Piedmont CASA is celebrating its 20th Anniversary this year! Our organization has flourished because so many people who were there at the beginning continue to support our stability and growth.

Carolyn and Bill Achenbach are two of our long-time friends. In fact, initial discussions about the need for a CASA program occurred around their kitchen table. When the Achenbachs moved to Charlottesville from Chicago, Carolyn brought with her the keen understanding of how important the role a CASA Volunteer can be in the life of an abused or neglected child.

When the Achenbachs first arrived there was no CASA program in Charlottesville. Carolyn quickly found a group, among them Stephanie Commander, Kimberly Emery and Tracey Hopper, that began to lay the groundwork for one. The rest, as they say, is history.

Carolyn served as the first Chair of a five-member board, and soon after opening its doors Piedmont CASA trained and inducted its first two Volunteers, who went on to serve two children. At that time, the program was 100% grant-funded.

Leap ahead five years to 2000, when our vital program had 84 Volunteers serving 204 children. By this time Piedmont CASA was well respected by the judges and recognized as a leader in the child welfare system. PCASA President Ruth Stone sat on the Task Force that was instrumental in starting a Family Drug Treatment Court in Charlottesville.

Carolyn continued to serve as Board Chair as the program reduced its reliance on grants by building and maintaining a committed donor base. The Board was also determined to safeguard CASA’s stability so there would never be a lapse in service to “our” children. Led by Julie Stamm and Kathy Parker, the Board conducted a successful Endowment Campaign. The funds are managed by the Charlottesville Area Community Foundation. Continued strong support from the community has meant that no withdrawals have been necessary since its inception.

Many CASA programs struggle to achieve the 100-Volunteer milestone. Piedmont CASA reached that goal the same year it celebrated its Tenth Anniversary. By that time Family Treatment Court had been operating for two years. CASA was the lead agency...
CONGRATULATIONS TO 24 NEW VOLUNTEERS

Fall Volunteer Induction
November 18, 2014

Spring Volunteer Induction
April 21, 2015
Left photo, first row: Lou Lamb, Erin Monrooney, Christa Bennett, Emily Maximus and Sandy Weaver; back row: Bob Beard and James Collins. Right photo, first row: Christina Albertson, Jennifer Romer and Susan Parnar; back row: Crystal Oliver, Jean Balich, Rob Jones and Bill Dister. Photos by Larry Bouterie.

Thank You For Supporting Our Mission With Jimmy Miller’s Bracket Breakfast

Thanks to Jimmy “Magic Man” Miller’s Bracket Breakfast Committee, the Paladin Media Group, the Omni Hotel, and our amazing sponsors - we surpassed our fundraising goal! Please thank these stalwart leaders for their steadfast support in raising more than $27,000 for abused and neglected children in our community! Photos by Larry Bouterie.

THE BRACKET BREAKFAST COMMITTEE
Jim Miller, Chair
Jess Achenbach | Josh Arbaugh
Angela Davis | Jill Kavanaugh | Bob Sayler

Phil Wendel (Founder and Owner, ACAC Fitness and Wellness Centers), and guest at the ACAC table.

Bill Antholis (Director of the Miller Center, UVA), Maurie McInnis (Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, UVA), Jeff Legro (Faculty Associate at the Miller Center, Taylor Professor of Politics and Vice Provost for Global Affairs, UVA).

Robin Maxwell won the raffle prize drawing for West by West: My Charmed, Tormented Life by Jerry West and Jonathan Coleman. Mr. Coleman was at the Bracket Breakfast and signed the book.


Emcees for the event were David Koehn (UVA Director of Broadcasting and play-by-play announcer for Cavalier radio broadcasts) and Rachel Ryan, (Newsplex Anchor and Reporter).

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T&N Printing
The Market at Tiger Fuel
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UVA Bookstores

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Community Connections

**TOP ROW** Piedmont CASA hosts Poverty Simulation (3/28/15) Photo courtesy NBC29 News  □ Retired President Ruth Stone and Judge Berry flank Terry Petty, who received the Ruth Stone Advocate of the Year award at the Volunteer Appreciation Picnic (9/18/14)  □ Piedmont CASA President Alicia Lenahan talks at the Chamber Nonprofit Round Table (10/8/14)  □ Global Channel Director Glenn Graney carries two of more than 100 backpacks donated to Piedmont CASA kids by GE Intelligent Platforms (8/15/14).

**SECOND ROW** Kappa Alpha Theta-Delta Chi sorority lends a hand for the spring appeal (4/13-17/15)  □ Alicia Lenahan in the Charlottesville Radio Group studio (11/25/14)  □ Guest speaker Allison Gilbreath at the Piedmont CASA Reception hosted by Board member Michael Pausic and Kelley MacDougall (10/16/14)  □ Junior League of Charlottesville volunteers help get fall appeal letters out (10/21/14).

**THIRD ROW** UVA Darden volunteers landscape CASA for the United Way Day of Caring (9/17/14)  □ Alicia Lenahan greets Donna and Albert Ernest at the Piedmont CASA Reception (10/16/14)  □ Law students spruce up the yard for UVA Public Service Day (8/17/14)  □ Diane Brownlee and Wendy Hubbard at Piedmont CASA’s Volunteer Appreciation Picnic (9/17/14).

**BOTTOM ROW** Charlottesville Derby Dames donate a portion of their proceeds from the Yellow Brick Roll (11/15/14)  □ Rick Moore, host of WNRN’s Sunday Morning Wake-Up Call, prepares to start a show featuring Piedmont CASA’s Poverty Simulation (2/15/14)  □ Volunteer students with UVA’s Project SERVE help out with the fall appeal letter (8/29/14)  □ Community kids at the Louisa County Fall Harvest Festival donate their drawings to Piedmont CASA’s Kids4Kids gallery (10/18/14).

More photos on Pinterest  pinterest.com/pcasa13
Dana was only ten but had already packed her trash bag suitcase many times in moving from foster home to foster home. Her one fixed point was her CASA Volunteer. Bea was always there for Dana, a strong and steady link in her life. As Dana’s advocate, Bea collaborated with other service providers and was a trusted source of information for the court.

A year ago, when the monthly check from the foster care agency was late, Dana’s fourth set of foster parents gave 30 days’ notice to have her removed from their home. Her Piedmont CASA Volunteer did not hesitate. Even when the lost check arrived and the parents said Dana could stay, Bea and DSS agreed that it was better for her to go.

Moving Dana yet again was a hard decision. But it turns out that her fifth foster home was also her last foster home -- because they’re adopting Dana. Thanks to Bea and a team of service providers, Dana has packed her trash bag suitcase for the last time.

James was born with an array of developmental problems. Overwhelmed, his parents were unable to properly care for him so at age three, James was removed from his home and sent to live in a special-needs foster home. His Piedmont CASA Volunteer, Bruce, became a regular feature in James’ life and oversaw many parental visits.

James’ disabilities made it hard for him to express emotions, so when he saw his mom and dad, he seemed indifferent. Nonetheless, when a termination of parental rights was proposed, his CASA Volunteer fought it. Bruce had seen the parents’ love for their child and knew it had to mean something to James, even though he could not show it.

As a result of Bruce’s work, parental rights were not terminated. Three months ago, for the first time ever, James expressed joy - because mom and dad were coming to visit. It was a breakthrough moment for James, and it happened because his CASA Volunteer gave him a voice, even when he couldn’t speak for himself.

Piedmont CASA Celebrates 20 Years!

In its successful efforts to secure a three-year federal grant. Consistent with our mission to advocate for the best interests of vulnerable children throughout the community, the Board, then chaired by Mildred Robinson, also supported Ruth Stone and Lucretia Blythe’s work on the Child Advocacy Center workgroup - an effort that led to the creation of the Foothills Child Advocacy Center.

As Piedmont CASA approached and passed the fifteen-year mark, the organization made another major decision intended to ensure its permanence. Since opening, the program had moved three times. None of its previous homes met the needs of a growing staff and volunteer pool. In 2010 the Piedmont CASA Board, under the leadership of Paula Newcomb, conducted a successful Capital Campaign, which allowed the program to purchase 818 East High Street. The Board went on to conduct a second campaign that retired the debt in full.

Dan Nagin, followed by Dana Harris, led PCASA through its most significant internal transition when Ruth Stone, who had provided exceptional professional leadership for almost the entire history of the program, retired in December 2012. The Board initiated a process that allowed for a seamless transition. Rachel Lloyd Miller, who had been on staff since 2003, agreed to serve as Interim President while a national search was performed. Engaging the staff in the process, the Board hired Alicia Lenahan as President in May 2013.

As we began our 20th Anniversary year, we welcomed Jenn Winslow as Board Chair. Her involvement with PCASA began in 2006, when she readily joined the Friends of CASA committee. She wanted to be involved with a program that served children in need, and she was familiar with PCASA and its reputation of excellence. Jenn joined the Board in 2010 and chaired the Advancement Committee before becoming Vice-Chair of the Board. As she looks forward, Jenn’s goal – and our mission – is to ensure that Piedmont CASA can provide a Volunteer to every child who needs and deserves an advocate in Court and in the child welfare system.
Thank you!

This newsletter only captures a small portion of the difference your support makes to the abused and neglected children in our community.

Piedmont CASA Facts as of April 29, 2015

- 201 children from 115 families are being served this year
- 16 children are on our wait list
- 101 children are in foster care
- 45% of CASA children are girls, 55% are boys
- 111 Volunteers are active
- 71 cases have been closed so far this fiscal year
- Piedmont CASA turned 20 years old this year

POVERTY SIMULATION

On Saturday, March 28, 2015, nearly 80 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. Turns out there was nothing simple about it. More photos and information on Pinterest.com/pcasa13

Left photo: waiting in line for services. Middle photo: applying for jobs. Right photo: Piedmont CASA Supervisor Randy Nolt leads post-workshop discussion with Piedmont CASA Board member A. Benjamin Spencer.

Kati’s Corner

From the bookshelf of Piedmont CASA
Supervisor Kati Naess

More photos?
Go to Pinterest:
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More info?
Go to website:
pcesta.org

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When we set up our Kids4Kids studio at events around the community, we ask children to draw what makes them happy. They draw blue skies, flowers, trains, birds, rainbows - but mostly they draw their families and their homes, which many donate to our Kids4Kids gallery. You can see their work in almost everything we do, including this newsletter, our annual report, and social media.

We never miss a chance to attend community events and whenever possible, we set out crayons, markers, and paper for kids to draw for CASA kids. With the permission of their parents, children donate these drawings to our Kids4Kids Gallery to help tell the story of our mission. If you’d like us to set up the studio at one of your events, call us at 434-971-7515, or email kids4kids@pcasa.org.