

P I E D M O N T C A S A
Annual Report
2010–2011

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



Piedmont CASA is nearing the completion of another year filled with incredible volunteers, dedicated staff, and generous donors. The reason we—volunteers, staff, and donors—come together under CASA's banner is that, sadly, children in our community continue to be subject to abuse and neglect at alarming rates: last year 1,240 children were referred to local departments of social services due to abuse and neglect. It is these vulnerable children who are our call to action. Ensuring their safety and well-being is the reason we volunteer with CASA, we come to work at CASA, or we donate to CASA—and, for some remarkable community members, the reason we have done all three.

Thus, as much as we'd prefer it otherwise, as much as we'd prefer that child abuse and neglect in our community were reduced to a memory, CASA's work remains vital. Last year CASA inducted 40 new volunteers and served 204 kids. Of the 94 children whose cases were closed, 100% remained free from re-abuse while served by the program.

It is this last statistic—outcomes—that affirms the work

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I Want Her Back

When her case came to court she was almost 10 years old. She tried so hard to keep her mom from driving that night. Even the bartender had offered to pay for the cab home. And then she had to watch while her mom was cuffed and taken away in the police car.

The card read, "I Want Her Back!" The handwriting was large, with rounded letters. And the paper on which she had written showed the indentation of each letter pressed firmly to the page by a hand weighted by sincerity, hope and care.

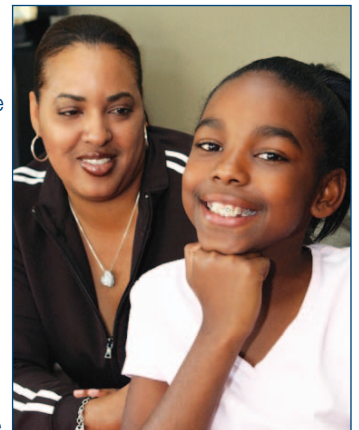
Not all cases that come to Piedmont CASA involve situations where horrific physical or sexual abuse has taken place. In fact, the majority of our cases involve neglect and sometimes, as in this case, child endangerment. This child's mom had just been issued her fifth DUI when we were assigned the case. The child had witnessed her mom's arrest and was now living with her aunt. Mom and daughter loved each other, and when mom was sober, she was a great caretaker. But the problem was that she couldn't remain sober.

The CASA volunteer's first and most important task was to get to know the child. It began slowly – at first the girl remained across the room during their interactions. The CASA was gentle, kind and understanding, waiting patiently for the child to begin to trust her. The girl wouldn't look her in the eye, and didn't want to talk. As time passed the distance between them decreased and the child began to look at her, say hello and respond cautiously when asked about her day. Eventually she began bringing in favorite books and sometimes even initiated conversations. The CASA knew that this child needed someone who would really listen to her, someone who would value her for her unique self. She encouraged the child to get involved with school activities, knowing that accomplishments and success would bolster her self-esteem. The CASA also made a point of talking to the child about her potential – the child was a bright and engaging girl, and the CASA made sure she knew that.

The CASA volunteer got to know the child's mother as well. She never passed judgment on the mom – instead, while seeing the grim reality of the situation, she also saw the very clear strengths the mom had: her love for her daughter, her desire to make life better for her

family and her positive energy. Also significant was the fact that the mom trusted her daughter's CASA volunteer to be honest and forthright. She confided in the

CASA that she had too much free time because her work hours had been cut due to so many court hearings - the temptation to drink to help pass the time was strong. The CASA was able to bring this information to the court's attention, and as a result, her treatment team helped strategize ways to fill her free time constructively.



In the meantime, the CASA witnessed a profound shift in the child for whom she was advocating: the child was truly becoming who she most needed to be – a young girl. For too long she had been the parent and the caretaker when her mom was incapacitated by alcohol. For too long she had blamed herself when her mom couldn't stay sober. And for too long she had put herself last, giving up school activities and instead rushing home to be with her mom. Now, no longer parenting her parent, she was becoming a 10 year old girl. Progress was slow and tenuous at first, because the child was afraid to trust that her mom really was getting better.

She saw the can in her mom's hand. Her heart raced and she looked around quickly to see who else may have seen it. Without even realizing it she was making a plan – she would get them out of there and no one would have to know. Then she saw the label, which read "Pepsi." She sat down and took a deep breath.

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we do every day. It tells us that as a program we are making a real and sustained difference in the lives of children. As the Pew Commission on Children in Foster Care put it: "CASA is a proven means of strengthening the voice of children in [child welfare] courts."

Statistics, of course, only convey so much—especially when you are grappling with a problem as difficult and complex as child abuse and neglect. The thing that matters most to us is changing the fortunes of individual children. The five year old who was sexually abused by a parent's boyfriend. The 10 year old who was left to fend for himself most days and nights because his parent had a substance abuse problem. The 12 year old whose mood swings, caused by a psychiatric condition, simply triggered ever harsher punishments.

CASA volunteers, with training and supervision from CASA staff members, investigate these situations and get to the root cause of the crisis. Appointed by the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, CASA volunteers interview the child, parents, relatives, caregivers, teachers, healthcare professionals, and anyone else who—for better or worse—has played or might play a role in the child's life. They review pages and pages of reports and school and health records. They then put it all together like no one else can and recommend to the judge what placement and services will best protect the child and best serve the child's ongoing needs.

None of this absolutely essential work would be possible without CASA's incredible community of supporters. A timely and extraordinarily generous grant from the Perry Foundation helped ensure that our transition to a new home this past year would succeed. Just this fall, local artist Donna Ernest shared her beautiful paintings and collages for an enchanting art show at CASA's new building, with all the proceeds from sales donated to CASA. These are just

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What Would I Do?

"What would I do?"

Recent news events have called national attention to the legal and moral issues surrounding the reporting of child abuse and neglect. We are horrified that unspeakable incidents occur – and that silence, looking the other way, is too often the response. There are debates about government interference with families, concerns about overburdened welfare systems or involvement with the legal system. Amidst these conversations, we ask ourselves, "What would I do?"

Last year in Virginia, over 68,880 children were reported to social services departments for suspected child abuse or neglect. Child abuse and neglect are not confined to any particular socioeconomic class, race or ethnicity, or religion. Each one of us can help protect the safety and wellbeing of children by recognizing and reporting suspected child abuse and neglect.

Child Protective Services (CPS) responds to abuse and neglect of children occurring within families and settings that include public and private schools, residential facilities, day care centers/homes, and recreational or sporting programs. In cases where the alleged abuser/neglector is not a caretaker, CPS will refer those cases to local law enforcement.

The following guidelines and the related chart on page 3 have been developed by the Virginia Department of Social Services¹ to help you recognize and report child abuse and neglect.

What is Child Abuse and Neglect?

Section 63.2-100 of the Code of Virginia defines an abused or neglected child as any child under 18 years of age whose parent, guardian, or other person responsible for the child's care:

1. Causes, threatens to cause or allows a non-accidental physical or mental injury;
2. Causes, threatens to cause or allows a non-accidental physical or mental injury during the manufacture or sale of certain drugs;
3. Neglects or refuses to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter, emotional nurturing, or health care;
4. Abandons the child;
5. Fails to provide adequate supervision in relation to the child's age and level of development;
6. Commits or allows to be committed any illegal sexual act upon a child including incest, rape, fondling, indecent exposure, prostitution, or allows a child to be used in any sexually explicit visual material; and
7. Knowingly leaves a child alone in the same dwelling with a person who is not related to the child by blood or marriage and who is required to register as a violent sexual offender.

In addition, the law requires physicians to report to CPS any newborn infant who tests positive for drugs.

Reporting

Anyone may report suspected abuse or neglect; however Section 63.2-1509 of the Code of Virginia requires that designated professionals who have contact with children immediately report their suspicions. [i.e. doctors, residents, interns and nurses; social workers, probation officers, daycare providers, mental health professionals; law enforcement officers and animal control officers; public and private school teachers and school personnel; and CASA Volunteers among others.]

It is not necessary to prove that abuse or neglect has occurred, only to report reasonable suspicion. Reports can be made anonymously. If you choose to provide your name, it will not be released to the family who was reported, except by Court order. Persons reporting in good faith are immune from civil and criminal liability pursuant to Section 63.2-1512 of the Code.

What Happens After a Report is Made?

After a report is made, a child protective services (CPS) social worker will interview the child and siblings, the parents or caretakers, and the alleged abuser. The CPS social worker may also contact other persons having information about suspected abuse or neglect of the child(ren). The CPS social worker will conduct a child safety assessment; determine if child abuse or neglect occurred or if there is risk or harm; and develop a safety and services plan with the family when indicated.

The primary goal of child protective services is to strengthen and support families in preventing the (re)occurrence of child maltreatment through community-based services.

If you are concerned about the safety of a child, please make the call. The State Child Abuse Hotline is 1-800-552-7096. Or, you can call your local department of social services: Albemarle County – 972-4010; Charlottesville – 970-3400; Fluvanna County – 842-8221; Greene County – 985-5246. ■

¹Recognizing, Reporting and Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect in Virginia (VA DSS Jan. 2007).

a few examples of the incredible support we receive from all corners of the community. Over the last year, countless people and organizations—and many of you reading this newsletter— have stepped up to the plate and helped CASA. For this and everything else, we say thank you.

As we look to 2012 and the challenges that lie ahead, I want to share with you a brief story. By way of background, at the conclusion of every case, the CASA supervisor sends a survey to the parents of the child involved in the case. And, if the child is old enough to complete a survey, the CASA supervisor sends a survey to the child as well. The surveys help CASA elicit feedback about the work we do and the ways we might improve how volunteers interact with children and families. In a recent case, an 11-year-old girl completed her survey and gave her CASA volunteer uniformly positive feedback. But the child did not stop there. On the back of the survey, she wrote a personal note to her CASA volunteer as follows:

if your reading this then I want you come back and see me anytime Just cus the program is over doesn't me[an] we cant still see you I really like you and please come back. If [she] is not there please tell her I Want Her Back. Thank you

If there is any better testament to the value and importance of CASA's mission, I am not sure what it is. Thank you—our incredible community of supporters—for standing with us in this endeavor. We look forward to 2012 and continuing our shared mission.

Daniel Nagin, *Chairman*

	Physical Indicators	Behavioral Indicators
Physical Abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unexplained bruises or burns on face, torso, back, buttocks, thighs • Multiple injuries in various stages of healing • Bruises/welts resembling instrument used e.g. belt, cord • Human bite marks • Injuries regularly appearing after absence, weekend, etc. • Unexplained fractures, lacerations, abrasions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports injury by caretaker • Uncomfortable with physical contact • Complains of soreness or moves uncomfortably • Wears clothing inappropriate to weather (to cover body) • Afraid to go home • May be a chronic runaway (adolescents) • Behavior extremes (withdrawn, aggressive) • Apprehensive when other children cry
Physical Neglect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent hunger, poor hygiene • Unattended physical problems or medical needs • Consistent lack of supervision • Abandonment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports no caretaker at home • Begs, steals food • Frequently absent or tardy • Constant fatigue, listlessness, or falling asleep in class • Extended stays at school (early arrival and late departure) • Shunned by peers
Sexual Abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sexually transmitted disease (pre-teens) • Pregnancy • Difficulty walking or sitting • Pain or itching in genital area • Torn, stained, or bloody underclothing • Bruises/bleeding in external genitalia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports sexual abuse • Highly sexualized play • Detailed, age inappropriate understanding of sexual behavior • Role reversal, overly concerned for siblings • Exhibits delinquent behavior • May attempt suicide or other self-injury behavior • May have eating disorders • Deterioration in academic performance
Emotional Maltreatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May have frequent stomach aches, headaches or unexplained weight fluctuations • May have speech disorders • May lag in physical development • May have a non-organic, failure-to-thrive medical diagnosis • May have learning problems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exhibits age inappropriate behaviors such as thumb sucking, biting, head banging or rocking • Exhibits extreme behaviors such as over compliance, passivity, aggression, or withdrawal • Exhibits emotional or intellectual developmental delays • Exhibits cruel behavior or may seem to get pleasure from hurting others and/or animals • May abuse alcohol or drugs • May have eating disorders
<p>A combination or pattern of indicators should alert you to the possibility of maltreatment. Indicators should be considered together with the explanation provided, the child's developmental and physical capabilities, and behavior changes.</p>		

I Want Her Back *continued from pg. 1*

Over the course of a year and a half the CASA volunteer met regularly with her CASA child, making sure her needs were met and her voice was heard. The CASA encouraged the child, affirming her strengths and helping her find avenues to express herself – writing and increased involvement in after-school activities became important focuses for her. The CASA volunteer helped the child and her mother see the mom's strengths. And during a time when the mom could easily have relapsed - she had lost her job and was in danger of losing her home - she asked for help. She, too, was learning to trust.

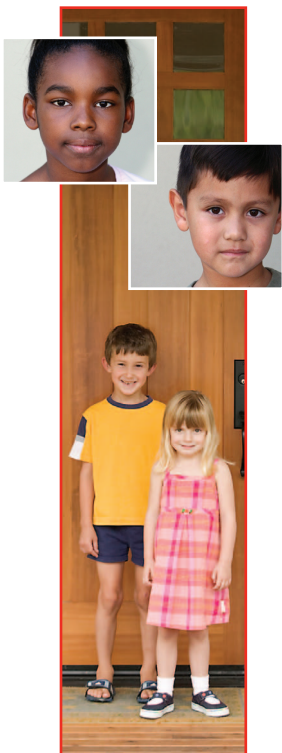
She had prepared two notes to read in court. In one she expressed her love for her mother and her pride in her mother's accomplishment. In the other she asked, "WHY?" Why did her mom have to drink so much? Why did she make their lives so hard? Why did she do this to her? In the end, both letters expressed her truth, and the best part was that she could now use her own voice to share them.

This case has a happy ending. Ultimately the mom was able to go back to work full-time, she completed her sobriety program and was able to remain sober, and she was reunited with her daughter. The child was able to believe in her mom again and let go of her feelings of responsibility for her mom's choices. And the CASA volunteer was instrumental in the process, helping the court and the family maintain perspective on what was important. Most of all, the CASA volunteer – who made sure the child's voice was always heard – was the one who helped embolden and strengthen the child to use her own voice.

After the case was over and the child wrote, "I Want Her Back," she was writing from the safety and comfort of home with her mother. A CASA volunteer's success is often echoed in this manner – because the volunteer becomes a significant person in a child's life, a person to whom the child can turn at any time. And it is at the point of the case's greatest success that the volunteer steps out of the child's life so that a parent can step back in. This is one of our community's unseen triumphs: the family that once needed help is now empowered and able to advocate for itself. This child wants her CASA volunteer, but she no longer needs her. ■

A Special Thanks to Our Contributors

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J. Page and Peggy W. Williams
Ronni and Tom Williams
Tom and Jeanine Wolanski
Ruth J. Worrell◆
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph S. Yackso
Kathy J. Yarmey

In Loving Memory of ...

Paul Singh Ahluwalia
By Sara and Ranjit Ahluwalia
Bruce Bair
By Linda Perriello
Nora Beavers
By Jane Biltonen
Beverly Cibbarelli
By Vincent C. Cibbarelli
Pat Cooke
By Alan and Paula Chamberlain
Ann Drischler
By Ruth and Steve Lanning
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Audrey E. Gilliam Greene
By Nadine A. Armstrong
Thaddeus E. Kelly
By Carolyn Kelly
May Kennedy
By Nancy F. Dettor
Bruce H. McCoid
By Anonymous
Barba Merriwether
By Timmie Jones
Abby Rothschild
By Bob and Ethel Garrity
Katherine "Kitty" Stroud
By Sally S. Telford
Peggy Sydnor
By Ace Contracting - Geoffrey Pitts, James Pitts, John Pitts
By Sally and Fletcher Askew
By The Book Club and the Book Club Girls: Rita Cook, Mindi Perry, Sherrie Rosenblatt, Pepper van Noppen, Sue Wilkinson
By Coleman and Bob Dance
By Mr. and Mrs. Leslie B. Disharoon
By Peter and Carol Easter
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By Mr. Waller H. Horsley
By Branchie W. Jenkins

By Ms. Betty W. Jennings
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By Mental Health Services Fund-
Shelah K. Scott
By Eugene Meyung and Derry Miller-Meyung
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By Mrs. Carol W. Stevenson
By John and Ruth Stone
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By Ms. Betty Tebell
By Dr. and Mrs. Morton C. Wilhelm
By Ronni and Tom Williams
Blanche van Ausdall
By Rodney C. van Ausdall

In Honor of ...

Judge Edward DeJ. Berry
By Anonymous
Amy Boyer
By Mr. and Mrs. Roderick D. Sinclair
Audrey Brown
By Grace Episcopal Church
Hadley Cabell
By Susan Cabell Mains
Beth Duffy Cox
By Kathleen Duffy
Julia, Bobby, Lucy and John Emery
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Kimberly Emery
By Bob and Ethel Garrity
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By Sally Eatmon
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Staci Nettles Rodgers
By Betty L. Aguilar
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By Katherine Mercer Reeves
Anne and James Rucker
By Anonymous

Mendy St. Ours
By Dreaming Hand Foundation
Ruth Stone
By Ann Stone
Ruth and John Stone
By David L. and Katherine Morris
The Stratienco Family
By Elisabeth and Erik Greenbaum
The Thompson Family
By Elisabeth and Erik Greenbaum

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.

★ Building Fund and Annual Fund Donor

◆ Building Fund Donor

❖ In-kind Gifts

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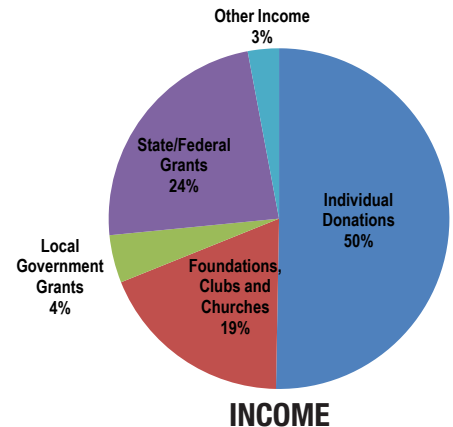
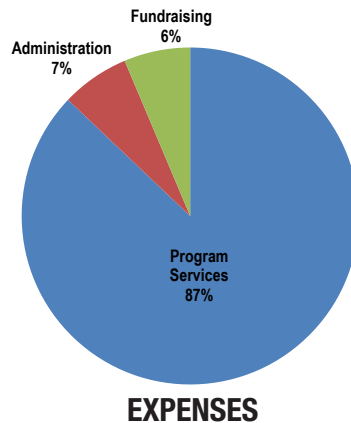
Financial Summary: July 1, 2010–June 30, 2011

Expenses:

Program Services	\$349,458.00
Administration	\$ 26,282.00
Fundraising	\$ 25,888.00
	\$401,257.00

Income:

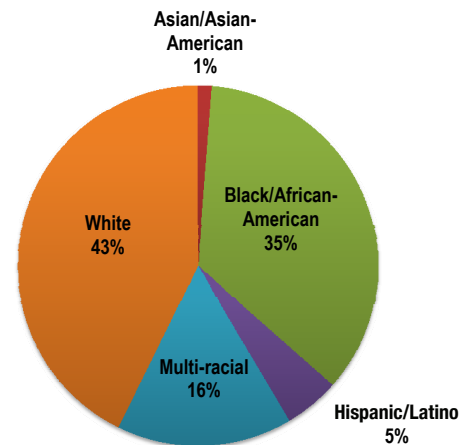
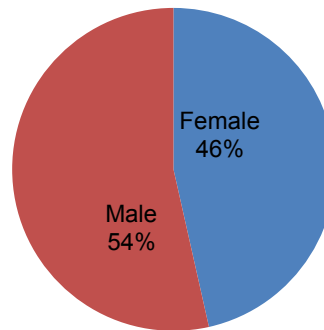
Donations	\$197,660.00
Foundations, Clubs & Churches	\$ 73,229.00
Local Government Grants	\$ 17,849.00
State/Federal Grants	\$ 92,783.00
Other Income	\$ 11,595.00
	\$393,116.00



The Children We Serve

Last year Piedmont CASA was assigned to 241 children, a 10% increase over the year prior.

Of the 241 children ages birth to 18, 112 were girls and 129 were boys. Eighty-five children were Black/African American; three were Asian/Asian American; 12 Hispanic/Latino; 38 multi-racial; and 103 White.



CASA Makes a Difference

One of the ways Piedmont CASA measures success is by tracking the well-being (physical, mental, emotional and academic) of the children whose cases we close during the year.

We closed cases for 94 children served by CASA Volunteers during Fiscal Year 2010-11, and of those children:

- 93% of the children were living in their own home, adoptive home or relative placement within 18 months of court intervention;
- 100% of children with health needs received beneficial care;
- 98% of children with mental health concerns showed improvement in emotional well-being and/or received appropriate therapeutic services; and
- 100% of school age children with educational concerns demonstrated grade-level academic performance or received remedial services.

Most importantly, CASA Volunteers stood by these children to make sure their voices were heard and their needs were met.

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

Piedmont CASA Honors Its Volunteer Advocates 2010-2011



10 - 14 years

Lucretia Blythe
Steven Cooper
Ruth Geils
Georgina King
Susan Roberts
Al Stone



6 - 9 years

Liz Blankenship
Doug Brown
Evette Carto-Barton
Virginia Daugherty
Phillip Giaramita
Nancy Grable
Dena Lawton
Pat Macionis
Janna Mahaffey
Alicia Milligan
Ann Pax
Terry Petty
Joe Ronan
Lindsey Schwab



3 - 5 years

Delores Alt
Amalia Belcher
Jan Bonner
Stephen Cooley

Kathryn Dillon
Peg Donnelly
Anne Fitzgerald
Patricia Frye
Alice Gore
Chuck Gross
Erin Hall
Simon Harvey
Erin Houlihan
Kathryn Hunter
Barbara Hutchinson
Susan Jacobson
Monica Markelz
Matthew Medina
Mary Nafpaktitis
Peggy Nicholson
Kimm Price
Rebecca Riddle-Whitlow
Linda Shaw
Jean Shepard
Janet Shobe
Betsey Soulsby
Erin Spencer
Jean Zearley

2 Years or Less

Pat Adler
Andrenne Alsum
Inge Austin Verweij

Heather Boe
Leticia Brady
Bennett Brett
Katherine Brooks
Salima Burke
Ruthann Carr
Ruth Carroll
Karin Chelluri
Wei-Bing Chen
Lynette Cuff
Mary Cunningham
Adrienne Dent
Nicholas Dumais
Anne Marie Farrar
Kathryn Fennig
Aida Fitzgerald
Alison Forman
Dana French
Kate Harlow
Mason Heidt
Bonnita Hill
Donna Kelley
Kathleen Knaus
Marcia Langsam
Jeff Langston
Ed Lee
Amber Lubeck
Virginia McKee
James Mehlin

Lauren Merkle
Anne Cristine Miaral-Yost
Becky Minor
Carla Myrtle
JoAnn Osborne
Rachel Paul
Mandy Pedersen
Martha Redinger
Mark Sackson
Geri Schirmer
Richard Schneider
Caitlin Schwab
Paul Seehaver
Courtenay Selden
Ilana Sinkin
Harriett Slezak
Meri Jane Smith
Cesar Soldevilla
Janet Stack
Marilyn Steedman
Paul Summers
Christine Tschiderer
Sandra Wagaman
Daniel Walden
Jean White
Jane Williams
Lori Woolworth
Carrie Ann Worrell

Photos courtesy of Henry photography

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



Friends of CASA

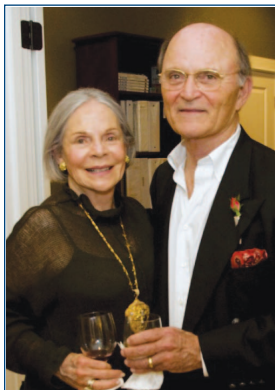


UVA's Project Serve

UVA's Theta Service Fraternity



Donna and Albert Ernest Art Show



GE Volunteers Backpack Drive



Volunteer Induction

Volunteer Activity Highlights 2010-11:

During Fiscal Year 2011, 100 volunteers **advocated for 204 child abuse or neglect victims.**

Highlights include:

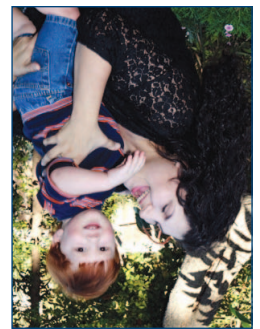
- Piedmont CASA conducted two **32-hour training sessions** and inducted **41 new CASA Volunteers**;
- **241 children** were in the program; **204 children** had assigned CASA advocates;
- **107 new children** were referred to the program;
 - **28 children were denied services** because the court dismissed the child protective order petition;
 - **4 children were on the waitlist** at year end;
- **Cases were closed for 94 children** served by CASA Volunteers;
- **128 independent investigations** were conducted;
- **9,318 contacts were made by CASA Volunteers** with children, parents, physicians, therapists, social workers, attorneys and others;
- **284 hearings** attended;
- **100% of the children served by the program** 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 March 2012!**

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



2010-2011

Annual Report

Return Service Requested

www.pcasa.org

434.971.7515

Charlottesville, VA 22902

818 East High Street

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