



Annual Report



2014

PARACHUTE: Butler County CASA's mission is to speak for the best interests of abused and neglected children in court. We promote and support quality volunteer representation for children to provide the child a safe, permanent, and nurturing home.

Every day in America, 1,900 children become victims of abuse or neglect and of them 4 will die. That's why PARACHUTE: Butler County CASA exists. For the over 1,000 local children each year who are under the protective supervision of the Butler County Juvenile Court because they have been abused, battered, molested or abandoned. They are the reason we are here.

Our mission, since 1988, has been to recruit, train, supervise, and evaluate community volunteers as **Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs)** to watch over and speak up for local abused and neglected children, birth to 18 years of age. Abused and neglected children need more help than the foster care and child welfare systems can provide. That is where CASA volunteers come in.

We believe every child can be safe, heal from their trauma and have the opportunity to thrive and live in a permanent, loving home. For many abused children, their CASA volunteer will be the one constant presence in their lives. Like Linda who has been a CASA volunteer for 14 years and believes "If I can help kids who are in difficult situations be safer and more secure, it is my responsibility to do so." And Kris (4 year CASA) who says "that the smallest bit of advocacy makes a big impact on my CASA kids". And David (5 year CASA) "I want to do something meaningful and I want to help children. My CASA work does both."

The children's stories are heartbreaking, the work is difficult but extremely rewarding. PARACHUTE provides a voice for abused children with the determination of dedicated CASA volunteers, volunteer board members, 4 staff and YOU – our supporters! Your gift ensures a helpless child will have a CASA volunteer by their side and a brighter future. THANK YOU.

Children with CASA volunteers get more help to heal from their trauma. In 2014, 97% of the CASA volunteers' recommendations for court ordered services were accepted by the court.

Having an Impact on Our Community

2014

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Raise Our Voices Breakfast

October 21, 2014 was the day nearly 100 people gathered at the "Raise Our Voices" event as we spoke up for Butler County's abused and neglected children.

We shared the need for community involvement to help abused children, birth to 18 years of age, in the court and foster care systems and how CASA volunteers promote success for each and every child they represent. Judge Jennifer Muench-McElfresh was the keynote speaker. We honored CASA volunteers, Friends of Children Society supporters, and others who believe that all children deserve to be free from abuse and live in safe, permanent, and loving homes. Concluding our event was the celebration of 8 community members who were sworn in as new CASA volunteers by Judge Ronald Craft and the addition of more Friends of Children Society members, pledging their continual financial support. With this momentum and partnership we can ensure that there will be "happy endings" for many more children in need in Butler County.



Accomplishments

New CASA Volunteers – Trained 19 new advocates, bringing the total number of trained CASA volunteers, since 1988, to 470 CASA volunteers.

Active CASA Volunteers – Supervised 72 active CASA volunteers, who donated 5,792 hours serving children.

Children served – 199 abused and neglected children in Butler County. Since 1988, our CASA volunteers have advocated for 1,761 children, attended 5,745 court hearings, and donated over 142,800 hours of service.

BCCS Social Worker Honored – Kelly Hurley, Butler County Children's Services Social Worker, was honored by Ohio CASA/GAL for her efforts on behalf of abused and neglected children. Ms. Hurley, nominated by PARACHUTE, received the "Mary Ellen Social Work Award for Excellence in Children".

2014

100% of the children with a CASA volunteer had a voice in court.

CASA = One adult making things better for an abused child

"I want to tell you some fantastic news – I visited two of my former CASA children this past Sunday. The 11 year old is a handsome, tall, curly haired young man with glasses and the 8 year old sister is a lanky, long haired blond, beauty. To my surprise the very energetic 8 year old curled up with a blanket and book and sat beside me – just like she and I did together years ago when she was small. Her family was flabbergasted! The new family plus dog have created a wonderful home for these two precious children. I teared up several times just thinking of the past, but how things have changed."

"I have had the opportunity to meet great people like this family and fellow CASA volunteers because of PARACHUTE. The PARACHUTE staff is an exceptional group devoted to children. We CASAs in Butler County couldn't ask for a better support system. They renew my hope for not just the children, but the future."

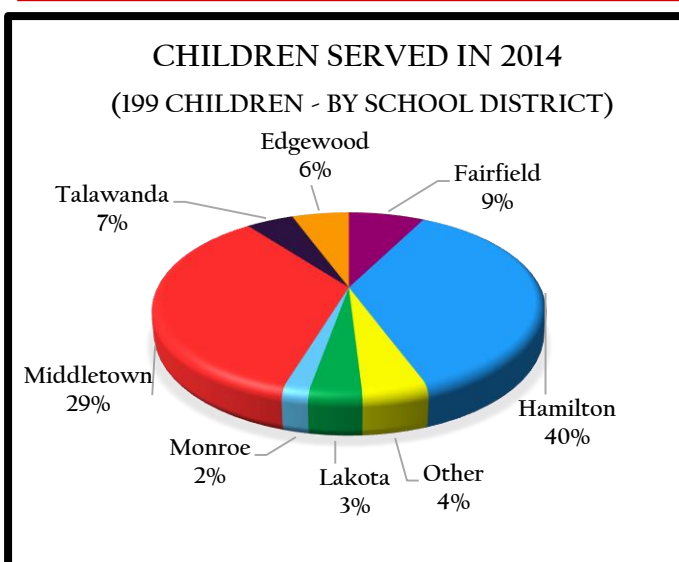
Carol, CASA Volunteer, 9 years

99% of the CASA volunteers had regular and consistent contact with the children.

"I like to think that in my 14 years of advocacy there have been several successes, but the one that comes to mind quickly was a little 3 year old boy. There were hopes to keep him with a family member, but after several unsuccessful placements I recommended that his grandmother in Kentucky gain custody of him. At the last hearing no one else recommended the grandmother, except me, and to my delight, the judge agreed with me. And you know – it's working beautifully. How do I know? The grandmother calls me several times a month to keep me in the loop. I'm happy to stay informed because I feel responsible for that judge's decision. An added plus is that the grandmother in Kentucky loves me! She still thanks me for going to bat for her."

"This family and others who keep in touch – just keep the rewards coming!"

Gabrielle, CASA Volunteer, 14 years



Thank you to our In-Kind donors:

Butler County Commissioners
Butler County Juvenile Court
Miami University CPAC
Duffels for Darlings
Miami University Middletown Office
of Community Engagement & Service

\$10,000 and up

Andrew Jergens Foundation
Butler County United Way
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Ohio CASA Association
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Hamilton Community Foundation
Interact for Health
Molyneaux Foundation
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Middletown Community Foundation
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United Way of W. Central Conn.
University Oxford Area
Browns Backers Charter 121
David Walsh
Lancer Weinrich, Jr.
Nancy & Richard White
Dr. Glenn & Pearl Willis
Mitchell Willis & Jon Yslas
David & Susan Wilson

*100 % of the children were reported safe
from harm with no recurrence of abuse.*

Jean Kelly
Dr. Richard Kennedy
Kiwanis Club of Fairfield
The Knolls of Oxford
Kona Bistro
Carolyn & Douglas Ledford
Liberty Home Association
Gilbert & Margaret Liechty
Dennis Lodder
Rob & Bea Lyons
Joseph Magdich
The Main Look
McDonald's/LEVAJO
Connie Mehlman
Ron & Chitra Meyer
Middletown Women Teacher's Club
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Shannah Morris
Jack & Joan Nickert
Dr. Gayle Niehaus
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Oxford Presbyterian Women

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Christine Birhanzi
Brian & Leslie Black
Sarah & Frank Bomholt
Tiffany & Joseph Brandabur
Angela Breetz
Marion & Gerald Brockfield
Henry & Alida Bruewer

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Individual Donors January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014
Foundation, Business, Group, & Church Donors July 1, 2013 to December 31, 2014

2014

Up to \$99 continued

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Margery McIntosh
Sonya Montana & John Krafft
Jana L. Morse
John & Shirley Moser
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Kate Nolan
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Gift of Security

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Mary Reimer
Jolynn Hurwitz
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Gift of Safety

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Chris Schultz
Bonnie Tromans

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Matthew & Chelsea Boll
Brian & Kim Fritsch
Megan & Damon Halverson
Marlene Hoffman
Kelli & Mike Kurtz
Sharon Long
Maggie & David Minich
Shannah Morris

89% of the children cases closed to date in 2014 ended up in a safe, nurturing, and permanent home due to the advocacy of our CASA volunteers.

All gifts, large and small, are genuinely appreciated. We pledge to be fiscally responsible to the stakeholders, transparent in our operations and do our best to serve those children so desperately in need. Your donation ensures that a helpless child will have a CASA volunteer, a strong voice and hopefully a better future.

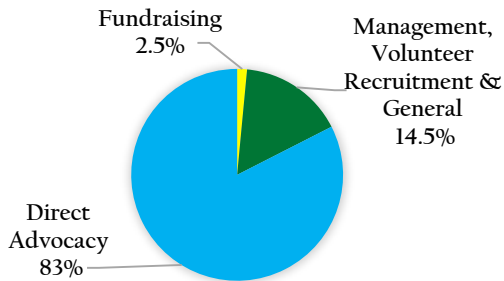
Thank you for joining us and being a voice for a child.

Financials for PARACHUTE's fiscal year 7/1/2013 – 6/30/2014

2014 EXPENSES \$277,940

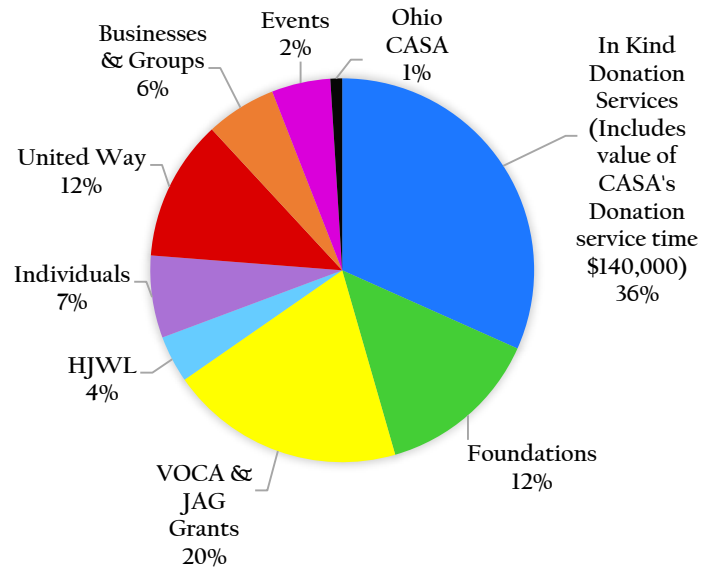
END OF THE YEAR ASSETS \$186,963

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS (\$11,096)



2014 REVENUES TOTAL \$418,844

(REVENUES \$266,844 + IN-KIND \$152,000)



In Memory and in Honor of Gifts

In Memory of Gifts:

Brent Bittenger

Louis & Doris Schellenbach

Mary Clare Schellenbach

Eugene Brinkman

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JoAnn Buschelmann

Mary Dobrozsi

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Edith Doyle

Jean Kelly

Alice Jeffers

Fred Jeffers

Ruth Macke

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In Honor of Gifts:

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Nancy Green

Kathie Brinkman

Susan Fleisher

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Julie Menzer Smith

Rebecca A. Flick

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Lynn Baird

Heather Hart

Cheryl Kordes

Karen Krabacher

Karen Purvis

Angie Wirtz

Shawna & Tim Brandabur

2014

CASA Volunteers Active in 2014

Michelle Abraham	❖Theresa Gervais	Kelly Litman	Lynn Shank
Jessica Ball	❖Dave Gilday	❖Jennifer Logan Cox	❖Lovi Singh
❖ Victoria Barber-Emery	Mary Beth Grollmus	Sharon Long	Katie Smiddy
Kris Barren	❖ Rebecca Gross	Andrea Marcum	Cindy Spicer
Katherine Beinecke	Anita Guido	Fred Marcum	Joe Stratt
Karen Bell	Chris Hacker	Gail Martin	Gabrielle Strand
Jill Berry	Peggy Hill	Denise Mattingly	Carol Swisshelm
Christine Birhanzi	Lisa Hodson	Sheila Maxwell	Ginger Tannenbaum
❖Rick Blyberg	Diana Honerlaw	Diane McClain	❖Brooke Theisen
Chelsea Boll	Pam Hurley	●Stephanie Mense	❖Ambra Thomas
Sean Casler	Janice Jones	Amy Mikeworth	❖Cindy Trauthwein
Nadja Crawford	Kelley Kadle	Rhonda Minnick	Bonnie Tromans
Brenda Daniels	❖Al Kaled	❖ John Moul	Mary Turner
Mark Daudistel	❖George Kell	❖ Kathleen Nickel	Jill Wells
Pam Daudistel	❖Cathy Koenig	Desiree Ochs	Sarah Wernke
Darlene Davidson	● Leila Kubesch	Amy Oney	●Hank Williamson
Lora Dickson	Carrie Ledford	Kristin Poirer	David Wilson
Kelley Dixon	Tracee Leugers	Tom Roberts	Jim Wolterman
Jodi Fant	Cassidy Lipscomb	Tabatha Roosa	❖Brenda Yablonsky
Monica Fisher			Nancy Young

❖denotes new CASA volunteer trained in 2014 and assigned a child's case.

●denotes new CASA volunteer trained in 2014, but not yet assigned a child's case.

2014 CASA Volunteer Training



Fall



*In 2014 CASA
volunteers attended
206 court hearings to
speak up for a child's
best interest.*

Thanks to **Judge Kathleen D. Romans** (pictured above with winter training) and **Judge Ronald Kraft** (pictured above with fall training) for their steadfast support of the PARACHUTE program and the CASA volunteers and their lifesaving work with local children.

How can you help an abused child?



Attend CASA 101 – Each year PARACHUTE hosts “CASA 101” which are 1 hour informational sessions committed to sharing PARACHUTE’s mission and to recruit community volunteers to become future CASAs. These events are hosted at the CASA office, local libraries, or community centers throughout Butler County. You will not be asked for a donation.

Become a CASA Volunteer – Speak up for a child in court. Court Appointed Special Advocates participate in training sessions provided by staff and work directly with local abused children. For more details contact PARACHUTE at (513)867-5010 or check out the website www.parachutecasa.org for applications and further information.

Make a Donation – Every donation is so important and assists PARACHUTE in continuing this lifesaving work for our community. It costs \$1,550 to train one new CASA and with more trained CASA volunteers, we can serve more children. Join our [Friends of Children Society](#) to help PARACHUTE sustain our commitment in providing a voice for the abused and neglected children in our community.

Partner with PARACHUTE for a Project – Develop a project that suits your interests or those of your group: collect school supplies or children’s items, food coupons for a CASA volunteer to share with a child, donate office supplies to PARACHUTE, have a bake sale or car wash to raise money, volunteer to help out at the PARACHUTE office for painting, gardening projects, or stuffing envelopes – call us for more ideas! (513)867-5010.

**Thank you
CASA
Volunteers
for being
the voice of
a child!**



Honored all active CASA volunteers during “National Volunteer Week” in April and gave special tribute to long term volunteers.

In 2014, 5 active CASA volunteers logged 10 years & more of service each to PARACHUTE children!

Bonnie Tromans, Gabrielle Strand, Erin Laramore, Ginger Tannebaum, & Denise Mattingly

In 2014 Volunteers Reaching a Service Milestone

4 years

Jane Behler Darlene Davidson
Mark Daudistel Pam Daudistel Peggy Hill

5 years

Diana Honerlaw Joe Statt

