There are a lot of statistics in this annual report: how many children we served in Fiscal Year 2015; how many cases we closed; how much money we raised to perform these services; and how much we spent. They are the clear-eyed numerical perspective in which we can see our effectiveness. But they can only begin to tell the story.

Sam: from serial truant to college freshman

Sam was 17 years old and a chronic truant. He ran away from home regularly. Some people simply wrote him off as delinquent. The truth, however, was that he was enduring an emotionally abusive family. Finally, it drove Sam to attempt suicide, whereupon his mother abandoned him.

Sam was sent to a group home and assigned a Piedmont CASA Volunteer, who immediately started building a relationship with him. The Volunteer learned that Sam excelled at school and had been accepted to several colleges. When Sam ran away from the group home, he called his CASA Volunteer, who convinced him to return. With his Volunteer’s encouragement, Sam even decided to remain in the Department of Social Services’ custody after turning 18 so he could benefit from their help in continuing his education. Today, Sam is a freshman in college and even though his case is closed, he remains in touch with his CASA Volunteer.
anyone who visits the downtown area knows. In 2014, we strengthened our program by introducing **Fostering Futures**, a curriculum and strategy designed to improve the outcomes of older youth, teenagers who are at risk of “aging out” of care with insufficient preparation.

We launched a new fundraising initiative: **Jimmy “Magic Man” Miller’s Bracket Breakfast for Piedmont CASA**. It’s the only Bracket Breakfast in the area, and it is bringing our story to a big, new circle of sports fans. We also made considerable strides in public relations. The radio spots in our new communications initiative let the community hear our Volunteers tell their stories directly. The heightened awareness generated by this campaign led to a much-needed increase in Volunteer applications and donations.

In 2015, we held a **Poverty Simulation**. Seventy people signed up to gain insight into what it’s like for many of the families we serve, the working poor who are surviving at or below the poverty line. Everyone came away with a greater understanding of how the cycle of poverty affects generations in our community.

It is your support that made these achievements possible. Because of you, 221 children last year benefited from the advocacy of Piedmont CASA Volunteers. (Don’t miss the stories of four of them in this report.)

The troubling news is the sharp rise in the number of calls we have been getting from the Court since the end of FY 2015. There are already 48 children on our FY 2016 waiting list. But with the support of our amazing donors, we are striving to provide all of them with the advocacy they so badly need and deserve.

When I retire from the Board in January 2016, Vice Chair Julie Christopher will assume the role of Chair. A longtime community activist and former CASA Volunteer, Julie is deeply committed to the Piedmont CASA mission. Previously, she was Board Chair for Healthy Families and Prevent Child Abuse in Virginia (PCAV), and has had appointments from Governors Tim Kaine and Mark Warner. We are fortunate to have her vision and leadership, and I look forward to seeing Piedmont CASA’s progress continue in the coming years.

---

### Changing lives ... one child at a time

#### Jim: from scared homeless to home free

The beatings at home were so bad that eleven-year-old Jim ran away. For his safety, the Court placed him in foster care along with his eight-year-old sister, Jill, and assigned them a Piedmont CASA Volunteer.

Several family members stepped forward to care for the siblings. To be sure she knew what was best for Jim and Jill, the CASA Volunteer established a strong relationship with the kids and maintained close contact with everyone involved, including the foster parents, counselors, educators, and therapists. She presented the results of her detailed investigation to the Court, along with a clear recommendation.

Before making his final decision, the Judge spoke privately with Jim and Jill in his chambers. The children asked for their Volunteer to be there as well. Thanks to the careful work and strong advocacy of their CASA Volunteer, Jim and Jill got the exciting news that they will be living with their grandmother.

#### Serena: from anxiety to stability

Thirteen-year-old Serena lived in a trailer with her mother, aunt, and grandfather. On the autism spectrum, she had panic attacks when in crowds, which made changing classes in the packed hallways of school terrifying. As a result, she nearly dropped out. The Court assigned a Piedmont CASA Volunteer during a CHINS (Child in Need of Services) hearing.

While establishing a trusting relationship with Serena, the CASA Volunteer thoroughly investigated her case and discovered that she could miss a string of math classes, yet breeze in and ace the test, and had taught herself to play chess at age three. Despite special accommodations ordered by the Court, the crowded environment of the school continued to traumatize Serena, and the accumulation of missed days was again adding up to trouble. A court date was set to determine whether or not she should go to juvenile detention, a prospect that terrified her. Believing that Serena would do better in an alternative school, the CASA Volunteer pushed for an assessment that would confirm her eligibility for special education funding and services. After many months, she succeeded. Serena was tested, and then transferred.

The road is still bumpy, but thanks to the tenacity and dedication of her CASA Volunteer, Serena is not in juvenile detention. She is in a school she likes and is talking about college.

---

*For confidentiality, names and other identifying facts about these children and their stories have been changed.*
The trauma this child endured and the severe complexity of the situation make her case file one of the most disturbing and perplexing in the system.

The journey has not been easy and the destination is still unknown. Social workers have come and gone. Skilled therapists still look for answers, for a breakthrough. Many counselors have cycled in and out of this girl’s life. Specialized homes and treatment facilities have given her case their best efforts. Foster homes—and there have been numerous foster homes—have opened their hearts and families to her. One by one, they too disappeared. Teachers, mentors, counselors, foster care specialists, foster parents, and group homes all have entered her world, only to exit.

One of the 118 Piedmont CASA Volunteers serving 221 kids in FY 2015
Special Thanks to

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$50,000+

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Department of Criminal Justice Services
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$25,000 to $49,999

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generous gifts to Piedmont CASA. If an
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express our sincere regret and ask that
it be brought to our attention.

If you would like copies of Piedmont CASA’s
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Drawings are from “Kids 4 Kids”,
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in our community for the benefit of
Piedmont CASA children.
Thank You

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- First Presbyterian Church
- Junior League of Charlottesville
- Larry Bouterie, Photographer
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- Marilyn Sting, Photographer
- Piedmont Virginia Community College
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Steadfast supporters for eighteen years

GE INTELLIGENT PLATFORMS

Sending CASA kids back to school and bringing them the holiday spirit for fourteen years

In August 2014, the men and women of GE Intelligent Platforms sent almost 100 CASA kids back to school with brand new backpacks and supplies. In December, they bought holiday presents for 121 CASA boys and girls all around our community.

Poverty Simulation

MARCH 28, 2015

More than seventy men and women participated in Piedmont CASA’s Poverty Simulation at Charlottesville High School. Each participant was assigned the role of a low-income family member living on a limited budget. The goal was simple: keep a roof over your head and pay your bills. But there is nothing simple about it if you’re living as one of the working poor. The Poverty Simulation broadens awareness of the challenges faced on a daily basis by many of the families we serve.

Our wonderful community partners and volunteers who made the Poverty Simulation possible

Ellie Atherton
Dianne Ewing
Ronald Ignotz
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Sona Sosa
Melissa Thomas-Hunt
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**JULY 1, 2014 - JUNE 30, 2015**

### EXPENSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<td>Administration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$565,229</strong></td>
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### INCOME

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<td>338,334</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foundations, Clubs, and Churches</td>
<td>82,143</td>
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<tr>
<td>Local Government Grants</td>
<td>19,088</td>
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<tr>
<td>State and Federal Grants</td>
<td>117,396</td>
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<td>Special Event</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
<td>7,161</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td><strong>$581,072</strong></td>
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### 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.
- At year end, 140 children still had active cases. Of those youngsters, 51% were living in their own home, an adoptive home, or in a relative placement.
- Of the 81 cases closed:
  - All children who needed medical treatment received it, and showed improvement.
  - All children who needed psychiatric treatment and received it, showed improvement. Two older children declined.
  - All school-age children who were not performing at grade level received appropriate remedial services.

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### Child abuse is costly

Abused and neglected children suffer a lifetime of health problems such as improper brain development, blindness, cerebral palsy, head trauma, anxiety, smoking, alcoholism, drug abuse, and higher risks for heart, lung and liver diseases as well as obesity, cancer and high blood pressure.

If you tally the lifetime costs for all the children in the US who have been abused and neglected in a single year - it adds up to $124 billion. With each year adding new victims, that cost is soaring.

Every time a foster youth drops out of high school, it costs the public $209,100 in income support, law enforcement, and medical costs.

### CASA is cost effective

Children with CASA Volunteers get better medical and psychological care - which can prevent a lifetime of health costs.

Kids with CASA Volunteers spend an average of 7.5 months less time in foster care - a savings of $14,000 or more in social services per child.

The cost to serve one child in a Virginia residential juvenile justice facility for one year is $150,974. For the same amount, CASA Volunteers could serve 75 children.

Children with CASAs do better in school, which means they are more likely to have stable and productive futures.

And the future of our children is the future of our community.
**Piedmont CASA Volunteers**

**JULY 1, 2014 - JUNE 30, 2015**

**10 to 15 Years**
- Liz Blankenship
- Lynne Conboy
- Steve Cooper
- Phillip Giaramita
- Nancy Grable
- Lindsey Munson
- Terry Petty

**6 to 9 Years**
- Delores Alt
- Heather Boe
- Jan Bonner
- Ruth Carroll
- Chuck Gross
- Erin Hall
- Jeff Langston
- Pat Macionis
- Janna Mahaffey
- Ginger McKee
- Rebecca Mooney
- Mary Naftaktitis
- Paul Seehaver
- Linda Shaw
- Janet Shobe
- Cathy Wicks
- Jean Zearley

**3 to 5 Years**
- Beth Alley
- Elaine Attridge
- Inge Austin Verweij
- Bob Bossi
- Diane Brownlee
- Sandra Cook
- Kathleen Dowd
- Anne Marie Farrar
- Grace Giras
- Roy Hopkins
- Wendy Hubbard
- Clinton Johnson
- Patt Keats
- Rebecca Keese
- Marcia Langsam
- Julia Lyman
- Dibba McConnell
- Jennifer McLeod
- Becky Minor
- JoAnn Murphy
- Paula Newcomb
- Mandy Pedersen
- Susan Quisenberry
- Martha Redinger
- Marjory Ruderman
- Mark Sackson
- Jan Schneider
- Richard Schneider
- Janet Stack
- Paul Stephens
- Paul Summers
- Daniel Walden
- Jane Williams

**Up to 2 Years**
- James Adler
- Jim Amato
- Emily Auerbach
- Jean Balich
- Robert Beard
- Yann Benetreau
- Kaye Bennett
- Janet Borch
- Diana Burruss
- David Cathcart
- Kitty Croes
- Megan Durkee
- Jon Emm
- Emily Falk
- Maureen Falkenbach
- Kellie Gildersleeve
- Ellie Grinspun
- Gregory Hayden
- Rita Heeter
- Steve Kennedy
- Lore Laaman
- Lou Lamb
- Bea Lapisto-Kirtley
- Amy Leider
- Maria Linnen
- Kim Lueders
- Whitney Lyman
- Raya Makki
- Donna McCauley
- Rebekah Menning
- Joan Mille
- Thomas Miranda
- Erin Monroney
- Dianne Montgomery
- Margot Morshuis
- Arielle Mouillet
- Crystal Oliver
- Susan Parmar
- Linda Perez
- James Ramsey
- Ed Robb
- Wendy Rodgers
- Alicia Roll
- Sherri Rosser
- Catherine Rotolo
- Sarah Scaptura
- Lisa Schock
- Virginia Schumann
- Gerald Shea
- Ruth Shea
- Chelsie Smith
- Becky Soper
- Paige Taylor
- LaVerne Usher
- Jean Wardell
- Sandra Weaver
- Tricia Wilson
- Scott Wrightson
Volunteer Highlights
JULY 1, 2014 - JUNE 30, 2015

THE WORK
- 118 CASA Volunteers advocated for 221 victims of abuse and neglect, ranging in age from newborn to 18
- They conducted independent investigations of 122 family groups
- They attended 316 hearings
- They donated 7,859 hours in direct advocacy service for children and youth
- They donated another 2,834 hours in ongoing training

THE CHILDREN
- The Courts referred 132 new children and youth to Piedmont CASA in FY 2015
- 75 of these young people were assigned CASA Volunteers
- 63 youngsters navigated the system without a Piedmont CASA Volunteer because none were available
- At the end of the year, 17 boys and girls were still on the waiting list for Piedmont CASA Volunteers

THE VOLUNTEERS
- 24 new Volunteers were trained and inducted in FY 2015
- Currently active Volunteers have served with the program an average of 40 months