



# PIEDMONT CASA ANNUAL REPORT 2013-2014

## CHAIR'S MESSAGE



Piedmont CASA is always a busy place as the organization races to recruit, screen, train, and supervise men and women in our community who will go on to play crucial roles in improving the lives of abused or neglected children. But right now, the need is outpacing our resources - and as long as there are children on Piedmont CASA's waiting list, there is an even stronger sense of urgency. We want to serve every child, and we are constantly striving to ensure stronger outcomes for each of them.

So the 2014 calendar year has been full of new initiatives for Piedmont CASA. With only eight months under her belt as President, Alicia Lenahan entered 2014 with the goal of implementing *Fostering Futures*, a practical, targeted response to the significant challenges faced by older youth in care. Developed by National CASA, *Fostering Futures* gives these young people, beginning at age 14, the kind of continuous and collaborative assistance that engages them in the life-planning process and helps them build a network of support - tools they need to make a safe and successful transition into adulthood.

At the same time, Staff took the lead on implementing Flex Learning, a volunteer training curriculum that alternates online community learning with

I am a  
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volunteer

ALISON GILBREATH



I graduated in 2011 from Virginia Commonwealth University with a degree in Criminal Justice and Business. As an undergraduate, I interned at Virginia General Assembly and the Virginia Governor's Office. I'm now in my first year of graduate studies at VCU, pursuing a degree in Social Work, and am interning at the Department of Criminal Justice Services, which oversees the CASA programs in Virginia.

You also need to know that I am a CASA Volunteer because when I was 11 years old, I had a CASA Volunteer. My family came to the attention of the Department of Social Services because my mom was suffering from bipolar disorder and had attempted suicide. I was afraid because things were scary at home, but more afraid of going into foster care. As a result, whenever my social worker asked, I told her things at home were fine when actually the situation was getting worse.

My CASA made it clear that she was there for me and that I could trust her. She convinced me to tell the truth to DSS, which meant that I went to live with my childhood best friend, and my mom went to a hospital and received the help she needed. My CASA also convinced my mother to let me come visit her at the program so I could see the progress she was making. My mom and I were reunited.

The first thing I did when I turned 21 was apply to become a CASA Volunteer. They accepted me into training and I told my story for the first time on the first night of class. I've since worked on two cases and advocated for five kids. My CASA children knew I was there for them and that they could trust me. I am a CASA Volunteer because I had a CASA Volunteer.

On behalf of all the children whose lives have been touched by Piedmont CASA Volunteers, *thank you!*

classroom sessions. We hope this will enable more qualified people to become CASA Volunteers, bringing us closer to our goal of reducing the waiting list of abused and neglected children to zero.

As an outcome of a day-long strategic planning retreat held early in 2014, Piedmont CASA's Board of Directors made the decision to launch a focused media campaign to recruit new Volunteers and to educate our community on the work of Piedmont CASA. Maybe you have heard the spots featuring current Volunteer Advocates and community leaders. They are powerful testimonials, and the airtime has already had a measurable impact. With the help of a media grant from the Charlottesville Radio Group, the radio campaign has helped to increase Piedmont CASA's daily website traffic by 33%. It is a little early to know the full impact of this campaign or the long-term successes of *Fostering Futures* and *Flex Learning*, but we are certain these efforts will result in better outcomes for the children and youth we serve.

I have been involved with Piedmont CASA for a very long time – since 1999. The first committee I joined was the Friends of CASA Committee, a group of tireless community-minded individuals who work to ensure the success of the Annual Fund each year. My next job at CASA was a paid position as Advancement Director. Following years at that position, I moved to volunteering my time as a member of the Board of Directors. And this January, I will step down as Chair and retire after six years on the Board. It has been very fulfilling to be involved with Piedmont CASA and to work with all of you toward a safer community for our children. Piedmont CASA gives life-saving support to local children because the Staff and the highly trained Volunteer Child Advocates are superb at their jobs with superhero levels of compassion.

Jennifer Winslow has been serving as Vice-Chair of the Board for the past two years. She, too, has had a long history of involvement and commitment to Piedmont CASA. Jenn is in line to become the next Chair of Piedmont CASA's Board. She will bring an impressive level of expertise, experience, and commitment to the role of Chair, and the organization is in very good hands. I will look forward to reading her newsletter updates and to hearing about the continued good work of Piedmont CASA in making our community a safe place for every child.



Drawings are from "Kids 4 Kids", a gallery of art donated by kids for the benefit of CASA kids.

## Our Volunteer could see light at the end of the tunnel but getting his CASA child there took perseverance

2014 REPORT ON ONE CHILD AND HIS CASA VOLUNTEER

For the first seven years of his life, Tommy was raised by his grandmother. When her health declined to the point she could no longer care for him, he was shipped off to his mother. When Tommy turned twelve, he had missed so many days of school and had accumulated so many referrals for bad behavior, that his school filed a CHINS (Child In Need of Supervision) petition. Tommy was medicated for Attention Deficit Disorder and put in a Special Education program. It was then reported that his mother was a crack addict, verbally abused him, and had physically assaulted him with a whip. The Court entered a finding of abuse and neglect, and the local Department of Social Services placed Tommy temporarily with his great aunt.

At that point, the Court assigned Tommy a Piedmont CASA Volunteer. James went to work immediately and, after multiple visits with Tommy in the home of his great aunt, he met with the social worker and they decided that Tommy would be better off with his older brother. Tommy had a long-standing connection with his brother, who had also been in the foster care system.

It was a strong family bond, and an arrangement both siblings wanted. However, becoming the caregiver of a troubled teenager would be a challenging new role for this young man, so it was important to ensure that he had everything he needed to make it work. To that end, James worked closely with the older

brother. He was influential in helping establish the necessary services—a parent mentor, a youth mentor, family counseling, and good communication from the school district to the older brother. After establishing connections with all the service providers, James maintained regular contact to confirm that progress was being made.

Once it was all firmly in place, the Judge ordered a "trial home placement" for Tommy with his older brother. During this trial period, James paid them a visit every month to make sure the brother was able to provide a safe, secure, and loving environment for Tommy. At the same time, James invested a vast amount of time advocating for Tommy in the school. As a result, Tommy got a new Individualized Education Plan (IEP) as well as the necessary support to help him academically and emotionally.

At the final hearing, the Judge complimented James for the time and investment he put into the Court reports. (James had been on the case for over two years.) The Judge also had high praise for the older brother, who personally overcame the challenges of growing up in foster care so that he could take care of his younger sibling.

At the age of 14, Tommy had finally found a safe, permanent, and nurturing home. James remained on the case for an additional two months to ensure that Tommy continued down the right path.

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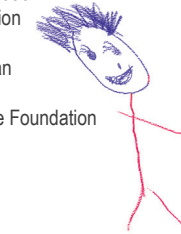


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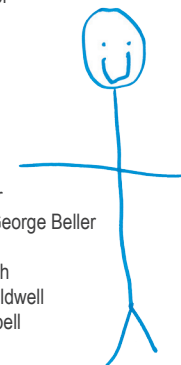
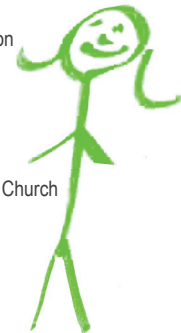
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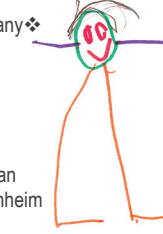
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Toni and John Obrion  
by Sandra and Jay Levine  
Maria Rolph  
by Mr. and Mrs. Kevin W. Schuyler  
Catherine Rotolo  
by John Lanham  
Martha and Robert Saylor  
by Christina L. Saylor and David H. Fairris



Brooke Spencer  
by Lisa and Daniel Mann  
John and Ruth Stone  
by Kathy and Greer Jackson  
by Mr. and Mrs. Philip E. Stone, Jr.  
Ruth Stone  
by Michael Drischler  
by Ruth E. Geils  
by J. E. and A. L. Jones  
Jennifer Winslow  
by Tim Billings and Tricia Hoefling

*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

# Piedmont CASA Volunteers

CHANGING OUR COMMUNITY ONE CHILD AT A TIME

**10 to 15 Years**

Liz Blankenship  
Steven Cooper  
Nancy Grable  
Georgina King  
Lindsey Munson  
Terry Petty  
Joe Ronan

Cathy Wicks  
Jean Zearley

**3 to 5 Years**

Katherine Alley  
Inge Austin Verweij  
Heather Boe  
Ruth Carroll  
Adrienne Dent  
Anne Marie Farrar  
Marcia Langsam  
Jeff Langston  
Ed Lee

**6 to 9 Years**

Delores Alt  
Janet Bonner  
Evette Carto-Barton  
Phillip Giarmita  
Chuck Gross  
Erin Hall  
Simon Harvey  
Susan Jacobson  
Patricia Macionis  
Janna Mahaffey  
Alicia Milligan  
Rebecca Mooney  
Mary Nafpaktitis  
Linda Shaw  
Jean Shepard  
Janet Shobe  
Erin Spencer

Paul Stephens  
Paul Summers  
Daniel Walden  
Janie Williams  
Lori Woolworth

**Up to 2 Years**

Jim Amato  
Elaine Attridge  
Emily Auerbach  
Brent Beckert  
Katy Bennett  
Joe Bernheim  
Bob Bossi  
Diane Brownlee  
Diana Burruss  
Rachael Clarke  
Sandra Cook  
Kitty Croes  
Mary Cunningham  
Kathleen Dowd  
Megan Durkee  
Jon Emm  
Maureen Falkenbach  
Kellie Gildersleeve  
Grace Giras  
Ellie Grinspun



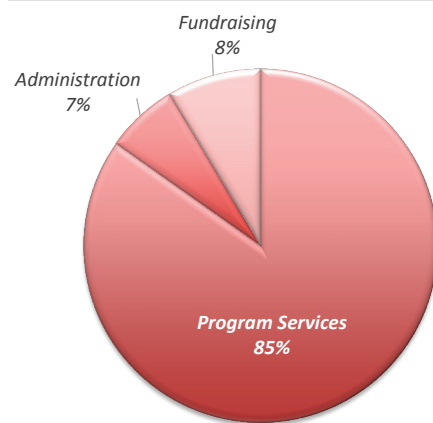
Sara Harmon  
Gregory Hayden  
Rita Heeter  
Roy Hopkins  
Wendy Hubbard  
Mary Hunter  
Clinton Johnson  
Patt Keats  
Rebecca Keese  
Steve Kennedy  
Lore Laaman  
Beatrice Lapisto-Kirtley  
Ed Ledford  
Kim Lueders  
Roya Makki  
Jeffrey Matriccino  
Donna McCauley  
Dibba McConnell  
Jennifer McLeod  
Rebekah Menning  
Joan Miller  
Rachel Miller  
Thomas Miranda  
Dianne Montgomery  
Martha Otal  
Carol-Ann Paget-Brown  
Shannon Parker

Kate Paxton  
Linda Perez  
Susan Quisenberry  
James Ramsey  
Ed Robb  
Sherri Rosser  
Catherine Rotolo  
Marjory Ruderman  
Sarah Scaptura  
Jan Schneider  
Virginia Schumann  
Gerald Shea  
Ruth Shea  
Chelsie Smith  
Becky Soper  
Marilyn Steedman  
Paige Taylor  
LaVerne Usher  
Jean Wardell  
Tricia Wilson

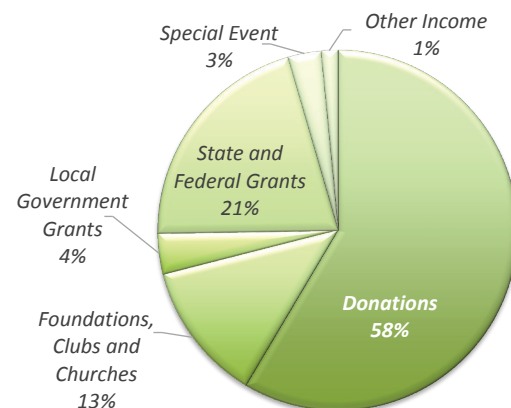
*Drawings are from "Kids 4 Kids", a gallery of art donated by children in our community for the benefit of Piedmont CASA children.*

## Financial Summary

JULY 1, 2013 - JUNE 30, 2014



EXPENSES	
Program Services	468,156
Administration	36,500
Fundraising	47,406
	<b>\$ 552,062</b>
INCOME	
Donations	309,453
Foundations, Clubs, and Churches	66,714
Local Government Grants	19,088
State and Federal Grants	109,968
Special Event	15,876
Other Income	7,683
	<b>\$ 528,782</b>



## Thank You

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

- 🌱 Aillinn Ogden
- 🏠 Blue Ridge Country Store
- 👑 Cavaliers Care from UVA's Madison House
- 📺 The Central Virginian
- 📻 Charlottesville Radio Group
- 🏛️ First Presbyterian Church
- 🌱 Junior League of Charlottesville
- 📷 Larry Bouterie, Photographer
- 📖 Louisa County Public Library
- 👑 Marilynn Sting, Photographer
- 🏢 McIntire School of Commerce
- 📰 Newsplex
- 🏛️ Piedmont Virginia Community College
- 🏠 UVA's Project SERVE, Madison House
- 👑 UVA Darden School Volunteers
- 👑 UVA Law Student Volunteers
- 👑 United Way Day of Caring
- 🏠 The Village School

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

**FRIENDS OF CASA COMMITTEE**

- |                    |                     |                  |                    |                  |
|--------------------|---------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Julie Boyer        | Lotta Helleberg     | Candice Love     | Sarah Gray Parrish | Mindy Vaughan    |
| Michele Burke      | Marika Koch         | Mary Ellen McVey | Elissa Rieger      | Amy Vigilante    |
| Stuart Greer Ellis | Katy Kreienbaum     | Jenny Miller     | Maria Rolph        | Jennifer Winslow |
| Becky Gildersleeve | Rachel Lloyd Miller | Stephanie Osada  | Martha Stockhausen | Ames Winter      |

*And for the generosity of the Delta Chi Chapter of Kappa Alpha Theta Sorority, who hold an annual spring pancake breakfast in support of Piedmont CASA.*

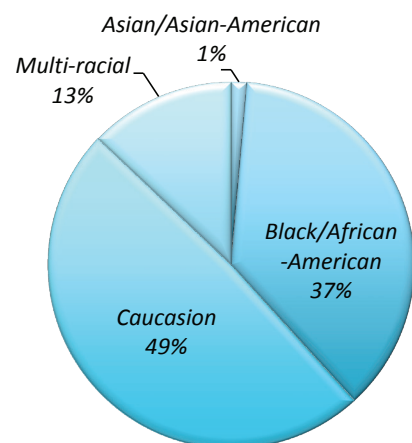
👑 DELTA CHI CHAPTER OF KAPPA ALPHA THETA SORORITY

## Big thanks to GE Intelligent Platforms

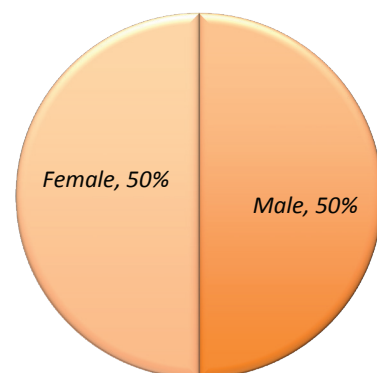
In August 2013, the men and women of GE Intelligent Platforms sent over 100 CASA kids back to school with brand new backpacks and supplies ...

... then in December, for the 13th year, they went out and bought holiday presents for over 121 CASA boys and girls all around our community.

## Making our community stronger ... one child at a time



- 99% 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 88 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, 47% of the children were living in their own home, an adoptive home, or in a relative placement





**The Advocate**

PIEDMONT CASA, INC.

To subscribe to The Advocate  
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go to [pcasa.org](http://pcasa.org)  
or call us at 971-7515

## FROM HOMELESS TO ADOPTED

*The journey of three  
Piedmont CASA children  
in Charlottesville*

To read the rest of the November issue, go to the News & Events page of our website - or check out *The Advocate* album on our Pinterest page.

**434.971.7515**

[volunteer@pcasa.org](mailto:volunteer@pcasa.org)

[PCASA.ORG](http://PCASA.ORG)

Thinking about becoming  
a Piedmont CASA Volunteer?



# Volunteer Highlights

JULY 1, 2013 - JUNE 30, 2014

## THE WORK

- 121 Piedmont CASA Volunteers advocated for 234 victims of abuse and neglect, ranging in age from newborn to 18
- They conducted 129 independent investigations
- They attended 349 hearings
- They donated 8,512 hours in direct advocacy service for children and youth
- They donated another 2,834 hours in training

## THE CHILDREN

- The Courts referred 152 new children and youth to Piedmont CASA in FY 2014
- 90 of these young people were assigned CASA Volunteers
- One case was closed because it was a custody dispute
- 63 youngsters navigated the child welfare system without a Piedmont CASA Volunteer because none were available
- At the end of the year, 27 boys and girls were still on the waiting list for Piedmont CASA Volunteers

## THE VOLUNTEERS

- 28 new Volunteers were trained and inducted in FY 2014
- Currently active Volunteers have served with the program an average of 30 months

PCASA.ORG

2013-2014  
ANNUAL  
REPORT  
PIEDMONT CASA



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