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 to Success for Older Youth in Foster Care**

You show them by establishing a new program designed just for them: *Bridges to Success for Older Youth in Foster Care*. You show them by giving them a Bridges Coach in addition to their CASA Volunteer. Someone to act as their mentor and guide as long as they are in care, which could be up to age 21. You show them by giving them the time and attention needed 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.
of providing our children and their families with trauma-informed care all across the community, from schools to medical centers to neighborhoods.

In March, local author John Grisham joined us for Jimmy Miller’s Bracket Breakfast at the Omni Hotel. As one of the panelists, Mr. Grisham traded stories, jokes and basketball insights with Ricky Stokes, Barry Parkhill, Rick Wampler, and Joe Harris. The ballroom was packed and the hour flew by in record time.

We collaborated with area nonprofits to create the Bluebird Project, which was a resounding success. In response to our call for artists, hundreds of bluebirds flocked into the Piedmont CASA office. Beautiful, creative bluebirds were donated by an impressive cross-section of artists, families, organizations, businesses, houses of worship, clubs, and schools to help raise awareness for the number of foster children in our community.

On Friday, May 5, around 200 people carried 240 unique bluebird works of art - one for each foster child - in the Bluebird Parade. It received a lot of media coverage as it wound its way from Piedmont CASA to the Downtown Mall to The Haven.

It is very rewarding to conclude my term as Board Chair on so many positive notes. In January 2018, Vice Chair Tarpley Gillespie will assume the leadership role. Tarpley has been a member of Friends of CASA since 2010, serving as chair for two years, and has been a member of the Board of Directors since January 2015. I have no doubt that her commitment to and passion for Piedmont CASA will ensure that it continues on its steady course of improving lives for abused and neglected children all across the Greater Charlottesville area.

Meet our New Staff

In FY 2017, our new initiative, Bridges to Success for Older Youth in Foster Care, was fully implemented with the addition of three new positions to our staff (Bridges Coaches). To ensure that we can continue to meet the sharply increasing demand for our services, we also added a fifth CASA Supervisor, while filling a vacancy for the fourth.

BRIDGES COACHES

Leah Cole
Leah brings wide-ranging experience as a job coach and teacher. She earned her M.Ed in Educational Psychology from the University of Virginia.

Adam Crist
Adam brings seven years of experience working in therapeutic wilderness programs at the Discovery School of Virginia. He graduated from UVA with a BA in History.

Gwen Jones
Gwen has always been in the teaching/coaching field and is a long-time foster parent. She taught at the University of Virginia and obtained her PhD. at Purdue University.

CASA SUPERVISORS

Cathy Eberly
A CASA Volunteer for three years, Cathy previously worked in communications with Woodberry Forest School and the University of Virginia Law School. She holds a BA in English from UVA.

Alison Taravella
A CASA Volunteer for eighteen months, Alison also worked as a Therapeutic Day Treatment provider and Family Worker. She holds a BA in Psychology from the University of Virginia.
How important is it for abused and neglected kids to have CASA Volunteers? Just read these stories.

Sam got a voice in the system

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.

Todd won’t be bullied anymore

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 hardships everywhere, including school. Todd’s troubles 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.

For confidentiality, names and other identifying facts in these stories have been changed.

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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.

In-kind Gifts

Drawings are from “Kids 4 Kids”, a gallery of art donated by children in our community to help tell the story of Piedmont CASA children.
Well over 200 people participated in the fourth annual “Jimmy ‘Magic Man’ Miller’s Bracket Breakfast”. David Koehn and Rachel Ryan emceed. John Grisham, Ricky Stokes, Barry Parkhill, and Rick Wampler were panelists. Joe Harris joined in via Satellite, and Debbie Ryan added her wisdom. There were great prizes at the Breakfast and in the online Bracket tournament that followed. The event raised $23,457 for our CASA kids.

From the hundreds of abused and neglected children our Volunteers advocate for every year - thank you!

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Steadfast supporters for twenty years

GE INTELLIGENT PLATFORMS
Sending CASA kids back to school and bringing them the holiday spirit for sixteen years
In August 2016, 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 CASA boys and girls.

JAG LEGAL CENTER AND SCHOOL CLUB
Two more angel organizations whose generosity made the holidays bright for CASA kids all around our community.

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF CHARLOTTESVILLE

Bluebird Parade for Foster Kids
MAY 5, 2017

Hundreds of bluebird works of art were donated by artists, families, and organizations - one unique bluebird for each foster child. It was an amazing outpouring of support to build awareness for the 247 boys and girls in foster care in our community! The Bluebird Parade took place on May 5 during the First Friday ArtWalk. (May is National Foster Care Awareness Month.) It was the creation of Piedmont CASA, Community Attention Foster Families, and other members of the Foster Care Awareness and Adoption Coalition.

Photo courtesy of Community Attention Foster Families (CAFF). Round bird painting by Cynthia Burke.
17% of our budget was allocated for Administration so that 83% could be invested in our Program Services.

The industry formula for discerning what percentage of the budget is allocated for Administration is to pull the following numbers from the 990: Management plus Fundraising divided by Total Revenue (Income).

**EXPENSES**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Services</td>
<td>569,048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>52,874</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>59,584</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>$681,506</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**INCOME**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>340,187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundations, Clubs, and Churches</td>
<td>121,518</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Government Grants</td>
<td>19,078</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State and Federal Grants</td>
<td>196,743</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Event</td>
<td>23,457</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
<td>27,549</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>$728,532</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Core Mission Support is Piedmont CASA’s investment in key infrastructure - those areas upon which our mission depends: strong, strategic finance and accounting, progressive human resources, capable and responsive board governance, engaged development and fundraising.

Program Services are all built around and supported by the Core Mission Support.

Each child is unique but they all have two things in common:

1. They were so badly abused the courts had to intervene
2. They are part of our community

13% of our kids are Hispanic
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.
Volunteer Highlights
JULY 1, 2016 - JUNE 30, 2017

THE WORK
• 120 CASA Volunteers advocated for 294 victims of abuse and neglect, ranging in age from newborn to 18
• They conducted independent investigations of 153 family groups
• They attended 484 hearings
• They dedicated 9,277 hours to advocating for children and youth
• They donated another 2,334 hours in ongoing training

THE CHILDREN
• The Courts referred 223 new children and youth to Piedmont CASA in FY 2017
• 118 of these young people were assigned CASA Volunteers
• At the end of the year, only one child in foster care had to navigate the system without a Piedmont CASA Volunteer

THE VOLUNTEERS
• 24 new Volunteers were trained and inducted in FY 2017
• Currently active Volunteers have served with the program an average of 43 months