

Annual Report 2020 - 2021



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Executive Director's Message



Dear Friends and Supporters:

We are proud to present our Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Annual Report, which showcases the life-changing mission of PARACHUTE: Butler County CASA. You will notice the report this year highlights our accomplishments from July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021, to better align with our fiscal year. This year has been a challenging one filled with adaptation, determination, growth and ongoing support from our committed financial partners, CASA advocates, board members, and donors.

For over 30 years, PARACHUTE has advocated for a child's right to a safe and permanent home. We are so grateful to you for your ongoing commitment and support. Over the past year, 80 CASA volunteers were able to provide advocacy services to 386 children and counting. We could not do this work without your dedication and support. Thank You!

This year has been a year of change, and like many of you, we are learning to embrace change and technology. Prior Executive Director Chris Schultz retired after 31 devoted years of service to PARACHUTE and the children of Butler County. It was my honor to work with Chris for over 30 years, and I was humbled to become the Executive Director after her retirement. The energy, determination, and heart Chris has given, have been a guiding light for PARACHUTE for over 3 decades and we are working hard to continue her legacy. PARACHUTE staff, board, volunteers and supporters have gone above and beyond to support PARACHUTE during this transition and the ever-changing COVID-19 guidelines. Through technology, we have embraced headsets, zoom meetings and WebEx hearings. We also re-evaluated policies and procedures, all while keeping the focus on advocacy for abused and neglected children. Our CASA volunteers have continued to see children in-person and virtually, ensuring they were not lost or overlooked during the challenges of the last year.

We are incredibly grateful for our generous grants from Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Attorney General Dave Yost, Office of Criminal Justice (OCJS), Butler County United Way, and National CASA. We were also honored to receive a \$25,000 donation from a generous donor to match our Holiday giving campaign. These investments to advance our mission have ensured our services continued during uncertain times and allowed us to make an impact on children and families here in Butler County.

Because of you, we are changing the path for our vulnerable children, by creating a better future.

Sincerely,

Sonya Buchanan

Tonya Buchanan
Executive Director

2020 - 2021 Board of Directors

President – Renee Leuthold

Vice-President- Britt Cole

Treasurer – Kim Fritsch

Lee Corder

Josh Hodges

Heather Reister

Susan Vaughn

Joel Fink

Heather Kirkendall

Anita Scott Jones

Alex Getz

Erica Millikin

Andrew Spaeth

Be a Child's Voice 2020 - 2021

Court Hearings
Attended

467



80 Active
CASA Volunteers
Trained **16**
New Advocates



CHILDREN SERVED



386

4,845 hours
donated serving
children



99% of our CASA
children reported safe
from harm with no
recurrence of abuse.



Children with CASAs get
more help to heal from
their trauma. **93%** of
the CASA volunteers'
recommendations for
therapeutic, medical &
educational services were
accepted by the court.

99% of our CASA
volunteers had
regular
and consistent
contact with their
CASA
child/children.



Since 1988

2,589 Children Served

596 CASA Volunteers Trained

7,619 Court Hearings Attended

172,300 Volunteer Hours Donated

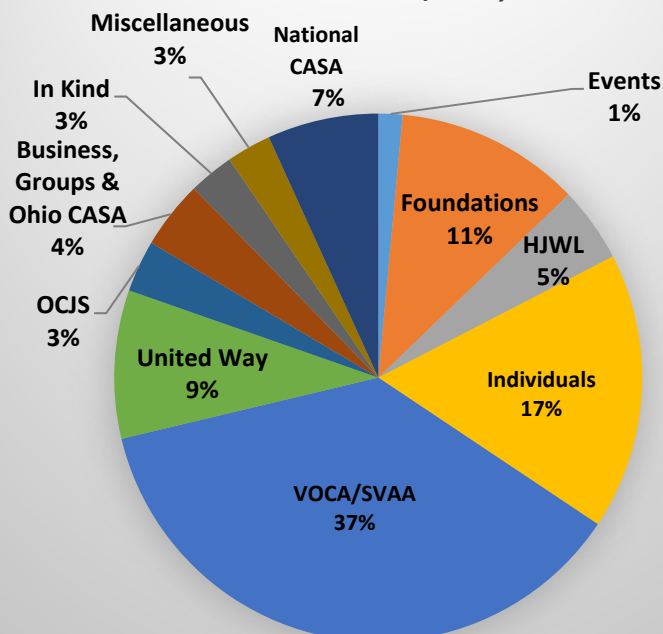


93% of the children's
cases closed to date
ended up in a safe,
nurturing, and
permanent home
due to the advocacy
of our CASA
volunteers



7/1/2020 - 6/30/2021

Revenue \$478,810

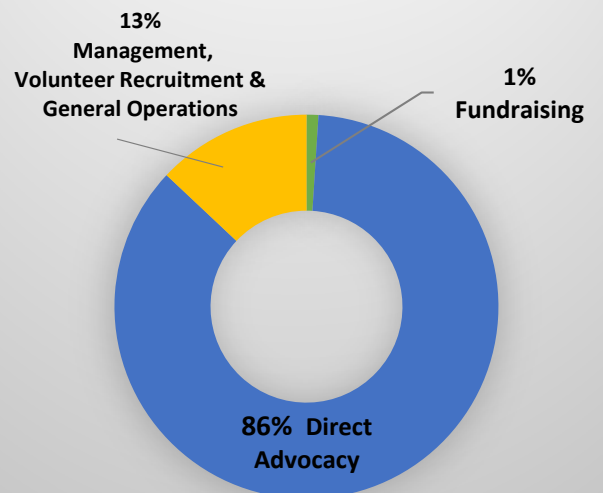


7/1/2020 - 6/30/2021

Expenses \$374,566

End of Year Assets \$801,542

Change in Net Assets \$185,285



Thank You to All of Our Donors

July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

\$10,000 and Above

Anonymous Donation
Butler County United Way
Charles H. Dater Foundation
National CASA Association
Office of Criminal Justice
Mark Roeser – New Pathways
Child Development Center
Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Fire & Iron #133
Michael Kelley
Molyneaux Foundation
State Victims Assistance Act

\$2,500 - \$4,999

Butler Rural Community
Connection
Fire and Iron Station #133
Kappa Alpha Theta (MU
Gamma Upsilon-Chapter)
Middletown Community
Foundation
Ohio CASA
PNC Bank (Schroth Family)
Wolff Family Trust



\$1,000 - \$2,499

Butler County Juvenile Court
Delta Pilots Charitable Fund
Fairfield Community
Foundation
Mr. & Mrs. John Kirsch
Kiwanis Club of Oxford
LCNB National Bank

\$500 - \$999

First Baptist Church - Midd
Brian & Kim Fritsch
Hamilton Professional
Firefighters Assoc. Local #20
Jolynn Hurwitz
Kappa Alpha Theta
Thomas Laming
Doug & Renee Leuthold
Susan Lipnickey
David & Diane McClain
Jim & Dianne McEachen
Middletown Community
Foundation
Kenneth Reed
Jeffrey Rubenstein
Tom & Carol Schaber

Chris Schultz
Shandon Congregational
Church
Three Bond International
Rudy & Diane Tisdale

\$250 - \$499

Vera Cook
Express Wash Concepts
First Presbyterian Church
John & Aurelia Fraley
Alex Getz
Bill & Jackie Groth
K of C
William & Barbara Keck
Richard & Alice Laatsch
Richard & Karen Leuthold
Dennis Lodder
Edward & Joyce Molinsky
Judge & Mrs. Shirley Moser
Oxford Presbyterian Women
John & Ellen Reister
Dennis & Ann Rogers
Bonnie Tromans
Craig & Susan Wilks
Jeffrey & Linda Wyler

\$100 - \$249

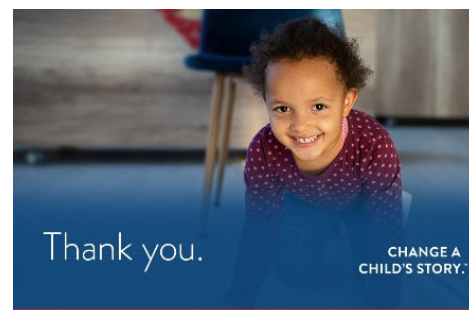
Kathleen Adams
Eric & Marcee Addington
Patricia Alderson
William & Marcia Andrew
Roger & Paula Atkin Jr.
Bob & Beth Baer
Allan & Dorothy Bailey
Janet & Marlon Bailey
Bank of America
Adrienne Barkley
Katharine Barnes
Carl & Jennifer Batliner
Joe & Susan Belew
Christian Benninghofen
Nancy Belew Follmer
Doris Bergen
Elizabeth Rogers
& Ernst Bever
Marc & Lisa Biales
Steve & Kathleen Brinkman
Andrew & Kathy Brossart
Frederick & Mary Brower
Carol Browne
Kevin & Christine Campbell
Dr. Thomas & Mary
Catalanotto
John Clemmons
Neil & Honi Cohen
John Cumming
Evangeline Devol
Mary Foley
Bev Gorman
Steven Hessler
Richard & Mary Hileman
Christopher & Theresa Hoffer

Jennifer Hystad
Judge Eva Kessler &
Thomas Eberwein
Cynthia Leslie
Liberty Home Assoc.
Lindenwald United Methodist
Dr. George & Diane Manitsas
Fred & Deanna Martin
Fred Miller
Ashley Monk
Jana Morse
Oxford Presbyterian Church
Dr. Albert Palatchi
David & Norma Pennock
Dr. & Mrs. James Peters
Presbyterian Church-Hamilton
Dr. Jennifer Ridge
Michael Schneider
& Barbara Webb
Virginia Scott
Angela Sherrick
SOS Art
Melanie & Richard Stupak
Beverly Thomas
Robert Thurston
& Margaret Ziolkowski
Susan & John Vaughn
Howard Weinberg
Kenneth & Joanne Willman

Up to \$99

Linda Amspaugh-Corson
James & Mary Jo Ashburn
David Berg
Brian & Leslie Black
Angela Breetz
Marion & Gerald Brockfield
Ellen Campbell
Bradley & Barbara Cotterman
Joy Creech
Dartmouth United Methodist
Women
Thomas & Melissa Dierking
Gerald Dorn
& Deborah Hauger
Alison Dowd
Anthony & Cynthia Dowrey
Chris Eckerle
Jeff & Connie Ehrnschwender
George & Betsy Esber
Janet Fatika
Joel Fink
Susan Fleisher
Nancy Follmer
Shirley Fugate
Emily Furman
Vincente & Florence
Gallardo
Andrew Garrison
& Cecilia Shore
Judy Gibbons
Christine Graue
Thomas & Anita Guido

Laura Goodman
Wilma & Michael Haker
Christine Hardwick
Ronald & Carol Harp
Ian Heflin
Maureen Hofmann
Chris Homan
Hopedale Unitarian
Universalist Comm.
Robert Ison
Frances Jacoby
Cliff & Phyllis Johnson
Albert & Sharon Kaled
Susan Kay
Holly Kozlowski
Allen Leach
James & Mary Ann Leeds
Colleen Luther
Ann Malcolm
Fred & Andrea Marcum
Katherine Martin
Frances McClure
Fred Miller
Dr. Michael Moorehead
& Dr. Andrea Moorehead
Timothy Mueller
Gail Muirhead
Bangalore & Rama Nagaraj
Joan Nickert
Gerald Olson
Donald & Imogene Orts
Thomas & Linda Pate
Rita Ringel
Scott Rosensweig
Mary Clare Schellenbach
David & Carolyn Schul
Larry Sebastian
& Shannon Kollstedt
Jack & Charlotte Sharon
David Sloneker
Darris & Kathryn Sparks
Peter & Clara Szucs
Ginger Tannenbaum
Alma Taulbee
Dr. Charles & Joan Teckman
Denise TenEyck
Thomas & Beverly Theobald
Thomas & Dawn Valentine
Nicholas & Frances Weiler
Thomas & Janet Wilson
William Wortman
Timothy & Kathleen Wourms



In Memory of Gifts

Patricia Tanner

Renee Deaton
John Topits
Chris Schultz
Ray & Carmela Nichting
Thomas & Lorraine Pieper
William & Debbie Campbell
Paula Covey
Karen Broughton
Cheryl Hastings
Peggy Ryan
James & Linda Hanson
David & Tammy Campbell
Fred & Andrea Marcum
Carol Becker
Peggy Hurst
Pam Chafin
Roger Ritzie
Harvey & Betty Snowden
Vincent & Sandra Vilkoski
Sue Snodgrass
Keith & Martha Kelly
Cox Family

Jack & Stephen Nickert

Mrs. Joan Nickert

Mary Lou Kusel

Linda Lombard
Evonne Moore
Roger & Mary Hamburg

Jane Miller

Richard & Donna Barasch

Robert Sudbrook

Leslie Caudell
Kristy Murphy
John & Karen Whallen
Karen Gudknecht
Lenora Payne

Carol Caudell

Connie Sudbrook

Gordon & Mildred Ante

Keith & Donna Knodel

Louis & Doris Schellenbach

Mary Clare Schellenbach

Judge David Niehaus

Toni Pagano

Luther Morris

Barbara Morris

Tom Buschermann

JoAnn Buschermann

Stephanie Shumard

Bonnie Tromans

James Scheper

Todd & Lynn Brading

Barbara Reid

Ronald Stevens

Thank you to our In-Kind donors:

Butler County Commissioners
Butler County Juvenile Court
City of Hamilton – Bottled Water
Colonial Schools – Hats, gloves, scarves
Duffels for Darlings
Lakota Sports Organization and Gametime
Training Center – Giving Tree
Salvation Army

Alice Jeffers

Fred Jeffers

Melanie Sherron

Judge Kathleen Dobrozsi Romans

In Honor of Gifts

Tim & Melinda Motley

Marianne Schmitt

Chris Schultz

David & Diane McClain
Brian & Kim Fritsch

Edward Demske

Elizabeth Demske



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.

Thankful for community support!



PARACHUTE: Butler County CASA is honored to have the **Hamilton Junior Women's League** be one of our valuable founding partners and in 2021, HJWL's virtual fundraising event raised **\$20,000** for PARACHUTE to continue to provide advocacy for abused and neglected children. Eat, Drink, Give, "Where It All Began" was an amazing success. Thank you to the women of HJWL!

Thank you to **Butler County United Way and Mark Roeser**, President of New Pathways Child Development Center for the generous donation of **\$10,000**. Butler County United Way has been a continuous supporter of PARACHUTE over the years. New Pathways has been providing childcare to families in Fairfield for nearly 50 years.



Fire & Iron Motorcycle Station #133 hosted their 5th Annual "Ride to Stop Child Abuse" which took place on June 9, 2021. Motorcycle enthusiasts came from near and far to enjoy the beautiful scenery of several townships throughout Butler County. The ride concluded at Rick's Tavern for the always popular after party which included live music, great food, split-the-pot, raffles, and silent auction items – raising a total of **\$6,500**. Since 2016, Fire & Iron has raised over **\$28,000** to help PARACHUTE recruit and train CASA Volunteers. Thank you, Fire & Iron #133 for your hard work and detailed planning for this annual event.

We would like to thank the **City of Hamilton Professional Firefighters** for their donation of **\$500** to PARACHUTE. They have been proud supporters for many years. Thank you for protecting the families in our community each and every day.



Patty and Linda of Duffels for Darlings have been stopping by the PARACHUTE office for over 10 years – every time a new group of CASA volunteers are assigned a new case, these lovely ladies deliver delightful gifts for each and every child – from newborns to teenagers. Since 2010, Duffels for Darlings has delivered **over 800 gifts** to our CASA kids. Thank You!



Thank you to all of the wonderful families who donated hats and gloves to **Colonial Schools** at Westover Retirement Community. The donations helped a lot of children stay warm during the cold and brisk winter months.

The Volleyball giving tree was a huge success this holiday season. **Lakota Sports Organization** and **Gametime Training Center** made the season brighter for many local families, with all of the wonderful gifts that were donated.



Thank You 2020 - 2021 CASA Volunteers!

Over 20 years

Gabrielle Strand
Ginger Tannenbaum
Bonnie Tromans

10 – 15 years

Karen Bell
Jill Berry
Chris Hacker
Erin Laramore
Joe Statt
Carol Swisshelm

5 – 10 years

Lori Argalas
Brenda Daniels
Karen Drake
Lisa Farthing
Dave Gilday
Bev Gorman
Sheila Maxwell
Diane McClain

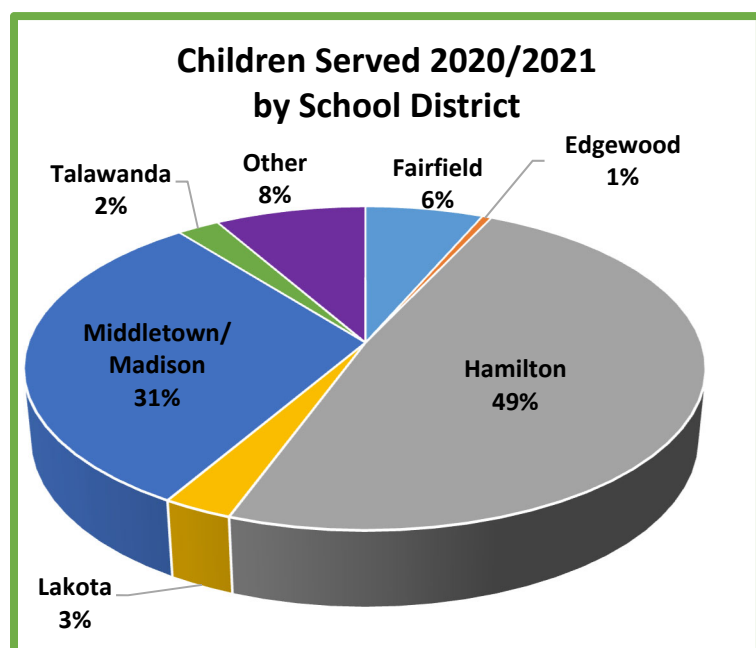
Julie Phelan
Fay Smillie
Cindy Trauthwein
Brenda Wanninger
Joanne Willman

Up to 5 years

Shannon Anderson
Janet Bailey
Jessia Black
Beverly Blevins
Loni Bothwell
Carol Bowles
Kristy Brann
Roger Braun
Andrea Brunner
Kim Bryant
Lanie Calihan Frias
Brianna Combs
Karen Cook
Susan Damm
Erikka Durdle

Cindy Elam
Peter Engelhard Jr.
Robyn Foreman
Karen Fuchs
Danniel Galbraith
Charles Ganelin
Lori Garver
Connie Girard
Rachel Helwig
Sharon Henrichsen
Penny Herr
Beth Hiltz
Chris Hudak
Ashley Husain
Susan Johnson
Amanda Katz
Patty Kelley
Amy King
Pamela Kopp
Kathy Louder
Alyssa Moorman
Diane Neilson

Lynn Newton
Nancy Nix
Larry Ochs
Linda Pope
Gabriela Proffitt
Anna Ressler
Neal Ressler
Nancy Riggs
Ernest Riley
Timothy Rocheleau
Vickie Rocheleau
Cherl Royer
Jenna Rutter
Traci Ryder
Carol Schaber
Jordan Schotz
Jim Spicer
Shanna Studder
Renee Williams
Mary Jane Willke
Bethany Paul-Wilson



Thank you to Judge Kathleen D. Romans and Judge Ronald Kraft for their continuous support of the PARACHUTE program and appreciation for our CASA volunteers.

We Need Your Help

Attend CASA 101 – Each year PARACHUTE hosts “CASA 101” which are 1-hour informational sessions committed to sharing PARACHUTE’s mission, along with the opportunity to recruit community volunteers that want to become future CASAs. These events take place at the PARACHUTE office, local libraries, online via Zoom, or at community centers throughout Butler County. Visit our website at www.parachutecasa.org to sign up!

Request a Speaker – Does your club, group or church need a speaker? We would be glad to schedule a talk regarding child abuse and how to make a difference through volunteering, either in person or via zoom.

Become a CASA Volunteer – You can speak up for a child in court. **Court Appointed Special Advocates** participate in training sessions provided by staff, and work directly with local abused and neglected children. For more information contact PARACHUTE at (513)867-5010 or visit our website at www.parachutecasa.org

Make a Donation – Every donation is so important and assists PARACHUTE in continuing lifesaving work for our community. The cost of training one new CASA is \$1,700, and with more trained CASA volunteers, we can serve more children.



Executive Director Retires after 31 years with PARACHUTE

Chris Schultz began her career at PARACHUTE in 1989. At that time, there was only a part-time Administrative Assistant and 31 trained CASA volunteers. With Chris’ expertise, heart, dedication and vision she grew PARACHUTE to a staff of 6, and oversaw the training of over 500 CASA volunteers who provided advocacy to nearly 2,500 local children who were victims of child abuse and neglect.



Throughout her professional career, Chris spent over 40 years tirelessly helping Butler County Families thrive. It has truly been an honor to work with Chris for the last 30 years. Chris ensured all volunteers, staff and clients were always treated with empathy, compassion and respect. In August 2021, past and current staff at PARACHUTE held a private outdoor celebration with Chris to honor her contributions to PARACHUTE. Staff, Board Members, Volunteers, family and friends all sent video tributes to Chris, sharing stories and thanking her for her service.

In retirement, Chris is enjoying spending more time with Scott, her daughter, son-in-law and toddler granddaughter, traveling more, and taking every opportunity to enjoy a yoga class or lead one. Thank you Chris for your many years of devoted service to PARACHUTE. Chris will always be synonymous with PARACHUTE, and we are humbled to continue her legacy and wish her a happy retirement.

“I feel so blessed to have had the privilege to work with such a professional, diverse and compassionate group of people; including CASA volunteers, PARACHUTE staff and board members over these years. So many of you have touched my life and I am forever grateful to have met and shared countless wonderful experiences together!”

Chris



PARACHUTE is supported in part by a Victim of Crime Act (VOCA) and/or State Victims Assistance Act (SVAA) grant award administered by the Ohio Attorney General’s Office.

