A sad fact in 2016 - more than 2,000 Butler County children were investigated as victims of abuse and neglect. Instead of playing with neighbors and making happy family memories, they were attending court hearings, being removed from their unsafe situations, adjusting to foster homes, transitioning to different schools. That’s a heavy burden for a child to carry. Imagine being alone, scared and unsure of what will happen next. Many children had witnessed drug abuse, experienced violence and were often left with no supervision in unsafe homes or were homeless. Many had little or no food or had parents who could not or would not properly care for them. Children then enter the child protection/court/foster care systems. This is tremendously confusing and unsettling.

We are there for the child. Whatever their age, children removed from home face a frightening profound unknown. We make sure they don’t face it alone. We stand by them. We are there whenever they need us, for as long as it takes to reach a safe, permanent home. We are strong, compassionate adults who are a consistent presence, who care, who listen and who put the child’s interests before all others. We take the time to get to know the child at the heart of the case. We go where they go. We talk to people who touch their lives - parents, relatives, foster parents, teachers, doctors, neighbors, social workers, attorneys and therapists. We present details to the judge to help the child heal and move out of the system and into a permanent home. We give them the support they need to become happy, successful adults. Here is evidence of CASA effectiveness. A child with a CASA volunteer...

- Is safer, less likely to be abused while in the system.
- Is more likely to succeed in school.
- Receives more services to heal from their trauma.
- May have less moves and leave the foster care system sooner.
- Ends up in a safe, permanent home more quickly.

PARACHUTE’s goal is to reach all hurting children in need of healing and security. We are there to change lives. And we are not alone. We are a movement, consisting of volunteers, staff, judges, attorneys, professionals, donors and friends. Together we are a powerful voice for children. Our outcome measures show that CASA works! THANK YOU for helping improve the lives of children!
HAVING AN IMPACT ON OUR COMMUNITY

Fire & Iron Motorcycle Club Ride
Fire & Iron Motorcycle Club #133 raised $4,000 for PARACHUTE: Butler County CASA. What a fantastic group of individuals who are dedicated to serving their local community. The 85 mile “Ride to Stop Child Abuse” took place on June 4, 2016 starting at Tri-County Harley Davidson and ending with an after party at LugNutz Bar & Grill.

A Wicked Night Out
The Greater Cincinnati Direct Sales Network hosted their annual “A Wicked Night Out Charity Ball” October 8, 2016 in which PARACHUTE benefitted from the proceeds. $5,044 in funds were raised to train more community volunteers to serve more abused and neglected children throughout Butler County. Fantastic event, featuring raffle items, costume/make-up contests, live music, great food, and such a fun evening! Collaborative effort between GCDSN, PARACHUTE Board of Trustees, and PARACHUTE staff.

Art On/Off Symmes Fashion Show
Art On/Off Symmes and Sherry Armstead hosted their annual fashion show and donations from the evening’s event went to PARACHUTE. It was an evening filled with unique fashions, good food, and endless entertainment. In less than 2 hours, $700 was raised to support PARACHUTE’s mission to serve the abused and neglected children of Butler County.

Accomplishments 2016

We are growing at PARACHUTE: Butler County CASA! - Welcome to new staff members Sarah Owens, Staff Attorney/Volunteer Coordinator and Sharon Marshall, Administrative Assistant. With our new PARACHUTE personnel, the agency can expand services to provide more comprehensive advocacy to more abused and neglected children in need. Remaining staff members: Tonya Buchanan - Data/Training Specialist, Jane Barnes - Volunteer Coordinator, and Janie Cochran - Recruitment/Development Specialist.

New CASA Volunteers - Trained 22 new advocates, bringing the total number of trained CASA volunteers, since 1988, to 510 CASA volunteers.

Active CASA Volunteers - Supervised 80 active CASA volunteers, who donated 4,318 hours serving children.

Children served - 215 abused and neglected children in Butler County. Since 1988, our CASA volunteers have advocated for over 2,000 children, attended 6,225 court hearings, and donated 150,102 hours of service.

Board member honored - PARACHUTE Board President, Rhonda Brown, inducted into the Badin High School Hall of Honor for her volunteer service to PARACHUTE and other non-profits groups in Butler County.

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

In 2016, 4 active CASA volunteers logged 15 years & more of service each to PARACHUTE children!

Bonnie Tromans 21 years
Gabrielle Strand 15 years
Erin Laramore 15 years
Ginger Tannenbaum 15 years

In 2016 Volunteers Reaching a Service Milestone

5 years
Karen Bell

4 years
Amy Oney

Thank you CASA Volunteers for being the voice of a child!
PARACHUTE Partners making a difference in the life of an abused child.

Kappa Alpha Theta
The Miami University chapter of Kappa Alpha Theta raised a total of $3,240 in 2016 for PARACHUTE: Butler County CASA. For the past 28 years, the “Thetas” have stood with PARACHUTE to impact the lives of abused and neglected children throughout Butler County. As an organization of women committed to spreading the widest influence for good, the Miami chapter has contributed over $17,000 to PARACHUTE as well as countless volunteer hours and were awarded an “Unsung Hero” Award by the United Way of Oxford, Fall 2016.

Miami CPAC
For more than 20 years the Miami University truck has delivered holiday gifts for our CASA kids! A BIG THANK YOU to Miami University CPAC, Anita Cook Sackenheim, MU campus group volunteers, and MU President Crawford and wife Renate, for fundraising, shopping, wrapping, and coordinating gift delivery. Miami CPAC made a difference in so many abused children’s lives during the 2016 holiday season!

Children Served 2016 by School District

Thank you to our In-Kind donors:
Butler County Commissioners
Butler County Juvenile Court
City of Hamilton - Bottled Water Colonial Schools
Constant Contact - Lisa Biales
CTI Restaurants (Taco Bell/Uno’s Pizzeria & Grill-Rebecca & Todd Wilber)
Duffels for Darlings
Hamilton Junior Women’s League
Hillandale - Family of Communities
Sue Biddle Jewell - Gift Cards
KAΘ Fraternity - Miami University
Knights of Columbus Auxiliary - Sacred Heart
Liberty Heights Church Youth Group
Miami University CPAC
Miami University Hamilton & Middletown - Centers for Civic Engagement
Miami University Middletown - Office of Service Learning and Volunteerism
## Community Partners
January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016

### $10,000 and up
- Butler County United Way
- Hamilton Junior Women’s League
- Insuring the Children
- Ohio CASA Association
- The Spaulding Foundation
- Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)

### $5,000 to $9,999
- A Wicked Night Out Charity Ball
- CareSource Foundation
- Hamilton Community Foundation
- Justice Assistance Grant/OCJS
- Liberty Mutual Foundation
- Molyneaux Foundation
- SVAA/Ohio Attorney General
- United Way of Oxford & Vicinity

### $2,500 to $4,999
- Ernst J Bever Foundation
- Butler County Juvenile Court
- Fire & Iron Motorcycle Club #133
- KAA9 Fraternity - Miami University
- Maxwell C Weaver Foundation
- Com. Found. of W.Chester/Liberty

### $1,000 to $2,499
- Bela Fleck/Abigail Washburn Concert
- Dorothy & Alan Blake
- Rhonda and Tom Brown
- Butler Rural Community Connection
- Give With Liberty
- Michael J Kelley
- Kroger Rewards
- Lebanon Citizens National Bank
- Joseph & Helen Fanz Levay
- Lindenwald Kiwanis Club of Hamilton
- Middletown Community Foundation
- Miller-Valentine Walsh Fund
- Miriam G. Knoll Foundation
- Oxford Community Foundation
- Reynolds & Reynolds Foundation
- St Peter in Chains Mission Day
- Jennifer & John Wacker

### $500 to $999
- Art On/Off Symmes/Sherry Armstead
- Angela Cardwell
- Fairfield Community Foundation
- Fairfield Women
- First Baptist Church Middletown
- GBR Group
- Angela Glaab
- Randy and Kathleen Horne
- Jolynn Hurwitz
- Insurance Professionals of Greater Cincinnati
- Kendra Scott Jewelry
- John & Kim Kirsch
- Kiwanis Club of Oxford
- Tom and Debbie Laming
- Renee & Doug Leuthold
- Doug Lynch
- Paws, LLC - McDonald’s
- Mary Reimer
- JD Roberts Family Fund
- Kathy & Jeffrey Swormstedt
- Rudolph & Diane Tisdale
- Dr. John & Bonnie Tromans
- UCMA

### $250 to $499
- Lisa & Marc Bias
- Matt & Chelsea Boll
- Kathie & Stephen Brinkman
- Robert & Barbara Brown
- Robert Brown Construction
- Steven Brown
- George & Kathy Burnette
- Helen Croucher
- Dr. Charles & Amy Debbane
- 1st Baptist Church Middletown
- Elaine Garver
- GE Foundation
- Hopedale Unitarian Universalist
- Jody Iingle
- Heather Ivers
- Kingsgate Trans. Services, LLC
- Richard & Alice Laatsch
- Diane & David McClain
- Judge John & Shirley Moser
- Dr. Gayle Niehaus
- Johanna Garry Neu
- Jon Ralinovsky & Amy Lamborg
- Ellen & John Reister
- David & Carol Schul
- Chris Schultz
- Julie Joyce & Brian Smith
- Kathy Staermann
- Symmes Auto Sales
- Carol & James Swishelm
- United Heartland Insurance
- Dr. Glenn & Pearl Willis

### $100 to $249
- Air Products & Chemicals
- Jennifer Allen
- Christopher & Debra Allison
- Marcia & Will Andrew
- Roger & Paula Atkin Jr
- Dorothy and Allan Bailey
- Carl & Jennifer Battiner
- Dr. Doris Bergen
- Stephanie Bland
- Alice & Edward Bolger
- Larry & Marilyn Bowling
- Fredrick & Mary Jane Brower
- Brown-Dawson-Flick
- Ryan Brown
- Carol Browne
- Buckner Emp. Service Training
- Kathy & James Carter
- Casper & Casper, LLC
- Dr. Tom & Mary Catalanotto
- John H. Clemmens
- Jack & Sandra Cotter
- Donald Crain
- CTI Restaurants, Inc.
- John Cumming Jr.
- Chris Eckerle
- Todd Fansler
- Fiehrer Motors, Inc.
- First Giving
- 1st Presbyterian Middletown
- Becky Flick
- Jane Flueckiger
- Flora Fortney
- Aurelia & John Fraley
- Kim & Brian Frisch
- Jeff & Ann Frymier
- Carolyn & Thomas Gard
- Nancy & Roger Gates
- GE Foundation
- Saad Ghon
- GOFUNDME
- Beverly & Mark Gorman
- Louise & David Griffing
- Thomas & Anita Guido
- Christopher & Jane Haight
- Megan & Dalmon Halverson
- Gerry Hammond
- Ron & Janet Handley
- Steven Hessler
- Richard & Mary Hileman
- Robert & Gloria Hoelle
- Diana & Stephen Honerlaw
- Fred Jeffers
- Gary & Sarah Kaup
- Jean Kelly
- Dr. Richard Kennedy
- Eva Kessler & Thomas Eberwein
- Carrie & Douglass Ledford
- Dr. Robert & Janis Lerner
- Liberty Home Association
- Lindenwald United Methodist Men
- Susan & James Lipnickey
- Sharon Long
- Sheila Maxwell
- Middletown Women Teacher’s Club
- MidUSA Credit Union
- Sonya Montana & John Krafft
- Shannah & Anthony Morris
- Kathleen Nickel
- Erik & Ann Niehaus
- Marilyn Z. Ott
- Oxford Presbyterian Women

### Up to $99
- Patricia & Dick Alderson
- Amanda United Meth. Women
- Amazon Smile Rewards
- Linda Amspaugh
- James Ashburn
- Lauri Atkins
- Terri Ayers
- Beth & Bob Baer
- Valerie Bailey
- Donna & Richard Barasch
- Jane & Tom Barnes
- Jan & David Belka
- Karen & Richard Bell
- Bobby Bennett
- Dr. David & Cecilia Berg
- Beta Sigma Phi
- Ricardo & Paula Bethart
- Philena Betz
- Brian & Leslie Black
- Jane & Douglas Blazer
- Dr. Cesario & Carol Bondoc

---

94% of the CASA volunteers had regular and consistent contact with their CASA child/children.
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.
In 2016, 93% of the CASA volunteers’ recommendations for court ordered services were accepted by the court. 99% of the children were reported safe from harm with no recurrence of abuse.
**CASA Volunteers Active in 2016**

Julie Adkins  
Cassie Alexander  
Wendy Allen  
Neelum Amin  
Lori Argalas  
Janet Bailey ✤  
Jessica Ball  
Kris Barren  
Karen Bell  
Jill Berry  
Sue Biddle-Jewell ✤  
Christine Birhanzl  
Andrea Brunner ✤  
Keith Campbell  
Peggy Cheek ✤  
Pam Daniels  
Mark Daudistel  
Pam Daudistel  
Darlene Davidson  
Kelley Dixon  
Peter Engelhard, Jr ✤  
Monica Fisher  
Ashley Fleming ✤  
Stephan Forstrom ✤  
Theresa Gervais  
Dave Gilday  
Beverly Gorman  
John Green  
Rebecca Gross  
Holly Guard ✤  
Chris Hacker  
Chris Hamlin ✤  
Sharon Henrichsen ✤  
Peggy Hill  
Lisa Hodson  
Diana Honerlaw  
Ashley Husain  
Kelly Kadle  
Al Kaled  
Cathy Koenig  
Betty Kopulos ✤  
Candace Lantz ✤  
Erin Laramore  
Mary Lawler ✤  
Carrie Ledford  
Tracee Leugers  
Jenny Logan Cox  
Andrea Marcum  
Fred Marcum  
Diane McClain  
Ashley Monk  
John Moul  
Shellie Neumeier  
Kathy Nickel  
Nancy Nix ✤  
Desiree Ochs  
Amy Oney  
Julie Phelan  
Debra Pizzuco  
Judy Reid ✤  
Ernst Riley ✤  
Tabatha Roosa  
Rachel Schierzinger  
Erin Schmertz ✤  
Lori Singh  
Katie Smidy  
Fay Smillie  
Kendra Smith  
Joe Statt  
Gabrielle Strand  
Shanna Studer ✤  
Carol Swishelm  
Ginger Tannenbaum  
Ambra Thomas  
Steve Timmel ✤  
Cindy Trauthwein  
Bonnie Tromans  
Jennifer Wacker ✤  
Brenda Wanninger  
Alexis Watkins ✤  
Jamie Wilkerson ✤  
Joanne Willman  
Brenda Yablonsky

---

100% of the children cases closed in 2016 ended up in a safe, nurturing, and permanent home due to the advocacy of our CASA volunteers.

راعت المحاربين على الأطفال صورتهم في الإعلان.

---

**Winter CASA Volunteer Training**

**Spring CASA Volunteer Training**

**Fall CASA Volunteer Training**

Thanks to Judge Kathleen D. Romans (pictured above) and Judge Ronald Craft for their steadfast support of the PARACHUTE program and the CASA volunteers and their lifesaving work with local children.
Ty’s story

As a boy, my sisters and I suffered just about every form of abuse you can imagine — emotional and physical attacks by my mother, later sexual abuse by her and her boyfriend. When I was 13 years old, we were all removed from our home. First foster home did not want all of us; we went to an emergency shelter, then to 2 different foster homes. Without knowledge or the power to speak up, I felt like a victim. A year later, I met my CASA volunteer. And everything changed.

My CASA volunteer was at every place I was – court hearings, foster homes, school, doctors, counselors - talking to them to make sure things were happening for me. My CASA taught me how to communicate, how to represent my needs and myself. He helped me understand what was happening in court and taught me how to stand up for myself. When I had something to say, my CASA made sure my voice was heard.

When I got my diploma, I heard my CASA’s cheers above the rest. My final foster home adopted me along with my sisters. We are a family. We are loved.

Ty years later- My CASA and foster father did so much for me and for others. From that moment on, I decided that there was much that I need to give back. I am working now at a youth serving agency and I am graduating soon from college. I have dedicated my time to helping children whose life circumstances are similar to mine. Thanks to all who helped me. I feel I have value.