



As difficult as fiscal year 2022 has been for us personally, it pales in comparison to what our kids and families are going through. Why do we do this work? We do it for those shimmering moments of success: when children are safely reunited with their parents, when a child is adopted by a loving family, when a youth turns their life around.

We do it to make a positive difference in the world ... one life at a time.

Team Piedmont CASA



*Kate Duvall
President*

I am celebrating my one-year anniversary with Piedmont CASA this month! While this first year has been a whirlwind, I have learned an enormous amount and I am reassured regularly in ways both big and small that my decision to join the CASA team was the right one. I am so lucky to be able to support and witness the work done every day by our CASA Volunteers, Bridges to Success Coaches, and CASA staff on behalf of children and families in our community. Since I joined CASA, we have served 190 children in the CASA program and 42 youth through Bridges to Success. I couldn't be prouder of this number and the difference I know CASA made in the lives of each of those children!



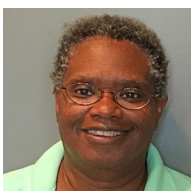
*Leah Cole
Program Director*

This year was full of moments that made me value the youth, staff, and teams I work with. When the going gets tough, we come together to problem solve and support one another. When achievements are made, we find ways to celebrate those moments. That means working to find a car seat to get a toddler home during a sudden tornado-warning daycare shutdown. It means meeting with youth for a final lunch before turning 21, and realizing just how many barriers have been overcome. That means being there during mental health crises. It means throwing a party to celebrate new citizenship status. This means taking on more work so that coworkers can be with families in times of need. Seeing people collaborate and care about each other shows me the good that is in the world, and families in our community.



*Kati Naess
CASA Supervisor*

What have the last twelve months been like? Fragile and unexpected. Full of growth, grief, change and survival. Enlightening and tumultuous. In this crucible of change, we have been working to create pockets of stability for our kids and their families. We all struggle, but when we are able to help someone else, our own burden is lighter.



*Gwen Jones
Bridges Coach*

The year was long, five hundred twenty-five thousand, six hundred minutes long. I feel like I emotionally felt every single minute. From the highs of watching youth exceed their expectations to the lows of watching youth think they will never achieve their dreams. From experiencing youth who finally find their permanent connections in this world to experiencing youth who, no matter how hard they try, can't maintain or achieve permanent connections in this world. From being the first in their family to graduate high school to deciding a high school diploma is not important. A lot of life happens in five hundred twenty-five thousand, six hundred minutes.



Sherri Rosser
CASA Supervisor

"This stuff is not for the weak of heart" was a text I received from a Volunteer after a recent hearing. This has been a year of tough and emotional cases. Being the voice of the child and painting a picture for the judge through the Court Reports is very rewarding work, although at times not easy work. My reply to the Volunteer was, "If I was this child in foster care, I would want YOU." To every Volunteer giving their time, effort, and heart, I say the same thing - I would want you.



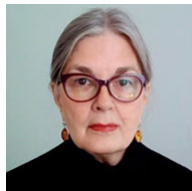
Steve Dufort
CASA Supervisor

The world has been weathering a tough year. I think that the snowstorm on January 3rd set the tone – Being out of power for multiple days was challenging but also had moments of fun and beauty.



Alison Taravella
CASA Supervisor

One Volunteer worked in multiple creative and child-centered ways to pull a school team together to more adequately serve her CASA child, who was falling through the cracks. It was exactly what advocacy should be on a team level- speaking to every person involved in that child's life and care to make sure his educational and medical needs are sufficiently met and the team is speaking to one another.



Lexie Boris
Advancement Director

The last twelve months have been filled with difficulties: the ongoing pandemic, school shootings, political fury, and war. Yet when I come into the office, I am surrounded by kindness and generosity. With people who are driven, not by money or fame or power, but by compassion. People who work hard to make a real, long-lasting, and positive difference in the world. Even as economic and political pressures are making their jobs more difficult, our CASA Supervisors, Volunteers, and Bridges Coaches are still mining shimmering moments of success. We all need their light.



Sue Hoover
Office Director

Fiscal year 2022 has been a confusing, hard year. Continuing COVID, a splintered country, and national events have worked to diminish hope. Nevertheless, I continue to be impressed by my colleagues and our Volunteers who work through all this messy stuff and yet maintain their empathy and compassion. They are a source of light and strength. One highlight of the year is that our blog, Piedmont CASA Voices, began. I hope it will entertain and inspire readers, and serve as a means of connecting as we explore a variety of relevant topics.

When we change a child's story, we change our story.

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PIEDMONT CASA, INC.