

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



As it bore down on its victims, Super Storm Sandy transfixed a nation. The scope and intensity of the storm proved to be unprecedented. The destruction and loss of life sobering. The images on our television and computer screens unforgettable. It will be months—and in some cases years—before the communities in Sandy's path can rebuild.

Many here in Charlottesville—and many across the country—have donated to relief efforts or otherwise lent a hand to those affected by the storm. We did so for any number of reasons. Because we care for those in need. Because we can't sit by while others suffer. Because we have family and friends who live in the tri-state area.

We might not ordinarily think of it this way, but abuse and neglect are a kind of storm too for the children who, tragically, find themselves in harm's way. Like other kinds of natural disasters, children have no control over whether and when they are placed in danger. They have little or no warning that they will be victimized. And they need the help of others—often strangers—in order to reach safety.

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CASA Volunteers Make a Difference **One Child at a Time**

Imagine a young teen who is eight months pregnant, or a 12-year-old boy who weighs almost 300 pounds. For the volunteers and staff at Piedmont CASA it does not take any imagination, because this is the reality we see almost every day.

These children were not fabricated for a PR campaign or for a fund-raising effort. These are real children who live right here in Central Virginia. They attend school in our area, maybe even with your children or friends of your children. They are our neighbors and they are part of our community.

Regularly in our community children like these are brought before our local courts as cases of child abuse and/or neglect. Hundreds of children are victims of violence, sexual abuse, and severe neglect annually in our area. County lines do not determine where abuse and neglect occur; no geographical area is immune.

Last Fiscal Year CASA served 213 children in our region, and we began the current Fiscal Year with 40 more children in the program than we had at the same time last year. As of press time we have a wait list of 21 children, including toddlers and a newborn. The need to help these children is growing.

The pregnant girl, now 15 years old and already a mother of two, began her journey through the court system because of neglect. This teenage mother lived with her two children, two younger siblings and her mother. A visit by social services to the family's home showed the home to be unsanitary, with cat and dog feces on the floors and excessive roaches crawling all through the house. There was trash and food debris all over the floor and furniture. Most surfaces were covered with a film of dirt and sticky substances.

In addition, the home had no central heat; the family used small space heaters for warmth. They also had been using the oven to heat the home. The small space heaters could not keep up with the steady stream of cold air that entered the home through cracks and holes in the floor, the latter covered by door mats.

One of the children in the home was diagnosed with ADHD, Sleep Disorder and possible Mood Disorder. He wet his pants frequently during the day and every night.

All of the children suffered from poor hygiene and inadequate medical and dental care, particularly the teenage mother, who had cavities in almost every tooth. The home situation posed a serious threat to the health and welfare of the children. Because of these concerns, the children were removed from the home.

In this particular case, the CASA Volunteer is monitoring the progress of the cleanup efforts by visiting the home and suggesting ways to remedy the problem areas. The family sees the CASA Volunteer as nonthreatening, and due to the good communication established between the Volunteer and the family, mutual trust has been established.

In addition, the CASA is working to improve the relationship between the children and their mother by prompting her to keep up with regular visitation in preparation for the children's return home. The CASA Volunteer advocated for the children to participate in individual therapy.

In regard to health care, the CASA Volunteer is also helping to make sure that there is a plan in place for ongoing medical and dental care for the children, and has even visited the children's respective schools to help facilitate their transition back to their schools. The social worker and the CASA Volunteer are working hand-in-hand to facilitate the best outcome for the family and their children.



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CASA Volunteers Make a Difference... *continued from pg. 1*

Of course, child abuse and neglect occur in a very different context. Child abuse and neglect are invariably hidden from view. They don't show up on satellite images or receive 24-hour media coverage. They take place inside homes that look just like the other homes on the block. And the long-term injuries that abuse and neglect inflict on children can often be invisible too—at least to the untrained eye.

In these ways, child abuse and neglect are very much an invisible storm—but one with devastating consequences just the same. This relative invisibility makes one's dedication to CASA and the children we serve all the more remarkable. Whether as a donor, volunteer, or supporter, you have chosen to reach out and become that stranger who helps a child reach safety. You did so—and continue to do so—even though the scourge of child abuse and neglect can be hard to see and can easily be overlooked in a world where so much else competes for our attention.

Every day, CASA tackles the critical task of helping individual children in crisis because of abuse or neglect. Our incredible CASA volunteers—through their careful investigations and thoughtful advocacy—give voice to the needs of these children. At the same time, through the collective efforts of our volunteers, staff members, donors, and others, we also work together to shine an ever brighter light on a mostly hidden storm that receives too little attention and too few resources. It is this powerful combination—of child advocacy at the family level and the community level—that makes CASA's mission so important.

As I reach the end of my term on the Board of Directors, there is much to reflect upon. At this particular moment, one thing in particular stands out: the deep sense of camaraderie I have felt over these years with CASA volunteers, staff, fellow board members, and donors. Through your

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Despite the fact that the multiple parties and service providers on these cases (CASA Volunteers; social workers; Guardians ad Litem; attorneys; teachers; counselors; therapists; etc.) are all focused on helping the children and their families, the list of needs is sometimes so long that meeting the greatest need of all—a safe and permanent home—remains difficult to achieve.

Also, the reasons for the continuing abuse or neglect are varied, depending on the circumstances of the parent(s): mental health issues, alcoholism, drug addiction, joblessness, homelessness, and many other factors are contributors to these situations. There is no simple explanation, nor is there a quick fix. But with the help of dedicated CASA Volunteers, working with the various service providers, the children do receive the help that they need, making slow but sure progress over time.

The case of the severely obese boy is another example. His case began when he was admitted to the hospital in a diabetic coma, caused by his diabetes and morbid obesity. The boy had been obese since he was a toddler and he presented other medical issues at the time of his hospitalization; these included type 2 diabetes, sleep apnea, hypertension, and a binge eating disorder. In addition, his mother was dealing with anxiety and depression and struggled to maintain her sobriety.

After his medical emergency, the boy was removed from his home and placed in a facility where he could receive the help he needed to lose weight and to gain control over his life. He was given a variety of goals that included improving his carbohydrate counting skills, instituting a program of weight loss to reduce his BMI (Body Mass Index) level, learning to eat the right amount of calories, and taking his medication with minimum supervision. In addition, learning about stress and how to manage it, and getting regular cardiovascular activity were added to his plan.

The plan proved successful, at least while the boy was in the facility and receiving the monitoring and help he needed; he lost 100 pounds. After leaving the facility, he was placed in a foster home. Although he improved for a time, his weight, along with the other health issues, continues to be a problem. A comprehensive plan was developed to manage food intake and to add exercise to his routine (as had been done when he was in managed care).

In this case the CASA Volunteer has advocated to recognize the child's overeating as a psychological issue that needs to be addressed with therapeutic intervention, while at the same time addressing the child's immediate medical issues to avoid imminent danger.

CASA advocated for the continuity of therapeutic care as the child began to establish rapport with his counseling team and made sure that the child's team was ever mindful of the need to investigate and address the underlying emotional challenges that were driving the binge eating and the failure to be consistent with medication.

Issues like these can be resolved over time with the help of dedicated CASA Volunteers and an entire team of professionals, all of whom work together for the well being of the child. It is teamwork that provides improvement in the lives of these children. And it is what inspires hope and encouragement for everyone to continue to work on behalf of abused and neglected children in our community. ■

CASA Volunteers and Staff



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Black Law Student Association volunteers at CASA



Hope Payne addresses Spring Induction class

Piedmont CASA **Picnics** 2012

tireless efforts and generosity, you have continually inspired me. Your many contributions—in time, passion, energy, expertise, and financial support—served as daily reminders that we could—and were—making a difference.

I have every reason to think others feel the same way. The spark that inspires a community member to become a CASA Volunteer only reinforces the zeal that CASA's staff members bring to their work every day. In turn, the passion of the volunteers and staff energizes CASA's already deeply-engaged Board. And the gifts—large and small—that donors make to the organization affirm the importance of CASA's mission—and enable us to reach more children with more volunteer services as we strive to keep safe the children of our community. Each of these groups—the volunteers, staff, board, and donors—strengthens the others and helps us extend a much-needed hand to a child caught in a storm.

Thank you for the privilege of allowing me to work with you in this vital endeavor.

Looking to the new year, I am delighted that Dana Harris, who has been my invaluable Vice Chair these past two years, will begin her own two-year term as CASA's Board Chair in January 2013. CASA is incredibly fortunate to have Dana's talents and good judgment. Please join me in offering your support to Dana as she helps lead CASA forward.

Daniel Nagin, *Chairman*



Cavaliers Care Group



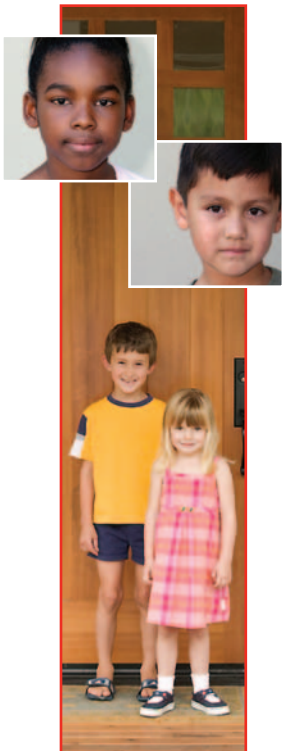
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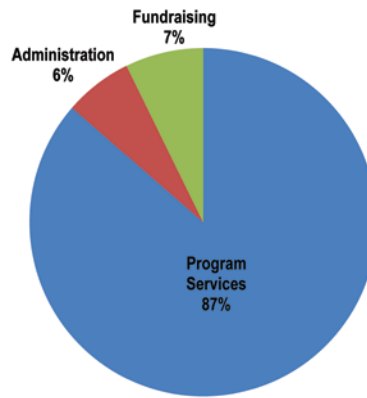
Financial Summary: July 1, 2011–June 30, 2012

Expenses:

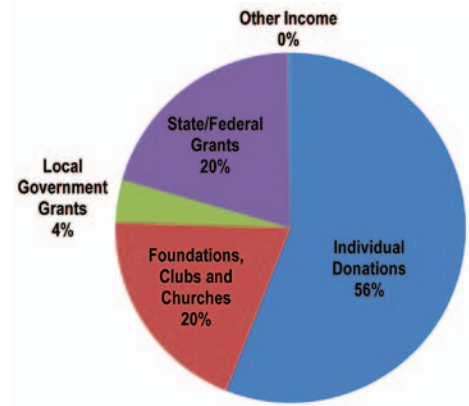
| | |
|------------------|------------------|
| Program Services | \$352,087 |
| Administration | \$ 25,775 |
| Fundraising | \$ 29,665 |
| | \$407,527 |

Income:

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Individual Donations | \$267,164 |
| Foundations, Clubs & Churches | \$ 92,941 |
| Local Government Grants | \$ 18,818 |
| State/Federal Grants | \$ 96,880 |
| Other Income | \$ 1,201 |
| | \$477,004 |



EXPENSES

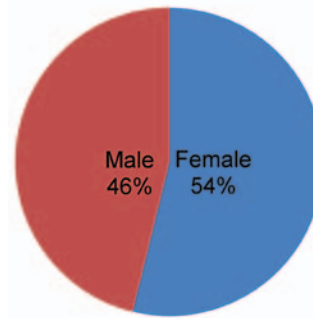


INCOME

The Children We Serve

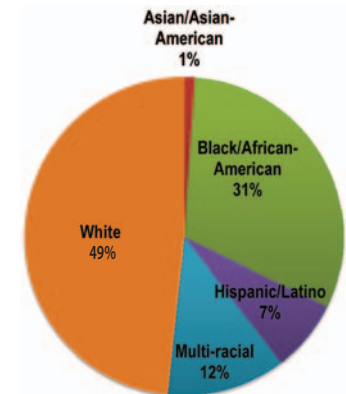
Gender:

Of the 273 children ages birth to 18, 147 were female and 126 were male.



Race/Ethnicity:

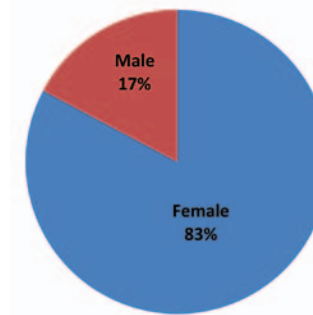
85 children were Black/African American; 3 were Asian/Asian American; 20 Hispanic/Latino; 33 multi-racial; and 132 White.



Our Volunteers

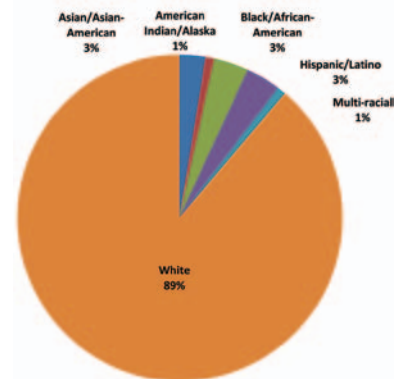
Gender:

Of our 116 volunteers, 96 were female and 20 were male.



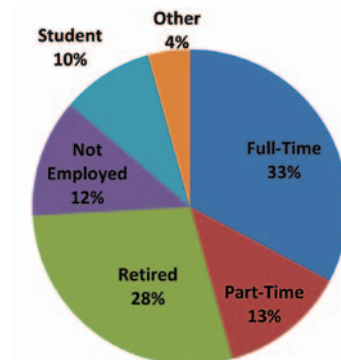
Race/Ethnicity:

4 were Black/African American; 3 were Asian/Asian American; 4 were Hispanic/Latino; 1 was American Indian/Alaskan; 1 was multi-racial; and 103 were White.



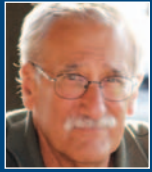
Employment Status:

38 were full-time; 15 were part-time; 33 were retired; 14 were not employed; 11 were students; and 5 were "other".



CASA Volunteers:
*When you lift up a voice,
 you lift up a life*

Piedmont CASA Honors Its Volunteer Advocates 2011-2012



Each year our volunteers must fulfill 12 hours of in-service credit to demonstrate a continuing education in topics related to the work of CASA. We would like to recognize those volunteers who have gone above and beyond this requirement.

Beth Alley

Delores Alt

Liz Blankenship

Heather Boe

Evette Carto-Barton

Mary Chinn

Steve Cooper

Adrienne Dent

Anne Marie Farrar

Grace Giras

Nancy Grable

Chuck Gross

Simon Harvey

Marcia Langsam

Julia Lyman

Janna Mahaffey

Monica Markelz

Dibba McConnell

Jim Mehlin

Becky Minor

Mary Nafpaktitis

Terry Petty

Susan Roberts

Dick Schneider

Paul Seehaver

Jean Shepard

Jean Zearley

**Thank you,
CASA Superstars!**

Thank You to all the friends who give Piedmont CASA their time, energy and support



Hantzmon Wiebel seals CASA lot for Day of Caring



Cavaliers Care volunteers trim and weed



Supervisor Chris Roberson unloading backpacks donated by GE volunteers



Indian Student Association



Project Serve Students

Volunteer Activity Highlights

Fiscal Year 2012

Since opening our doors, Piedmont CASA has trained 543 volunteers who have **served 1,341 abused and neglected children.**

- Piedmont CASA conducted two **32-hour training sessions** and inducted **31 new CASA Volunteers;**
- **272 children** were in the program, and 116 CASA Volunteers served **213 children;**
- **157 new children** were referred to the program;
- Cases were closed for **112 children**, 72 of whom were served by CASA Volunteers;
- **133 independent investigations** were conducted;
- CASA Volunteers spent approximately **9,790 hours meeting with children**, parents, physicians, therapists, social workers, attorneys and others;
- **385 hearings** were attended;
- **24 children remained on Piedmont CASA's waitlist** on June 30, 2012, the end of our fiscal year;
- **100% of the children** served by the program and whose cases closed during FY 2012 remained free from new "founded" incidents of abuse and/or neglect; and
- Active CASA Volunteers have **served with the program on average 38 months.**

How can you help change the life of an abused or neglected child?



Become a Volunteer Advocate
Spring Training Starts in April 2013!

Contact Piedmont CASA by phone at (434) 971-7515, or email vspcasa@embarqmail.com, or go to www.pcasa.org.



2011-2012

Annual Report

Return Service Requested

www.pcasa.org

434.971.7515

Charlottesville, VA 22902

818 East High Street

PIEDMONT CASA

FOR CHILDREN

Court Appointed Special Advocates



Charlottesville, VA

Permit No. 665

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