



Piedmont CASA, Inc.  
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**OBJECTIVES FOR WHICH FUNDING IS REQUESTED**

Piedmont CASA provides well-trained advocates for abused and neglected children in Charlottesville and the counties of Albemarle, Greene, and Louisa. To accomplish this, we persistently recruit, screen, and train men and women from our community to become Court Appointed Special Advocates, known as CASA Volunteers. As Judge Edward DeJ. Berry says, “Piedmont CASA Volunteers are the eyes, ears, and heart of the Court for these children.”

**TIMELINE FOR ACCOMPLISHING OBJECTIVES**

July-Sept. 2017	Recruit, interview, screen for volunteers	Mar. 2018	Conduct 32-hour volunteer-training course
Oct. 2017	Conduct 32-hour volunteer-training course	Apr. 2018	Induct 15 new CASA Volunteers
Nov. 2017	Induct 15 new CASA Volunteers	May 2018	Assign cases to new Volunteers
Dec. 2017	Assign cases to new Volunteers	June 2018	Recruit, interview, screen for volunteers
Jan.-Feb. 2018	Recruit, interview, screen for volunteers		

Training takes place twice a year, in Spring and Fall, but we recruit throughout the year as well as continuously support and supervise all active CASA Volunteers, usually around 100.

**COMMUNITY NEED FUNDS WILL ADDRESS**

Each year, hundreds of abused and neglected children in our community suffer from violence, food insecurity, and deeply unhealthy relationships. Without intervention, they can face a lifetime of problems such as improper brain development, impaired learning, and anxiety. They have a higher risk for heart, lung, and liver diseases as well as obesity, cancer, and high blood pressure. Without intervention, they are less likely to obtain gainful employment when they grow up, and more likely to get in trouble with the law.

Piedmont CASA Volunteers provide the kind of intervention these young victims need. They are well trained to assist the court and child welfare system in ensuring safety for maltreated children and youth, as well as permanency, placement stability, physical health, mental health, and education.

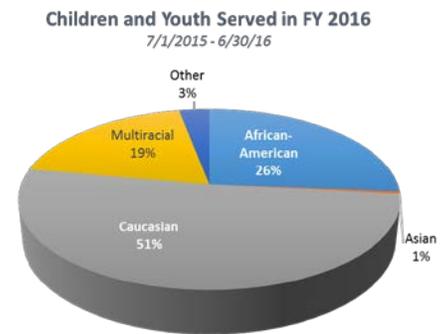
Research shows that abused and neglected children and youth who have CASA Volunteers spend less time in foster care, experience fewer out-of-home placements, and have improved educational performance. More than 90% never re-enter the child welfare system. The thousands of hours of advocacy that will be donated by CASA Volunteers in FY 2018 will save Virginia money on child welfare expenses by reducing long-term placements, subsequent victimization, and re-entry into the foster care system. Most importantly, children and youth with Piedmont CASA Volunteers will have a better opportunity to break the cycle of abuse and neglect, and become stable, productive adults. Local judges value this work so highly that they refer 100% of child abuse and neglect cases brought before them to Piedmont CASA.

CASA Volunteers are not impeded by jurisdictional boundaries and are able to stay with children throughout the life of a case. This ensures that even in the event that service providers, placements and schools change, a CASA Volunteer provides continuity and stability for the child as well as maintaining and sharing pertinent case history with new social workers, guardians and courts. Moreover, many service providers and team members involved with a child abuse and neglect case work with only one aspect of the family situation. A CASA Volunteer compiles all of the information and presents it to the judge in a comprehensive report with fact-based recommendations as to the child's best interests.

“Aging out” of foster care is a bigger problem in Virginia than in any other state. Far too often, these 18-year-olds are unprepared and at a grave disadvantage. Their employment options are dim. Within four years, 24% of them will experience homelessness, girls are 92% more likely to get pregnant, and boys five times more likely to be arrested. In FY 2014, we expanded our program to help change those outcomes with *Fostering Futures*, a curriculum and strategy that focuses on helping older youth, beginning at age 14, develop the practical life skills and social networks they need to navigate a safe and successful transition to adult life. Not long after, our statute was amended to allow us to serve young adults up to 21. This year, we designed a new initiative to bridge the gap between the advocacy services of CASA Volunteers and the services provided by the Departments of Social Services. *Bridges to Success for Older Youth in Foster Care* will broaden the range of information and recommendations available to CASA Volunteers when they make their reports to the courts.

## **BENEFICIARIES, DEMOGRAPHIC GROUPS AND GEOGRAPHIC AREA**

The hundreds of children we serve each year range in age from newborn to eighteen. They reside in Charlottesville, Virginia, and the counties of Albemarle, Greene and Louisa. Eighty-three percent come from households surviving at or below the federal poverty line. Another 15% are from homes where the family income is at or below 300% of the federal poverty line. These young victims are Caucasian, Asian, African- American, and Multiracial. Fourteen percent are Hispanic. They are 57% male and 43% female. But they all have two things in common: their safety was so compromised that the courts had to intervene, and they are part of our community.



## **HOW, SPECIFICALLY, FUNDS WILL BE SPENT**

A grant from Women United Together in Philanthropy would help us reach our goal of recruiting, screening, and training 30 new CASA Volunteers in FY 2018, as well as supporting and supervising the approximately 100 Volunteers who are active at any given time.

After completing a thorough background screening and a 32-hour training program (using the National CASA Volunteer Training Curriculum), trainees are inducted by the court as CASA Volunteers. With the constant support and supervision of Piedmont CASA, they:

- 1) conduct a thorough and independent investigation of the child's circumstances.
- 2) gather information from physicians, therapists, lawyers, guidance counselors, social workers, teachers, caretakers, parents, and others.
- 3) meet with their child at least once a month (usually more), and participate in family partnership and special education planning meetings, all aspects of Family Treatment Court cases, and other child-specific treatment team meetings.
- 4) use the information gathered in these investigations to make written, fact-based reports with recommendations to the Court ensuring that their child is receiving appropriate and necessary services, and always striving for outcomes that are in the best interests of their child or youth.
- 5) collaborate extensively with local departments of social services, community substance abuse and mental health service providers, foster home services, hospitals, and schools to identify and facilitate the provision of appropriate services to the child and his or her family.
- 6) aid the guardian *ad litem* in providing effective legal representation of the child's best interests
- 7) report suspected child abuse or neglect to Social Services.
- 8) monitor the child's situation to see that court orders are followed and that they continue to live in a safe, stable home.

No fees are charged, and no other program provides this service.

## **NUMBER OF ABUSED AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN SERVED ANNUALLY**

In FY 2016, we served a record number of abused and neglected children: 267. That was a 21% jump over the previous year. In the first seven months of FY 2017, we have already served 235 children. Unfortunately, there are another 37 children waiting for CASA Volunteers.

## **BUDGET BREAKDOWN: GOVERNMENT, INDIVIDUAL, CORPORATE, FAITH-BASED, FEES, OTHER**

Piedmont CASA's long-term sustainability is dependent on having a broad base of support, so we will continue to pursue diversified funding. In FY 2016, about 54% of our funding came from individual donors, 20% from foundations, clubs, and churches, 18% from local, state and federal grants, and 3% from events.

## **HOW WE WILL EVALUATE THE USE OF REQUESTED FUNDS**

In order to assess our progress, we track the number of Volunteers trained and children served, as well as the health and wellness benchmarks developed and standardized by the National CASA Association. Based on research by the Annie E. Casey Foundation and Pat Litzelfener, PhD, the four benchmarks are: Child Safety, Achievement of Permanency, Child Stability, and Child Well-Being. Volunteers maintain written case files documenting all contacts, records and information gathered, and submit written tracking reports to CASA Supervisors. Quarterly and Annual Statistical Reports are prepared to analyze and evaluate the process and outcome measures on an ongoing basis.



## Organizational Budget FY 2017

Please note: Yellow highlights indicate separate funding streams for the "Bridges to Success for Older Youth in Foster Care" program.

Ordinary Income/Expense	
<u>Income</u>	
Donations	\$ 320,000
Foundations	\$ 80,000
Government Grants	\$ 156,445
Bridges to Success	
VOCA	\$154,845
Match	\$ 38,711
Endowment	\$ 0
Events	\$ 35,000
Other Ordinary Income	\$ 1,500
Building	\$ 10,000
Bequest	\$ 00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 796,502</b>
<u>Expense</u>	
Payroll –Salary	\$458,830
Payroll-Benefits	\$ 77,207
Bridges Payroll- Salary	\$150,000
Bridges Payroll- Benefits	\$ 21,825
Capital Expenses	\$ 22,886
Case Management	\$ 2,200
Insurance	\$ 4,010
Bridges Insurance	\$ 1,504
Postage	\$ 3,700
Communication	\$ 8,673
Professional Fees/Services	\$ 11,800
Community & Public Relations	\$ 27,550
Supplies	\$ 3,500
Bridges Supplies	\$ 1,313
Technology & Equipment	\$ 15,661
Bridges Technology & Equipment	\$ 4,935
Telephone	\$ 3,200
Bridges Telephone	\$ 1,200
Training & Education	\$ 10,800
Bridges Travel	\$ 10,530
Utilities	\$ 6,000
Bridges Utilities	\$ 2,250
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$849,574</b>

## Project Budget FY 2017

Ordinary Income/Expense

<u>Income</u>	
Donations	\$ 320,000
Foundations	\$ 80,000
Government Grants	\$ 156,445
Endowment	\$ 0
Events	\$ 35,000
Other Ordinary Income	\$ 1,500
Building	\$ 10,000
Bequest	\$ 00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 602,945</b>
<u>Expense</u>	
Payroll –Salary	\$408,830
Payroll-Benefits	\$ 74,135
Capital Expenses	\$ 22,886
Case Management	\$ 2,200
Insurance	\$ 4,010
Postage	\$ 3,700
Communication	\$ 8,673
Professional Fees/Services	\$ 11,800
Community & Public Relations	\$ 27,550
Supplies	\$ 3,500
Technology & Equipment	\$ 15,661
Telephone	\$ 3,200
Training & Education	\$ 10,800
Utilities	\$ 6,000
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$ 602,945</b>