



PIEDMONT CASA ANNUAL REPORT 2012-2013

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



As I write this, the Piedmont CASA Board of Directors is completing its six-month review of Alicia Lenahan, and I am extremely pleased to report that in this critical transition we are off to a smooth and remarkably promising start. I'd like to thank the community for giving Alicia such a warm welcome during her transition from Worcester, MA to Charlottesville. Many of you have been learning firsthand about her enthusiasm and strong commitment to the mission. The energy, experience, and calm leadership she has displayed during these demanding early months confirm that Alicia is the perfect choice to keep CASA flourishing as we approach our 20th anniversary milestone.

I'd also like to recognize the incredible legacy of Ruth Stone, who retired as Piedmont CASA's president in December of 2012. It was Ruth's vision that founded this wonderful organization, her knowledge and commitment that steered it so beautifully for seventeen years, and her passion that built it into the highly productive and deeply respected organization it is today.

As Alicia settles into the day-to-day activities of running Piedmont CASA, the board of directors is shifting its focus back to our

A Reason to be Involved

BY PHOEBE FROSCH, CASA VOLUNTEER

More than any other aspect of my life—as a parent of young children, a member of my neighborhood association, and even a writer for the local weekly newspaper—my experiences as a CASA Volunteer have expanded and deepened my understanding of the community that surrounds me. In Charlottesville, I feel like I live in a bubble, the boundaries of which are demarcated not by race but by education and economics. Only my CASA work takes me beyond these transparent but remarkably resilient walls and allows me to connect with people I see every day but would otherwise never know.

This is not an abstract or intellectual exercise for me. My reason for seeking this connection (particularly a supportive or helpful one) to families marked by tremendous hardships such as poverty, unemployment, alcoholism, sexual abuse, and emotional illness remains quite simple: these terrible hardships exist and I believe it's wrong to look the other way and pretend that they don't. The cycle of troubled lives and the human suffering they engender is not going away any time soon. The children for whom I advocate live within what I consider to be my community, whether they're one mile or one hundred miles away. It's unconscionable not to recognize their plight.

The families in my CASA cases have included a policeman, a waitress at the campus restaurant where I sometimes eat, a plumber's assistant, a truck driver, a motel housekeeper, and a woman who periodically lives in the homeless shelter not far from my house. I know these people and their children—I have listened to their stories, I have asked them uncomfortable questions, and I have wrestled with how best to improve and protect the lives of their children, often in opposition to their parents' hopes and desires.

The connections I form to my CASA families are not friendships or personal relationships, but neither are they the least bit patronizing or artificial. Our ties to one another might be classified as professional, but they are also direct, intense and by necessity often brutally honest. They are not statistics to me, they are individuals whom I strive to understand and assess in all their uniqueness.

One reason for this is that there's no beating around the bush and no possibility for polite superficiality when advocating for the best interests of a child whose life has already become troubled, whether or not allegations of abuse and neglect are present. And there's nothing to do but look a parent or grandparent right in the eye and speak a reasoned but heartfelt truth when explaining your recommendation that they not regain custody of the child they desperately want to raise. The same mandate applies to telling a twelve year old boy that he cannot return from school to the house where he woke up that morning. The stakes are so high that it's impossible to be anything other than real.

As a CASA Volunteer, the families I work with relate to me differently than they do to the social services caseworker, the Guardian *ad Litem*, or the elementary



primary directive: funding. Always at the forefront of our duties, it is even more important now due to the steadily increasing need for Piedmont CASA Volunteers. Since 2008, Charlottesville and the counties of Albemarle and Greene have seen regular upswings in child victims of abuse and neglect. In response, Piedmont CASA doubled the number of training sessions held for these communities last year, adding another 35 volunteers to our roster in FY 2013.

Judicial requests for Piedmont CASA Volunteers have also been rising in Louisa County. So in FY 2013, we expanded our work into Louisa, inducting five new volunteers who are now advocating for nine neglected and abused children. Global economic trends are exerting particularly intense pressure on rural communities, and Piedmont CASA must maintain a strategic head start on the special risks children are facing in our outlying counties.

Which underlines once again the board's mission of keeping Piedmont CASA financially strong, strong enough both to meet and to anticipate the need for sufficient volunteers. It is your support that makes it possible. Your donations that enable our volunteers to advocate for the youngest and most helpless victims in our communities.

As fiscal year 2013 drew to a close on June 30, there were still 32 children on our waiting list. Every new CASA Volunteer you sponsor reduces that number. Together we will strive to reduce the waiting list to zero. Together we will work to ensure that every at-risk child has the chance to escape the cycle of abuse and neglect, and blossom into an independent, happy and productive member of society.

A Reason to be Involved

FROM PAGE 1

school principal. I don't work for The Man: even though I have a Court Order and the greatest access to information of any person on the case, I don't sit squarely within the System that has dictated the lives of many of these parents since they were children themselves. This creates the opportunity for greater honesty and trust; a more informal and human interaction.

In each of the five cases I have investigated over six years, I feel that I have gained tremendous insight into the lives of the extended families I met. With that exposure and insight has come a more complex appreciation of what it means to have your life limited and distorted by generations of sexual and emotional abuse, little education, less money, and next to no opportunity to turn it all around. It has changed the way I see the world, my politics, the explanations I give my children. And all I did was venture forth into what was always already there, an integral part of where I live.

Why this program?

There is no other person in "the system" of either law or government who can do what a CASA does. Which is not to say that other people are not doing their jobs. Overwhelmingly, my experience has been that, yes, the Guardian *ad Litem* and the social worker and the school are doing a fine job. CASA does not enter a case to compensate for slackers. We are the agents of a different task: we pull together the patchwork pieces of everyone else's fine work, we open the lines of communication between all the players, we see the larger picture, and we never stop visiting our child and putting that child's needs above all else. Therein lies the genius of CASA.

Over a six year period, all five children for whom I have advocated have been jostled and, I'd go so far as to say, adversely affected by the fairly consistent turnover in Department of Social Service caseworkers, residential program staff, mental health counselors, and foster parents. The turnover exists because the work these people do is so tough—quite often the most talented and committed are the ones who, at some point, decide that they simply can't do this any longer.

But these are the very people that the kids we help have become emotionally attached to and sometimes they're the only person who's divined the more subtle dynamics of the case: how to talk to Mom so she doesn't fly into a rage, how to get a few words out of a withdrawn 12 year old, where to find Dad when he doesn't have a phone, how to prevent the child from feeling guilty and miserable during a weekly visit with his mother. The only person, that is, besides the CASA Volunteer.

Unlike all the others, the CASA Volunteer does not leave the case and we don't burn out because this is not our full time job. We stay through all the changings of the professional guard, as well as the transfers between foster care homes, transitions back to family and siblings, and even permanent placement after the termination of parental rights.

No one else can bring all of these people together. CASA is the thread that holds together the patchwork quilt of other people doing their jobs. There's no way I could do any one of those jobs eight hours a day, five days a week—I know that about myself. And yet I can do this. I can be a CASA Volunteer. I can make the whole system work better.



Never Give Up on a Child

2013 REPORT ON ONE CHILD AND HER CASA VOLUNTEER

By the time she was two years old, Sherry had been victimized repeatedly. By the age of ten, she had initiated numerous attempts to harm herself and to injure seriously those around her. By eleven, she had been committed three separate times to psychiatric hospitals, requiring around-the-clock supervision.

These significant traumas, combined with a merry-go-round of placements and social workers, resulted in Sherry developing a deep mistrust of adults. There was, however, one person Sherry trusted and consistently wanted to see: her CASA Volunteer. Lois had been advocating for Sherry since she was two years old, longer than Sherry could even remember.

As Sherry grew from toddler to young child, her behavioral issues became a challenge in school as well as in her foster home. She grappled with Reactive Attachment Disorder, Depression, Anxiety, and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder – but throughout it all, Lois never wavered. Even when Sherry was close to two hours away, Lois would make the drive to visit her and listen. She steadfastly represented Sherry's interests at school meetings, treatment team planning meetings, emergency team meetings, medication management discussions, group facility planning sessions, and court hearings. Years went by and Lois was often the only person celebrating Sherry's birthdays with her. As the Judge noted, "Sometimes it seems like it's just you and me. This child has gone through an awful lot and after all these years and changes, here we are, and you know this child better than anyone, so I am counting on you to keep the court informed."

When Sherry's behavior escalated to the point of being a sustained threat to herself and those around her, she was

placed in a secure congregate care facility with psychiatric support. When close to a year went by and Sherry was still there, Lois initiated conversations with the Department of Social Services about the urgent need to find her a qualified foster home. It would be a risk, but Lois argued that it was a chance – a hope – that Sherry deserved to have.

After months of screening, Sherry was placed with the Smith foster family. The first few months were rocky and Lois was contacted often. In regular visits, she developed an honest, trusting relationship with the Smith family and consistently maintained an open communication about Sherry's history, needs, and interests.

By the following year, Sherry had been living with the Smiths for nine months, the longest she had ever lived in a single placement. For the first time in her life, she flew on a plane and traveled outside Virginia. To mark the occasion, the family sent Lois scores of happy photos from their adventures at the Grand Canyon. But the happiest moment was when the Smith family announced that they wished to adopt Sherry.

As they work through the adoption process, Lois continues her advocacy by remaining focused on Sherry's educational and therapeutic needs. Every time this dedicated CASA Volunteer joins a table of Sherry's therapists, caseworkers or teachers, she brings more than a decade's worth of profound commitment to finding a safe and permanent home for this child.



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 By Lucretia and Joe Blythe
 Ruth Stone
 By Liz Blankenship
 By Susan Cabell Mains
 By Judith Anne Coffman
 By Kimberly C. Emery
 By Ruth E. Geils
 By Nancy Grable
 By Carol and Blake Hurt
 By Carol Johnston
 By Katy and Tony Kreienbaum
 By Richard and Elizabeth Merrill
 By Dr. and Mrs. David L. Morris
 By Lindsey Munson
 By Ann Pax
 By Susan and Paul Seehaver
 By Bryan C. Stone and Audrey Stone
 By Mr. and Mrs. Philip E. Stone
 By Leigh R. Trippe
 By Rebecca Weybright
 By Jean A. Zearley
 Ruth and John Stone
 By Kathy and Greer Jackson
 By Mr. and Mrs. Philip E. Stone



Katie, Patrick and Maggie Tubridy
 By Mr. and Mrs. Michael F. Tubridy
 Dr. and Mrs. Bill Williams
 By Anonymous
 Elizabeth Willingham
 By Anonymous
 Tony Wilson
 By Mr. and Mrs. Michael Kaminski

We thank our many supporters for their generous gifts to Piedmont CASA. If an error or omission has occurred, we express our sincere regret and ask that it be brought to our attention.

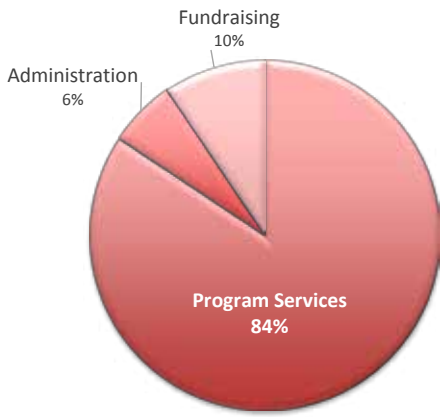
If you would like copies of Piedmont CASA's financial statements, please call the office at (434) 971-7515.

- ★ Building Fund and Annual Fund Donor
- ◆ Building Fund Donor
- ❖ In-kind Gifts

Drawings are from "Kids 4 Kids", a gallery of art done by children for CASA children.

Financial Summary

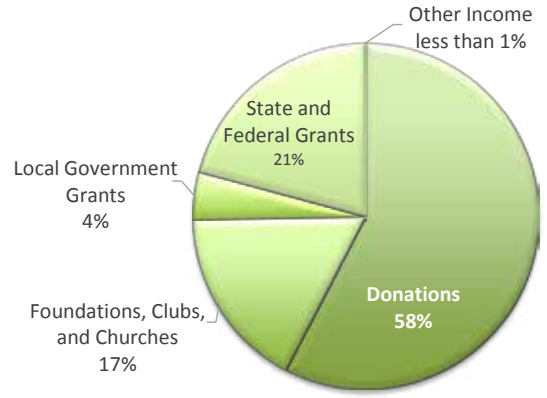
JULY 1, 2012 - JUNE 30, 2013



EXPENSES

EXPENSES	
Program Services	\$ 433,356
Administration	\$ 32,018
Fundraising	\$ 48,625
Total	\$ 513,999

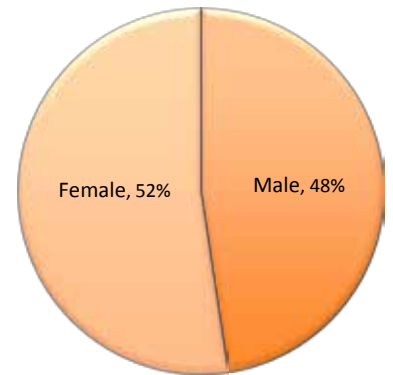
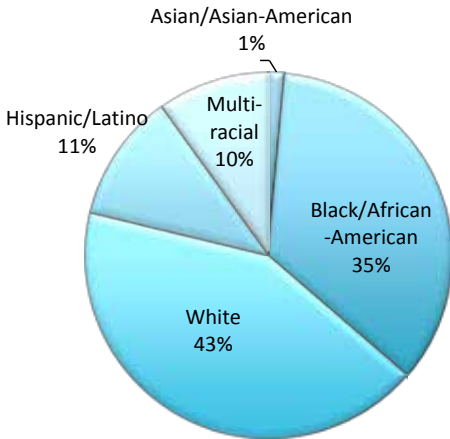
INCOME	
Donations	\$ 248,611
Foundations, Clubs, and Churches	\$ 73,751
Local Government Grants	\$ 19,088
State and Federal Grants	\$ 89,514
Other Income	\$ 463
Total	\$ 431,427



INCOME

CASA Volunteers Make a Positive Difference

- 100% of our children remained free from founded re-abuse while served by CASA Volunteers
- No children re-entered the dependency court system within one year of case closure
- Of the 61 cases closed:
 - All children who needed medical treatment, received it and showed improvement
 - All school-age children who were not performing at grade level received appropriate remedial services, and showed improvement
 - At year end, 65% of the children were living in their own home, an adoptive home, or in a relative placement



Piedmont CASA Volunteers

CHANGING OUR COMMUNITY ONE CHILD AT A TIME

10 to 15 Years

Steven Cooper
Georgina King
Lindsey Munson
Terry Petty
Susan Roberts
Joe Ronan

6 to 9 Years

Delores Alt
Evette Carto-Barton
Anne Blankenship
Peg Donnelly
Philip Giaramita
Nancy Grable
Simon Harvey
Patricia Macionis
Janna Mahaffey
Alicia Milligan
Rebecca Mooney
Mary Nafpaktitis
Ann Pax
Linda Shaw
Jean Shepard
Erin Spencer
Cathy Wicks

3 to 5 Years

Beth Alley
Heather Boe
Janet Bonner
Leticia Brady
Ruth Carroll
Adrienne Dent
Chuck Gross
Erin Hall
Bonnita Hill
Susan Jacobson
Jeff Langston
Monica Markelz
Virginia McKee
James Mehlin
Lauren Merkle
Anne Christine Miaral-Yost
Carla Myrtle
JoAnn Osborne
Mandy Pedersen
Mark Sackson
Geri Schirmer
Richard Schneider
Paul Seehaver
Janet Shobe
Harriett Slezak

Janet Stack
Paul Summers
Inge Austin Verweij
Lori Woolworth
Ann Carrie Worrell
Jean Zearley



Up to 2 Years

Lucy Akers-Allen
Elaine Attridge
Emily Auerbach
John Beckert
Katy Bennett
Joe Bernheim
Bob Bossi
Diana Brownlee
Karen Chelluri
Mary Chinn
Rachael Clarke
Sandra Cook
Kitty Croes
Mary Cunningham
Margaret Donowitz
Kathleen Dowd
Lucy Edwards
Anne Marie Farrar
Kathryn Fennig
Dana French
Teresa Gillie
Grace Giras
Rebecca Green
Ellie Grinspun
Sara Harmon
Rita Heeter

Mason Heidt
Roy Hopkins
Wendy Hubbard
Mary Hunter
Clinton Johnson
Patt Keats
Rebecca Keese
Donna Kelley
Rochelle Koepp
Marcia Langsam
Ed Ledford
Ed Lee
LaDonna Louderback
Julia Lyman
Jeffrey Matriccino
Dibba McConnell
Jennifer McLeod
Rachel Miller
Becky Minor
Tracy Missett
Dianne Montgomery
Paula Newcomb
Martha Otal
Carol-Ann Paget-Brown
Natalie Palmer
Shannon Parker
Kate Paxton

Linda Perez
Susan Quisenberry
Martha Redinger
Sherri Rosser
Marjory Ruderman
Sarah Scaptura
Jan Schneider
Virginia Schumann
Gerald Shea
Ruth Shea
Katerina Silcox
Marilyn Steedman
Paul Stephens
Patricia Venegas
Daniel Walden
Jean Wardell
Jane Williams



Drawings are from "Kids 4 Kids", a gallery of art done by children for CASA children.

Thank You

TO ALL OUR FRIENDS WHO GIVE PIEDMONT CASA THEIR TIME, ENERGY AND SUPPORT

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|---|
| ACAC | Larry Bouterie, Photographer | UVA's Project Serve through Madison House |
| C-Ville Weekly | McIntire School of Commerce | United Way Day of Caring |
| Cavalier's Care from UVA's Madison House | Monticello | The Village School |
| The Central Virginian | Newsplex | WNRN |
| Charlottesville Radio Group | Tuel Jewelers | WUVA |
| First Presbyterian Church | UVA School of Law | |
| Junior League of Charlottesville | UVA's Theta Service Fraternity | |

We are also deeply grateful for the Friends of CASA Committee, who work tirelessly to help us with mailings and outreach to donors.

Friends of CASA Committee

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Jennifer Winslow, <i>Chair</i> | Becky Gildersleeve | Marika Koch | Mary Ellen McVey | Martha Stockhausen |
| Tracy Arbaugh | Tarpley Gillespie | Katy Kreienbaum | Stephanie Osada | Mindy Vaughan |
| Julie Boyer | Sharon Greene | Candice Love | Sarah Gray Parrish | Amy Vigilante |
| Michele Burke | Lotta Helleberg | Jenny Miller | Elissa Rieger | Ames Winter |
| Stuart Greer Ellis | Beth Ann Kallen | Rachel Lloyd Miller | Maria Rolph | |

And thanks to the Delta Chi Chapter of Kappa Alpha Theta Sorority, who generously hold an annual spring pancake breakfast in support of Piedmont CASA.



Delta Chi Chapter of Kappa Alpha Theta Sorority



Big thanks to GE FANUC Automation Americas, Inc., who sent 116 CASA kids back to school with brand new backpacks and supplies in FY 2013.

Volunteer Highlights

JULY 1, 2012 - JUNE 30, 2013



THE WORK

- 123 Piedmont CASA Volunteers advocated for 210 child victims
- They conducted 125 independent investigations
- They attended 350 hearings
- They donated 12,231 hours in direct advocacy service for children
- They donated another 2,840 hours in training

THE CHILDREN

- The Courts referred 110 new children to Piedmont CASA in FY 2013
- 68 of these children were assigned CASA Volunteers
- 10 cases were screened out
- At the end of the year, 32 children were still on the wait list for Piedmont CASA Volunteers

THE VOLUNTEERS

- 38 new volunteers were trained and inducted in FY 2013
- Currently active volunteers have served with the program on average 29 months

434.971.7515 pcasa@embarqmail.com PCASA.ORG



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Piedmont CASA, Inc.
818 East High Street
Charlottesville, Virginia 22902

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