Volunteers in the program completed 5,482 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, Wisdom From the Bench with Judges Deborah S. Tinsley and David M. Barredo, Open Adoption, Domestic Violence, Maltreatment of Children, Pregnancy and Methadone, Teen Suicide and Death, and Suicide Awareness.
In FY 2018, our CASA Volunteers served 293 children and youth, the third year in a row we have reached such high numbers. We feel it, as do our CASA Volunteers. We get more calls from the Court about upcoming new cases of child abuse and neglect. Supervisors attend more preliminary hearings and invest more time in determining the appropriateness of the case for CASA. We know the actual hours our CASA Volunteers invested was considerably higher than the 9,883 recorded, but when they are focusing on their advocacy, they don’t always watch the clock.

According to the 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.

$264,370.25

That’s the dollar value of the advocacy work donated by Piedmont CASA Volunteers in FY18, according to the Department of Criminal Justice.

Last year, our Volunteers devoted 9,883 hours advocating for CASA children. Their time is valued at $26.75 per hour by the Virginia DCJS.

125

The number of men and women in our community who volunteered their time to improve the lives of maltreated children.

“Both CASA Volunteers and Bridges Coaches take on a role more significant than advocate and mentor. They helped me get and do what I needed.”

Piedmont CASA Teenager
Our children experienced a total of 221 placement changes in FY 2018. Of those placement changes, 110 were initial removals from their homes. (Three of the 113 children who entered the custody of the Department of Social Services (DSS) in FY 2018 were able to remain in their own home.)

After the initial removal, there were 111 placement changes to:

- Adoptive home - 6 (5%)
- Foster home - 45 (41%)
- Group home - 4 (4%)
- Medical facility - 1 (1%)
- Other home - 28 (25%)
- Own home - 21 (19%)
- Trial home - 6 (5%)

As of June 30, 2018, 183 Piedmont CASA children still had active cases and were living as follows:

- Home or with a relative - 28 (15%)
- Foster care - 139 (76%)
- Adoptive placement - 1 (1%)
- Group homes or residential treatment - 15 (8%)

The average number of placement changes for all the children in DSS custody was 2.096 (including initial removals from home).

OF THE 110 CHILDREN WHOSE CASES CLOSED IN FY 2018

100% of our children remained free from founded re-abuse while served by Piedmont CASA.

Of the 25 children (23%) who presented with physical health concerns, all 25 (100%) received appropriate treatment and/or showed improved conditions by case closing. Health issues faced by this group of children included substance-exposed infants, obesity, dental issues, hearing loss, speech impediments, migraine headaches, hypotonia, and digestive disorders.

Of the 69 children (63%) who presented with mental health conditions, 67 (97%) were offered appropriate therapeutic intervention by case closing. Sixty-six (95.65%) saw some improvement. Two older youth chose not to participate. Conditions included trauma symptoms related to maltreatment, separation, general anxiety disorder, PTSD, ODD, attachment disorder, ADHD, depression, suicidal ideation, anger, and aggression. Treatments included trauma-based therapy, individual therapy, family therapy, attachment therapy, in-home counseling, in-patient treatment, residential placement, and medication.

Of the 83 (75.4%) children who were of school age, 57 (69%) were performing at their grade level based on teacher reports and report cards and/or receiving remedial services. (Note: Volunteers were appointed to two cases involving 9 children before adjudication. One case was dismissed and the other moved to another jurisdiction before any information could be gathered.) The remaining 17 boys and girls were struggling academically because of complicated trauma histories often coupled with multiple placement changes and attendant school disruptions. Four students were excelling. Three graduated from high school. Two students are involved in post-secondary programming. Educational assistance included IEPs, tutoring, remedial support, and an educational support specialist. Occasionally children already at their grade level received remedial support services.
The Charlottesville, Albemarle, and Louisa 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 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 children’s safety, stability, and mental health needs.

Piedmont CASA is a founder of the Greater Charlottesville Trauma-Informed Community Network. Its mission is to improve trauma-informed care by educating professionals and the community on the impact of trauma and by advocating for trauma-informed systems of care.

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

Jack was studying for trade school because he didn’t think he had other options. Knowing he was into computer games, his CASA Bridges Coach took him to a Hackathon. For the first time in his life, Jack met peers and professionals building careers with tools he loved. With the help of his Bridges Coach, Jack changed his class schedule to college prep — and his grades soared.

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 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 attends 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.
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 2018, we attended or participated in scores of events around the community, some of which are noted in the photos below.

Sally was the first in her family to graduate from high school. In preparation for independent living, Sally and her Bridges Coach rode buses together to learn transportation routes. Her Bridges Coach guided Sally in how to apply for jobs and prepared her for interviews. Now Sally’s got a full-time job and is saving money to get her own apartment.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Bridges to Success and Great Expectations of the Piedmont Virginia Community College announce a new partnership to support foster youth (9-12-17); more than 700 people came to the Paramount to hear Dr. Allison Jackson talk about “Trauma: How it Affects You and Every Member of Our Community” hosted by the Greater Charlottesville Trauma-Informed Community Network (11-28-17); Pat Macionis accepted the Ruth Stone Advocate of the Year at the Appreciation Event (10-12-17); Women of UVA Pediatrics ran for Piedmont CASA in the Markel Richmond Half Marathon in Richmond (11-10-17); Judge Deborah Tinsley at the Appreciation Event (10-12-17); PCASA at the Newcomers Fall Hospitality event, one of the many events and fairs we attend for Volunteer recruitment (9-19-17).
Increasing Community Involvement

Making Connections and Building Awareness

Hosting a Poverty Simulation with the UVA Curry School of Education

On Saturday, February 10, 2018, about 100 men and women participated in a Poverty Simulation at the UVA Aquatics and Fitness Center. The goal was simple: keep a roof over your head and pay your bills. But there is nothing simple about it if you’re one of the working poor. The Poverty Simulation broadens awareness of the challenges 27% of the households in our community face on a daily basis.
The Bluebird Parade for foster children took place on May 5. Artists, families, and organizations from all across the community donated hundreds of bluebird works of art. Gearharts Chocolates created a bluebird chocolate just for the event and committed a portion of their proceeds to PCASA. MarieBette Bakery was all aflutter with bluebird cakes and breads. The Bluebird Project is organized by the Foster Care Adoption Awareness Coalition, which consists of Piedmont CASA, Community Attention Foster Families (CAFF), the Departments of Social Services in Albemarle and Charlottesville, DePaul Community Resources, Great Expectations of the Piedmont Virginia Community College, Foster Care Alumni of America, PeoplePlaces, and UMFS.
CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Grace Mountcastle delivered a check to Alicia Lenahan for the money raised during Waffle CASA, the annual Kappa Alpha Theta-Delta Chi Chapter fundraiser for Piedmont CASA; Renaissance School student volunteers donated a sunny afternoon to beautify Piedmont CASA’s yard (10-2-17); hundreds of holiday gifts for Piedmont CASA kids were donated by the men and women of GE, JAG Legal Center and School Club, Families of Big Give, Albemarle County Rotary Club, Blue Ridge Mountains Rotary Club, Katie Jenkins, Rachel Wahl, and Julie Lapan (12-11-17); Alicia Lenahan and Board Member Jack Bocock prepare to welcome newly-inducted Volunteers (5-18-18); Judges Deborah Tinsley and David Barredo shared stories with an appreciative audience during Wisdom from the Bench (5-15-18).

LEFT: Student volunteers with UVA’s ProjectSERVE helped ensure that our mailings go out without a hitch (8-25-17). BELOW: Members of the Newcomers Club patiently hand-address hundreds of envelopes for our Appreciation Invitation (9-8-17); For many years, members of the Junior League have generously donated their time to ensure that our fall appeals go out in perfect order (10-24-17).
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 diversity so that our work is not jeopardized should a particular funding stream dry up; child advocacy is too important.

Child Abuse is Costly

Every day, child abuse and neglect costs our nation $220 million. Where does that number come from? It comes from investigations, foster care, medical care, and mental health treatment. Later, we pay for special education, juvenile and adult crime, chronic health problems, and other costs that continue to accumulate across the life span of maltreated children. In the upcoming year, our nation will pay more than $80 billion to address these issues. Child abuse and neglect may start behind closed doors, but it never stays there. It affects us all.

When Allen was sent to a residential facility, his isolation was painfully highlighted. For seven months, he did not have one single visitor - except for his CASA. She drove two hours each way every month, and maintained regular phone contact. Allen's CASA was his lifeline. She enabled Allen to navigate a treacherous terrain and regain his footing.

CASA is Cost-Effective

To change the terrible outcomes described above, maltreated children need early and effective interventions. They need CASA Volunteers. Research shows that children with CASA Volunteers get more help while in the system, such as more medical and psychiatric care, and better educational support. Research also shows that they spend less time in court, less time in foster homes, and find safe, permanent homes faster. And when we build strong children, we build a strong community.

• 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 100+ kids.

• CASA Volunteers reduce the amount of time a child spends in foster care by approximately 7.5 months - an annual savings of $24,375.
Bridges to Success for Older Youth in Foster Care

Far too often, 18-year-olds who “age out” of foster care are unprepared. As a result, they become homeless, pregnant, or incarcerated at a much higher rate than their peers. The human toll is devastating. That’s why we expanded the CASA Volunteer program to include Fostering Futures. Then we took it a step further. We designed a new program specifically tailored to address the unique needs of foster teens in our community: Bridges to Success for Older Youth in Care.

By adding three professional Bridges Coaches to our staff, we are able to give our youth and young adults sustained one-on-one professional support that will help them build their own bridges to self-sufficiency and independent living.

In our first two years, six young people have graduated from high school, one earned a GED, seven enrolled in the Great Expectations program at Piedmont Virginia Community College, 12 secured jobs, three obtained internships, three qualified for driver’s licenses, and 20 participated in extracurricular activities.

“Most foster teens don’t have anyone to turn to. The Bridges program fixes that by providing much-needed advice, friendship, safety, and fun. I believe every child should have the option to have someone from the Bridges program to help them.”

Piedmont CASA Teenager

From the day they start working with foster teens, ideally at age 14, our Bridges Coaches stay with them as long as they are in care and have a CASA Volunteer. This reinforces the Piedmont CASA tradition of providing the rare, sometimes the only consistent adult in the life of a child or youth in care.

The work of our Bridges Coaches is broadening the range of recommendations and information available to CASA Volunteers for their court reports, enabling them to advocate more effectively.

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.
Your longstanding, very generous support allows Piedmont CASA to grow and thrive. We believe that these annual evaluations give you the insight and understanding you need to confidently invest in our programming and by extension, our children and youth. Thank you!

These reports take a deeper dive than our other communications because we want you to have a clear understanding of the role Piedmont CASA plays in child abuse and neglect cases. It all starts with a decision…

Take a moment and think about the last time you had to make a difficult choice. You probably weighed the pros and cons. You asked yourself how the possible outcomes would impact you and your family. Then you chose your course of action and took ownership of that decision—committing yourself to its success.

Now consider the last time a friend asked for your advice while making a difficult decision. After listening carefully, you were able to provide a well-reasoned response. Clarity and decisiveness were much more accessible because the decision wasn’t personal to you.

That is certainly the case when a person has the authority to make decisions for and about other people based on the facts presented. Operating within the parameters of regulations, mandates, and local practices s/he can arrive at a difficult decision with a degree of moral certainty. The organization then takes ownership of that choice and works to justify it.

Look at the picture on the right. Think of a child who you love and who loves you back. Put her name in the circle. Then at the end of each spoke write down the people, places and things that are important to her—parents, siblings, teachers, classmates, teammates, pets, books, etc… Now imagine reaching in and pulling her out of this universe, leaving each of those important connections disrupted, damaged, or perhaps destroyed.

This decision is not made lightly. When the Department of Social Services receives a report of child abuse and neglect a series of investigations follow, becoming more and more involved until the only question left is whether or not to remove the kids. The child welfare system is charged with keeping families together whenever possible and with keeping children safe. It is populated by well-
intentioned professionals. Even so, case-related decisions may not reflect the long term impact they have on the fragile human beings involved.

Although children are taken from homes that are chaotic and perhaps unsafe, that is where the child feels connected. And too often she will blame herself. “If I had been a better girl this wouldn’t have happened.” The experience makes her feel unwanted.

Research demonstrates that children should only be separated from their families if we are saving them from harm worse than the one we ourselves will inflict.

Dr. Robert Marvin is an associate professor emeritus at UVa Medical School and the director of the Mary Ainsworth Attachment Clinic in Charlottesville. He describes it this way.

*Severing a primary attachment is a catastrophic act that will virtually always cause serious, long-term harm to children. An attachment is not a skillset but a relationship formed with a particular person, and it cannot simply be transferred to another. A child who is removed from the primary attachment relationship, whether due to a tragic accident or a court ordered separation, risks serious damage to her emotional well-being. That primary attachment should only be severed if the alternative - leaving the child in the relationship - constitutes an even greater risk of physical, developmental, or emotional harm to the child.*

It is Piedmont CASA’s responsibility to remind all those involved that every time you do something for a child, you do something to a child. Our Judges expect us to know the human beings involved in these cases as well as we know the facts.

In order to help children in a meaningful way we must help them and their parents recover from multi-generational, chronic trauma. This requires a paradigm shift from focusing on “bad” behavior to building resilience.

Trauma-informed practices create safe, non-judgmental environments that foster calm states of mind. They are respectful, understanding, and warm. Finally, and perhaps most important, they enable the development of trusting relationships and mutual supports.

Research has taught us that first and foremost, children and adults must feel safe. Then they can begin to connect appropriately with others. Then, and only then, can they learn new skills that include emotional regulation, problem-solving, self-sufficiency, and coping skills. Piedmont CASA is part of a dynamic network that is committed to creating conditions that will help our children and their families change the trajectory of their lives.

*Thank you for making our work possible.*

---

**President Alicia Lenahan**
It was March 12, 2018. Dave Koehn and Rachel Ryan emceed. Panelists were John Grisham, Barry Parkhill, Chelsea Shine Wilson, and Dr. Tom Perrin. The event raised over $45,000 for Piedmont CASA and increased awareness about the plight of abused and neglected children in our community.

They loved their son. But their own toxic childhoods had not prepared them to be parents. So Ricky’s CASA Volunteer helped them facilitate a working relationship with their son’s foster parents. It was a connection that helped inspire and encourage Ricky’s mom and dad to achieve their goals. Today, Ricky is on his way to a safe, permanent home ... with his parents.

Glenmore Country Club
Kathy Rhyne and Charles Axten

IN-KIND GIFTS
Jennifer Bryne Photography | Gearharts Fine Chocolates | Keswick Hall & Golf Club
Omni Charlottesville Hotel | Primland Resort at Meadows of Dan | Rivanna River Co.
Marty and Bob Sayler | TheSabre.com | UVA Men’s Basketball
Alexander von Thelen | Richard Wampler
Every year, Friends of CASA members generously donate their time to help us reach our goals

**FRIENDS OF CASA COMMITTEE, FY 2018**

Sarah Gray Parrish, Chair

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Julie Boyer</th>
<th>Lotta Helleberg</th>
<th>Candice Love</th>
<th>Maria Rolph</th>
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<tr>
<td>Michele Burke</td>
<td>Robin Kaczka</td>
<td>Jenny Miller</td>
<td>Martha Stockhausen</td>
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<td>Stuart Greer Ellis</td>
<td>Marika Koch</td>
<td>Stephanie Osada</td>
<td>Mindy Vaughan</td>
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<td>Tarpley Gillespie</td>
<td>Rachel Lloyd Miller</td>
<td>Elissa Rieger</td>
<td>Jennifer Winslow</td>
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Thanks to the DELTA CHI CHAPTER OF KAPPA ALPHA THETA SORORITY for 21 years of support!

**BUSINESSES, ORGANIZATIONS, VOLUNTEERS**

First Presbyterian Church
Jennifer Byrne Photography
Jonathan McVity
Junior League of Charlottesville
Kathleen K. Sinclair
Larry Bouterie
LexisNexis
Louisa County Public Library
McIntire School of Commerce
Microsoft Corporation
NBC29
Newcomers Club of Greater Charlottesville
Newsplex
Renaissance School
Ron Ignotz
T&N Printing
UVA's ProjectSERVE

**AUGUST 2017**

For fifteen years, the generous men and women of GE Automation & Controls have been making sure that Piedmont CASA boys and girls go back to school with brand new backpacks and supplies.

**DECEMBER 2017**

Piedmont CASA kids all around our community got holiday presents from these generous organizations:

- GE Automation & Controls
- JAG Legal Center and School Club
- Families of the Big Give
- Albemarle County Rotary Club
- Blue Ridge Mountains Rotary Club
- Katie Jenkins, Rachel Wahl, Julia Lapan
- Erik Greenbaum
- Steve Takach and other generous people
2017 -18 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Julie Christopher  
Community Leader
R. Peter Kilburn  
Community Leader
James F. Miller  
President  
Miller Financial Group
Mark Sackson  
Community Leader
Judy Smith  
Executive Director, Retired  
Jefferson Area CHiP
A. Benjamin Spencer  
Professor of Law  
University of Virginia

Photo courtesy of Jennifer Byrne Photography.
**CASA**

President, Alicia L. Lenahan  
BA, Anna Maria College  
JD, New England School of Law

Program Director, Randy Nolt (f/t)  
BA, Pennsylvania State University

Advancement Director, Lexie Boris (f/t)  
BA, Emory and Henry College

CASA Supervisor, Cathy Eberly (f/t)  
BA, Shippensburg State College  
MEd, University of Virginia

CASA Supervisor, Annie Izard (p/t)  
BA, University of Virginia  
JD, George Mason University School of Law

CASA Supervisor, Kati Naess (p/t)  
Medical Technology, University of Munich

CASA Supervisor, Sherri Rosser (f/t)  
AS, Piedmont Virginia Community College

CASA Supervisor, Alison Taravella (f/t)  
BA, University of Virginia

Office Administrator, Janet Williams (p/t)  
BA, Miami University  
MS, Miami University

**BRIDGES**

Bridges Coach, Leah Cole (f/t)  
BS, Edinboro University  
MEd, University of Virginia

Bridges Coach, Adam Crist (f/t)  
BA, University of Virginia

Bridges Coach, Gwen Jones (f/t)  
BA, Bowdoin College  
MS, University of Massachusetts  
PhD, Purdue University

*Photo courtesy of Jennifer Byrne Photography.*
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.
“She is the best ... couldn’t be better if she tried!

We all love our CASA worker!”

Foster parent review of Piedmont CASA Volunteer