

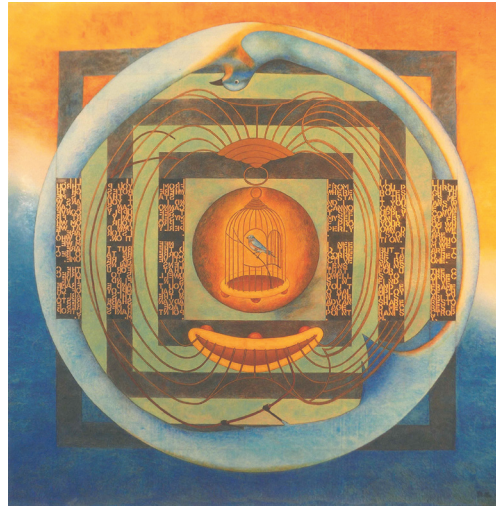


NEWSLETTER SPRING 2018

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P I E D M O N T C A S A

COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES FOR ABUSED AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN
CHARLOTTESVILLE | ALBEMARLE | GREENE | LOUISA



NURTURING RESILIENCE

Believing in our children so they can believe in themselves



Alicia Lenahan
President

None of us are immune to trauma. We may have suffered the loss of a loved one, or been in a car accident, or experienced any number of unforeseen disasters. Our reaction may have been a flood of strong emotions and a sense of uncertainty, but for the most part we adapt and eventually recover.

To understand what our CASA children go through, you have to multiply that traumatic event over and over and over again. Instead of a recovery period, they experience oft-repeated episodes which prolong their trauma through a relentless climate of toxic stress. As a result, their ability to bounce back can be severely compromised. Regaining resilience is an essential and profound element in their healing process.

This lesson is best taught by someone who lived through it. Tonier Cain's entire childhood was marked by extreme deprivation and neglect. As the oldest sibling of nine, she took it upon herself to protect her younger brothers and sisters. This role made her an easy target for horrific physical and sexual abuse. It was simply a fact of life. She grew up believing that she was unloved and unlovable.

To numb the pain, she turned to alcohol at age nine, and then drugs at age nineteen. That led to addiction, prostitution, 83 arrests and 66 convictions. Tonier tells her story using mug shots to illustrate her journey. The last was taken after a long period of living under a bridge.

The last time Tonier was in jail, she was pregnant with her fifth child and determined that this one would not enter foster care. She found out she was eligible for a trauma-informed substance abuse program that would enable her to keep her baby while incarcerated. But there was a catch: she could not take advantage of the program unless her sentence was increased from a few months to several years. Tonier was so desperate that she pleaded with the judge for a longer sentence. Upon understanding the situation, he granted her request and Tonier was able to enroll in the program.

"We're glad you're here." Those were the first words Tonier heard when she entered

Artwork above: "Anamorph" by Peter Allen, inspired by the Bluebird Parade for Foster Children.

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CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW VOLUNTEERS



Photo by Larry Bouterie

Fall Volunteer Induction November 14, 2017

Left to right: Presley Thach, Geoff Garner, Maggie Snoddy, Bonnie Collins, Robin Gordon, Katie Rae Stevens, Judge Deborah Tinsley, Amy Nolasco, Katelyn Lynch, Christophe Perdu, Tayler Lewis, Joyce Adelugba, Anne Karczewski, Lisa Schrader, and Jon Craig. Not shown: Dan Alexander and Kerri Taylor.

Resilience

cont'd from page 1

the treatment center and for the first time in her life, she began to feel safe. Then, "What happened to you?" Her therapist didn't just ask that pivotal question, she listened to the answer. Together, they worked through each chapter of Tonier's life until she began to see that none of the abuse she experienced was her fault. None of it defined her value as a human being. Understanding that she had value meant that she could treat her life as something valuable.

Tonier's daughter was born healthy and has lived with her mother since birth. Now a teenager, she has never spent a day in foster care. Tonier re-established healthy relationships with her biological family and is now a successful businessperson.

Tonier's story shows that resilience isn't a trait that people either have or do not have. Like hope, it can be cultivated and nurtured through caring and supportive relationships. Tonier also shows us that it is never too late. She had been homeless for nineteen years, but today she travels the world as an internationally-recognized expert on trauma-informed care. She closes every talk by reminding the audience that, "Where there's breath, there's hope."

We at Piedmont CASA have often written about the lifelong impact trauma has on children and families. We have explored the resources provided by the Centers for Disease Control, the National Child Traumatic Stress Network, and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, just to name a few.

As a partner in the Charlottesville Trauma-Informed Community Network (TICN), we bring in highly-qualified professionals to lead public presentations on the subject. They are teaching us all how to become trauma-informed, from local organizations to systems to private individuals.

The goal is simple: the more our entire community knows about trauma-informed care, the more we can improve outcomes for our children and families, and ultimately help break the cycle of abuse and neglect.

Piedmont CASA President

Our Community: Taking the Bluebird Parade for Foster Children to Heart

In support of the Bluebird Parade, **Gearharts** created an incredible box of **Limited Edition Bluebird Chocolates**, with a portion of all proceeds going to Piedmont CASA and The Bluebird Project.

MarieBette decorated cakes and breads with fabulous bluebirds.

Magpie Knits, Alakazam, and Yves Delorme displayed bluebird artwork in their windows

Delegate David Toscano welcomed Bluebird Paraders to City Space.

Supervisor Norman Dill led the bluebird artwork auction.

The Bluebird Project was created by the Foster Care Adoption Awareness Coalition: Community Attention Foster Families (CAFF), Departments of Social Services in Albemarle and Charlottesville, DePaul Community Resources, Foster Care Alumni of America, Great Expectations, PeoplePlaces, Piedmont CASA, and UMFS.

Bluebird Parade Photos + more on page 5



29 NEW ADVOCATES IN FISCAL YEAR 2018



Photo by Larry Bouterie

Spring Volunteer Induction May 8, 2018

Left to right: Marjorie Sherburne, Kathleen Quinn, Natalie Kohler, Howard Evergreen, Britton Horne, Amanda Griffin, Judge David M. Barredo, Jane Brennan, Patrick Healy, Elizabeth Adams, Helen Kessler, Abigail Collins, Sarah Spangler, and Wanda Shuster.

Thank you for supporting our mission with Jimmy Miller's Bracket Breakfast: 3-12-18

BRACKET BREAKFAST COMMITTEE

Jim Miller, Chair
Jess Achenbach | Josh Arbaugh | R. Peter Kilburn
Steve Rappaport | Bob Saylor | Marty Saylor

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On Monday, March 12, John Grisham, Chelsea Shine Wilson, Tom Perrin, and Barry Parkhill shared their bracket picks at the 5th Annual Jimmy Miller's Bracket Breakfast. Malcolm Brogdon joined in via satellite. Rachel Ryan and Dave Koehn emceed as local basketball luminaries and generous sponsors raised more than \$43,000 for abused and neglected children in our community!

LEFT: Panelists Tom Perrin, John Grisham, Chelsea Shine Wilson, and Barry Parkhill. **TOP RIGHT:** a packed house. **CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT:** Alicia Lenahan; Dave Koehn and Rachel Ryan interview Malcolm Brogdon of the Milwaukee Bucks via satellite link; Associate Head Basketball Coach Ron Sanchez and Debbie Ryan; Rachel Ryan interviews Rick Wampler; Jim Miller and Bob Saylor; Phil Wendel and guests at the ACAC table. □ Photos courtesy of Jennifer Bryne Photography.

- Tracy and Josh Arbaugh
- Bankers Insurance
- Barnett Financial Group
- Castle Development Partners
- Craig Builders
- Encore Event Technologies
- Tarpley and Scott Gillespie
- Great Eastern Management Company
- Renee and John Grisham
- Hilldrup Moving and Storage
- Natalie and R. Peter Kilburn
- Miller Financial Group
- Quantitative Investment Management
- Red Dirt Developments



Kathy Rhyné
Charles Axten



- Roy Wheeler Realty
- Marty and Bob Saylor
- Signature Family Wealth Advisors
- Jane Ashley and Peter Skinner
- Virginia National Bank
- Worldstrides

With Special Thanks

- Commonwealth Restaurant & Sky Bar
- Crutchfield | Gearharts Fine Chocolates
- Highland Golf Course at Primland
- Keswick Hall & Golf Club | NBC 29
- Omni Hotels | Marty and Bob Saylor
- UVa Athletics Department | Rivanna River Co.
- TheSabre.com

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

TOP ROW The UVa Curry School of Education and Piedmont CASA hosted a Poverty Simulation for students and the community (2/10/18) □ Grace Mountcastle presented President Alicia Lenahan a generous check from Kappa Alpha Theta's annual fundraiser, Waffle CASA (11/15/17) □ Board Member Jim Miller and his team competed in the Fore Kids Golf Tournament, a fundraiser for Piedmont CASA hosted by the CVC of VDOT Culpeper (9/21/17) □ Piedmont CASA Appreciation Night at Tom Sox (7/12/17) **SECOND ROW** UVa students of ProjectSERVE help prepare our mailings for the year (8/25/17) □ For the 17th year, the men and women of GE Intelligent Platforms helped ensure that CASA kids had everything they needed for school (8/11/17) □ UVa Pediatrics ran for Piedmont CASA in the Markel Richmond Half Marathon (11/11/17) □ Newcomer's Club members hand-addressed envelopes for our Appreciation Event (9/08/17). **THIRD ROW** Renaissance School students planted flowers in the PCASA yard (10/2/17) □ Kids and parents visited the PCASA booth during the Louisa County Harvest Festival (10/14/17) □ Kappa Alpha Theta Sorority hand-addressed envelopes for the Fall mailing (10/10/17) □ Piedmont CASA debuted its new Kids4Kids table cover at the Newcomer's Club Fall Hospitality Coffee (9/19/17). **BOTTOM ROW** Junior League made sure the Fall Appeal went out in perfect order (10-24-17) □ GE Intelligent Platforms helped make the holidays bright for CASA kids (12/8/17) □ Great Expectations-Piedmont Virginia Community College and Piedmont CASA's *Bridges to Success for Older Youth in Foster Care* began a new partnership (9/12/17) □ More than 700 people came to the Paramount to hear Dr. Allison Jackson's seminar: *Trauma: How it Affects You and Every Member of our Community*, hosted by the Trauma-Informed Community Network (11/28/17)

Read more, see more on [Pinterest](https://www.pinterest.com/pcasa13) [pinterest.com/pcasa13](https://www.pinterest.com/pcasa13)





THE BLUEBIRD PROJECT

Raising Awareness for our kids in foster care: May is National Foster Care Awareness Month and on May 4, during the lively First Fridays ArtWalk, volunteers of all ages carried 250 bluebirds, one for each foster child in our community, in a Bluebird Parade for Foster Children.

Bluebird Donor Organizations include: Blue Ridge Pace | Colonnades Health Care Center | Cub Scout Pack 222 | Firnew Farm Artists' Circle | Girl Scout Troop 5002 | Innisfree Village | Great Expectations at Piedmont Virginia Community College | Lexis Nexis | Louisa County High School Art Class | Mollie Michie Preschool | Peabody School | Tuel Jewelers | Village School

Individual Artists include: Peter Allen | Jennifer Billingsly | Robert Blakey | Tammy Blakey | Cynthia Burke | Charlotte Clements | John Borden Evans | Maria Festa Carter | Thessa Churillo | Charlotte Clements | "Chip" Ronald Cline | Terry Coffey | Elizabeth Collier | Shannon Copeland | Mary Cox | Trish Crowe | JoAnn Dalley | Kristy Davis | Anne Dean | Bonnie Dixon | Kathy Doby | Akhtar Durrani | Hashim Durrani | Erykah Ewing | Dabney Farmer | Conor Farrell | Babs Fickes | Victoria Freimuth | Beverly Goodrum | Carrie Gibb | Tami Hale | Madeleine Hendrick | Sacra Kenya | Taisya Kindrick | Katie Kirst | Natalie Kohler | Susan Lang | Ellen MacAvoy | Rabia Magee | Becky Massie | Wendy Nix | Catherine Nordmeyer | Jean Perry | Arianna Poindexter | Deborah Prum | Aggie Rives | Aliyah Robinson | Janice Rosenberg | Mack Rowe | Lillian Salley | Susan Salsitz | Liz Schneiders | Alexandria Searls | Beth Seidle | Jane Skafte | Christie Smith | Sarah Sweet | Delaney Swift | Talia Tanner | James Tayler | Ed Vasilcik | Barbara Wallace | Katherine Walle | Brenay Wendell | Bebbly White | Patricia Williams | Richard Wyville | Nikki Young

Read more, see more on [Pinterest](https://www.pinterest.com/pcasa13) [pinterest.com/pcasa13](https://www.pinterest.com/pcasa13)



All Bluebird photos are courtesy of CAFF (Community Attention Foster Families).

BECAUSE PIEDMONT CASA VOLUNTEERS AND COACHES ARE THERE...



A teenager turns a dream job into a real future

Dana had just turned seventeen when she entered our *Bridges to Success for Older Youth in Foster Care* program. Since she was only a year from “aging out” of the system, her Bridges Coach immediately focused on what interested Dana, with a goal of helping her find a career path.

After a few meetings, it became apparent that Dana wanted to be a nurse but wasn't sure it was possible for someone in her position. Her Coach convinced her that not only was it possible, they were going to draw up a game plan that would get her there.

Today, Dana is 18 and planning to graduate from high school in June. She already has her nursing assistant certification. She accomplished both of these feats while holding down a full-time job at a nursing facility.

When Dana turned 18, she opted to enroll in the *Fostering Futures* program so that she could stay engaged with her CASA Volunteer and Bridges Coach. This ongoing support gives Dana the stability to reach her goal of becoming a Registered Nurse.

At every opportunity, Dana works extra shifts and holidays at the nursing facility so she can save enough money to make her dream job come true.



A baby's first year gets off to a stronger start

Twenty-eight weeks, two pounds, and suffering from withdrawal. That was how young Marie entered the world. Her mom was an addict and refused to say who the father was. A man stepped forward but until paternity was established, Marie had to enter a foster home. The man attended all the hearings and continually expressed his desire to raise the girl if she proved to be his daughter. When paternity was confirmed, the process began.

Our CASA Volunteer maintained connections with everyone involved, including the biological father. She noted that dad did not miss a single visit, maintained a relationship with the foster parents, consulted with all of Marie's medical providers, and all of his drug screens were negative. He had a good home, a stable job, and a strong community of support.

When it was time for the Foster Care Review Hearing, the Department of Social Services (DSS) planned to submit their service plan with a continued Return Home goal, while asking for an additional five-month extension. But the CASA Volunteer advocated for an immediate transfer of custody. She pointed out that the father was not the offending parent whose actions had brought the child into care, and that he was able to handle Marie's medical challenges. She asked DSS to request an immediate transfer of custody at the hearing.

As a result of the well-informed advocacy of our CASA Volunteer, Marie achieved permanency with her father when she was only six months old, instead of a year. That six-month difference was crucial to Marie's stability and well-being.

Piedmont CASA Facts as of May 15, 2018

269 children from 142 families have been served so far this year

32 children are on our wait list

250 children are in foster care in our area

112 Volunteers are active

Cases involving 103 children have been closed

Piedmont CASA turned 23 years old this year

Thank you!

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



More photos?

[PINTEREST.COM/pcasa.13](https://www.pinterest.com/pcasa.13)

More info?

[PCASA.ORG](https://www.pcasa.org)

Appreciation Reception for Donors and Volunteers: 10-12-17



On October 12, 2017, Board Member Jack Bocock hosted an appreciation event at UVA Morven Farm for Piedmont CASA Donors and Volunteers, who have been so generous with their time, talent, and support. Speakers included Alicia Lenahan, Bobby Parmer, and Judge Deborah Tinsley of the 16th Judicial District Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court. Rachel Lloyd Miller introduced Pat Macionis, the *Ruth Stone Child Advocate of the Year*. Photos by Jennifer Byrne Photography.

Second Row: Piedmont CASA President Alicia Lenahan, CASA Supervisor Cathy Eberly with Volunteer Lee Metzger, Scott Gillespie and Board Member James Miller. Third Row: Board Member R. Peter Kilburn, "Ruth Stone Advocate of the Year" Pat Macionis, Judge Deborah Tinsley.

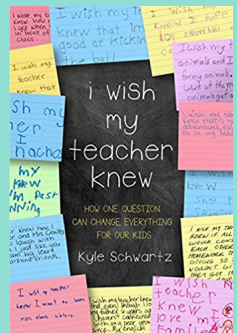
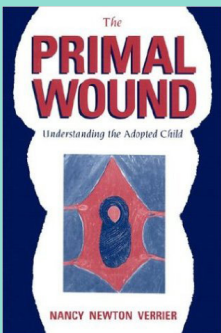
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Kati's Corner

From the bookshelf of Piedmont CASA Supervisor Kati Naess

Program Director Randy Nolt and CASA Supervisor Kati Naess



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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. Artwork from the Kids4Kids Gallery is a great help in telling 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.

Draw What Makes You Happy

