Annual Report

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.

“My CASA volunteer has always been there for me and my sister. If I was scared about an upcoming court date, school, or family problems, she would offer advice and a hug. I have always had her there when I needed someone. She talked to my teachers and counselors and spoke up for me at court. She was my support and motivation, always cheering me to go on and always bringing out the good in all the situations that were bad and depressing.”

Tessa, former foster child age 16.

At PARACHUTE: Butler County CASA, we want all children to be safe, loved and protected. However, we recognize that many local children are suffering. Investigations for child abuse and neglect numbered over 2,000 for 2017. These numbers represent real children who are hurting. Butler County Juvenile Court had over 500 new cases involving children with abuse, criminal neglect, sexual abuse and parental drug abuse. Over 1,000 children were involved in ongoing court cases. Often, these children spend years moving from one home to another, lacking safety and stability. Their futures seem dim.

This is when a CASA volunteer enters! A CASA volunteer is appointed by a judge to research and advocate for the best interests of an abused child (ages birth -18). Research states when a child has a CASA volunteer, they are more likely to be placed into a safe, permanent home in a more timely manner. They may return home quicker, with the problems solved, or be placed in legal custody of an appropriate, caring relative, or be adopted. A child with a CASA volunteer is also more likely to receive needed services to heal from their trauma. A CASA volunteer visits regularly, reports to the court about the child’s situation and speaks on their behalf. Studies show that having one loving and stable adult in a damaged child’s life can make all the difference. It works.

Linda was the CASA volunteer for Tessa (then 13) and her sister Abby, 10. These sisters had been beaten and severely neglected by drug-addicted parents. The family was often homeless. The girls were placed in foster care then moved again. They were unhealthy and underweight; both were having trouble in school and trusted no one. Linda worked to get services to help them heal - medical services, counseling and tutoring. Linda, through a widespread investigation, found a family member. Their great aunt now has custody and the girls are blossoming. “These girls made me realize how much a CASA volunteer can help,” says Linda, “This is the path I’m supposed to take.”

“My sister and I now are part of a happy family. Our CASA volunteer did this. I hope more people will decide to be a CASA and help kids.”

Tessa, former foster child, age 16

We agree with Tessa. We believe children deserve someone on their side. 2017 was a busy year. CASA volunteers worked hard for the best interests of abused children, one child at a time. THANK YOU everyone for your donation of time, abilities, heart, and financial support!
Thank you Hamilton Junior Women’s League for awarding $20,300 to PARACHUTE from their 2017 signature event – Eat, Drink, Give. Thanks also to all who attended in support of the three “roastees”, Sheriff Richard K. Jones, movie producer Vince Jolivette, Jr. and our board president, Rhonda Brown. Thank you Rhonda for “taking one for the team” to help raise more funds to better serve the abused and neglected children in our community.

Fire & Iron Motorcycle Club Ride - Fire & Iron Motorcycle Club #133 raised $3,000 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 July 8, 2017 starting at Cycle Specialties in Fairfield and ending with an after party at Rick’s Tavern - both sponsored the event.


Serve With Liberty visits PARACHUTE: Butler County CASA, May 2017! Thanks so much to our wonderful Liberty Mutual Volunteers who spent the day at the PARACHUTE office folding, stuffing, addressing, and sealing envelopes while learning more about the CASA volunteer training program and the impact of their contribution to PARACHUTE’s mission.

1st Annual Golf Classic - Saturday, August 5, 2017 at Twin Run Golf Course. A fantastic day of golf, door prizes, silent auction, and dinner. A total of $5,934 was raised. Hole Sponsors – Ohio Eagle Distributing, Tom & Rhonda Brown, Clear Creek @The Practice Center, Kaivac, Dinkel Family, Dr. Charles Debbane/Dr. Laura Arnold, Advance Fiber Technology, Avery Aluminum & Vinyl, Steve & Laura Brown, Robert Brown Construction, Symmes Auto Sales, Southwestern Ohio Services LLC, SoftTec, Jeff Pohlman Tire & Auto, Dr. Richard Kennedy, Eric’s Auto Service, Flub’s Dariette, EAS Sportswear, Proware/SoftTech.

In-Kind Donations - Luxottia/Renee Leuthold, Walden Ponds Golf Club, Callaway, Kona Grill, Cru Wine Bar, Patterson’s Café, Paseno’s, Top Golf, Graeter’s, Massage Envy, NorthStar Café, Swing 365, Copper’s Hawk, The Main Look, Cobb Theatre/CineBistro, and Eagle Tee Golf Center.
PARACHUTE Partners making a difference in the life of an abused child.

United Way of Oxford Unsung Hero Award
Miami CPAC

Miami University’s Classified Personnel Advisory Committee (CPAC) was awarded the United Way of Oxford’s 2017 Unsung Hero Group Award. CPAC has been raising money, shopping for and wrapping gifts to be delivered to our Butler County CASA children and Preble County foster children for more than 21 years – nearly 2,000 gifts in just Butler County alone. The “Holiday Project” is a community wide effort involving the scouts, Miami University students/staff, and many Oxford area partners who contribute financially, donate gift items, and volunteer their time to make the holidays a special memory for these vulnerable children who find the holidays a difficult time of the year. Congratulations CPAC!

West Chester Police Department
“No Shave November”

"Thank You" to the West Chester Police Department and Police Chief Joel Herzog for raising $2,820 for PARACHUTE: Butler County CASA from their event “No Shave November”. Each member of the department donated to participate. PARACHUTE is moved by their generosity and willingness to forgo shaving for an entire month to support our volunteer training program.

Thank you for your service to the West Chester community and for speaking up for the abused and neglected children across Butler County.

Children Served 2017 by School District

- Hamilton 40%
- Middletown 31%
- New Miami 2%
- Edgewood 6%
- Ross 1%
- Lakota 7%
- Fairfield 7%
- Talawanda 1%
- Other 4%
- Madison/Monroe 1%
- Ross 1%
- Fairview 7%
- Fairfield 7%
- New Miami 2%
- Other 4%
- Madison/Monroe 1%
- Ross 1%
- Fairview 7%
- Fairfield 7%
- New Miami 2%
- Other 4%
- Hamilton 40%
- Middletown 31%

Thank you to our In-Kind donors:
- Butler Co. Commissioners
- Butler Co. Juvenile Court
- Butler County United Way
- Build-A-Bear Workshop
- City of Hamilton – Bottled Water
- Colonial Schools  Costco
- Constant Contact – Lisa Biales
- CTI Restaurants - (Taco Bell/Uno’s - Rebecca & Todd Wilber)
- Duffels for Darlings
- Hamilton Junior Women’s League
- KAO Fraternity – Miami University
- Kendra Scott Gives Back
- Knights of Columbus Auxiliary – Sacred Heart
- Liberty Center Community Booth
- Miami University CPAC
- Miami University Hamilton & Middletown - Centers for Civic Engagement
- Office of Service Learning and Volunteerism
- Sweetbags
Community Partners
January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017

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

$5,000 to $9,999
Molyneaux Foundation
PARACHUTE Golf Classic
Robert Reakirt Foundation/PNC Trust
SVAA/Ohio Attorney General

$2,500 to $4,999
Butler County Juvenile Court
Cheryl Garnett-McDonald
Fire & Iron Motorcycle Club #133
Give With Liberty
Hamilton Comm. Foundation - YPC
Maxwell C Weaver Foundation
United Way of Oxford & Vicinity
West Chester Police Department

$1,000 to $2,499
Rhonda and Tom Brown
Butler Rural Community Connection
Hamilton Rotary Club
K.A.O Fraternity - Miami University
Michael J Kelley
Kroger Rewards
Lebanon Citizens National Bank
Joseph & Helen Fanz Levay
Lindenwald Kiwanis Club of Hamilton
Middletown CF Youth Council
Middletown Rotary Club
Miller-Valentine Walsh Fund
Miriam G. Knoll Foundation
Ohio Eagle Distributing
Oxford Community Foundation
Reynolds & Reynolds Foundation
Tom and Debbie Laming
Walmart Community Grant Store #2309
Walter & Carrie Zancan
Welcome’s Club of N. Cincinnati

$500 to $999
Angela Cardwell
Fairfield Women
First Baptist Church Middletown
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
Caregivers for Independence LLC
GE Foundation
Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
Randy & Kathy Horne
Jolynn Hurwitz
ICF Consulting Group, Inc.
Justice Assistance Grant
KaiVac Cleaning Systems
Kendra Scott Jewelry
John & Kim Kirsch
Kiwanis Club of Oxford
Renee Doug Leuthold
Gary McMahan
Middletown CF Youth Council
Randall Myers
Jack & Joan Nickert
Erin & Bob Robinson
Kathy & Jeffrey Swormstedt
Com. Found. WC/L YIP

$250 to $499
Advance Fiber Technology
Air Products & Chemicals
All Points Title & Closing, Inc.
Beta Sigma Phi Sorority
Lisa & Marc Biales
Matt & Chelsea Boll
Kathie & Stephen Brinkman
Fredrick & Mary Jane Brower
Robert Brown Construction
Robert & Barbara Brown
Steve & Laura Brown
Kristen Campbell
Casper & Casper, LLC
David Cochran
Companion Care
Debbane & Arnold Dentistry
Flora Fortney
Hamilton Firefighter’s Assoc.
Richard & Mary Hileman
Heather Ivers
Richard & Alice Laatsch
Susan & James Lipnickey
James McCull
Diane & David McClain
Dr. Gayle Niehaus
Oxford Area Brown Backers 121
Oxford Lions Club
Judy O’Meara
Jeff Pohlman Tire & Auto
Ellen & John Reister
Tanya Roberts
Tom & Carol Schaber
Chris Schultz
Julie Joyce & Brian Smith
Kathy & Nick Staermann
Symmes Auto Sales
Systeon, Inc.
Rudolph & Diane Tisdale
United Heartland Insurance
Robert & Rebecca Weigel
Cathy Wiley
Dr. Glenn & Pearl Willis

$100 to $249
Dr. Masood Ahmad
Patricia & Dick Alderson
Jennifer Allen
Marcia & Will Andrew
Roger & Paula Atkin Jr
Dorothy and Allan Bailey
Marlon & Janet Bailey
Carl & Jennifer Battliner
Dr. Anthony & Jane Behler
Joe & Susan Belew
Alice Bolger
Brown-Dawson-Flick
Carol Browne
Judge Henry & Alida Bruewer
Buckner Emp. Service Training
Nancy L Cartwright
Dr. Tom & Mary Catalano
John H. Clemmens
Janie M Cochran
Wilbur & Miriam Cohen
Jack & Carolyn Cook
Jack & Sandra Cotter
Helen Croucher
CTI Restaurants, Inc.
John Cumming Jr.
Dinkel Family
Annette E Drake
Todd Fansler
Jim & Mary Lou Fening
Rebecca Flick
Jane Flueckiger
 Aurelia & John Fraley
Kim & Brian Fritsch
James & Emily Fuhrman
Carolyn & Thomas Gard
Beverly & Mark Gorman
Thomas & Anita Guido
Stephanie Hacker
Robert & Janet Handley
Laura Hargitt Cohen
Ron & Carol Harp
Lucille Hautau/Manried Metal
William & Sandra Hazleton
Steven Hesser
Robert & Gloria Hoelle
Jody Ingle
Richard Isroff
Wendy C Johnson
Dr. Richard Kennedy
Carrie & Douglas Ledford
Dr. Robert & Janis Lerner
Conrad & Cynthia Leslie
Liberty Home Association
Lindenwald United Methodist Men
Eric & Colleen Luther
Sarah Mabry
Joseph Magidch
Paul Marsh
Margery McIntosh
Middletown Women Teacher’s Club
Fred Miller
Todd & Vivian Monroe

James Luther & Barbara Morris
Shannah Morris
Jana Morse
John & Marguerite Moul
Municipal Brew Works
Kathleen Nickel
Johnna Garry Neu
Oxford Internal Medicine
Oxford Presbyterian Women
Julie Phelan
Jennifer M. Ridge, M.D.
Dennis & Ann Rogers
Scott Rosenweig
Jeff & Becky Rubenstein
Dr. Ann L. Ryprostra
Paul & Judith Schiller
Joel & Marilyn Schmidt
William & Virginia Scott
Shumacher Dugan Construction
Ed & Judy Shetton
Julie Menzer Smith
Lisa Smith
SoftTec/Proware
Southwestern Ohio Services LLC
Melanie & Richard Stupak
Carol & James Swishelm
The Main Look
Beverly H. Thomas
Steve & Linda Timmel
Trenton Circle Mother’s Club
TRUST
United Way of Snoonishom Co
Shelly Walpe
David J. Walsh
Howard & Nancy Weinberg
Lancer Weinrich Jr
Joanne & Kenneth Willman
David & Susan Wilson
Dr. James & Anne Zettler

Up to $99
Marcce & Eric Addinton
Thomas & Deborah Alf
Amanda United Meth. Women
Amazon Smile Rewards
Linda Amspaugh
James & Mary Jo Ashburn
Beth & Bob Baer
Donna & Richard Barash
Jane & Tom Barnes
Jan & David Belka
Karen & Richard Bell
Bobby Bennett
Christina Bennett
Bob & Jean Benedict
Dr. David & Cecilia Berg
Dr. Doris Bergen
Ricardo & Paula Bethart
Brian & Leslie Black
Ruth Boem
Brand it for Good
Gerald & Marion Brockfield

Children with CASA volunteers get more help to heal from their trauma.
In 2017, 97% of the CASA volunteers’ recommendations for therapeutic, medical, & educational services were accepted by the court.
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.
Happy Retirement Jane Barnes!

Jane Barnes has served as a Volunteer Coordinator for PARACHUTE since 1990, training and supporting countless numbers of CASAs. Jane will be greatly missed by the CASA Volunteers, PARACHUTE Staff and PARACHUTE Board. She will happily spend her retirement with her husband Tom, gardening, traveling, and indulging in her many creative pursuits. Thank you Jane for your dedicated years of service to children.

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### In Memory and in Honor of Gifts 2017

**In Memory of Gifts:**
- Susan Campbell
- Steve Timmel
- John B Connaughton
  - Madonna Connaughton
- Howard Fortney
  - Flora Fortney
- Rosemary Garry
  - Johna Garry Neu
- Tom Janvisik
  - Jane Haight
- Gloria Leshner
  - Cynthia & Conrad Leslie
  - Mike & Donna Schwab
- Joan Magdich
  - Joseph Magdich
- Donald Scharnhorst
  - Ed & Judy Shelton
- Joseph J Schlager
  - The Main Look
- Alison M Shuemake
  - Margery McIntosh
- Jeremy Simko
  - Ed & Judy Shelton

**In Honor of Gifts:**
- Jane Barnes’ Retirement
  - Fred Miller
  - David & Susan Wilson
- Rhonda Brown
  - Mary Lou Fening
  - Richard & Mary Hileman
  - PEO Chapter CL
- Janie Cochran
  - PEO Chapter CL
- Daniel Hileman
  - Richard Hileman
- Al Miller
  - Richard & Donna Barasch
- Bentley Miller
  - Katrina Cabrera
- John Moul
  - Jack & Sandra Cotter
- Judge Kathleen D Romans
  - Elaine Garver
- John & Marianne Schmitt
  - Tim & Melinda Motley
- Chris Schultz
  - David & Stephany Sloneker
- West Chester Police Dept
  - Marlon & Janet Bailey

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**2017 EXPENSES** $384,786

**END OF THE YEAR ASSETS** $317,545

**CHANGE IN NET ASSETS** $68,954

- **Fundraising** 0.5%
- **Management, Volunteer Recruitment & General** 11.5%
- **Direct Advocacy** 88%

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**2017 REVENUES TOTAL** $476,450

(REVENUES $385,850 + IN-KIND $90,600)

- **Ohio CASA** 5%
- **VOCA & JAG** 31%
- **HJWL** 5%
- **Individuals** 7%
- **United Way** 10%
- **Business & Groups** 5%
- **Events** 3%
- **In Kind Donation Services** (Includes value of CASA’s donation service time) $78,600 - 20%
- **Foundations** 14%

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Financials for PARACHUTE’s fiscal year 7/1/2016 - 6/30/2017
Honored all active CASA volunteers during “National Volunteer Week” in April and gave special tribute to long-term volunteers.

In 2017 CASA volunteers with more than 15 years of service
- Bonnie Tromans - 22 years
- Gabrielle Strand - 16 years
- Ginger Tannenbaum - 16 years

In 2017 Volunteers Reaching a Milestone
- 10 years
  - Julie Adkins
  - Jill Berry
  - Carol Swisshelm
- 5 years
  - Carrie Ledford
  - Andrea Marcum
- 4 years
  - Fred Marcum
  - Brenda Daniels

CASA Volunteers Active in 2017

Julie Adkins
Wendy Allen
Neelum Amin
Shannon Anderson
Faye Angel
Lori Argalas
Janet Bailey
Karen Bell
Jill Berry
Sue Biddle-Jewell
Christine Birhanzl
Andrea Brunner
Krystal Burkhardt
Peggy Cheek
Brenda Daniels
Mark Daudistel
Darlene Davidson
Karin Drake
Peter Engelhard, Jr
Christina Farrish
Lisa Farthing
Monica Fisher
Stephan Forsstrom
Dave Gilday
Beverly Gorman
John Green
Rebecca Gross
Chris Hacker
Annie Henn
Sharon Henrichsen
Penny Herr
Beth Hiltz
Lisa Hodson
Ashley Husain
Al Kaled
Amanda Katz
Betty Kopulos
Mary Lawler
Carrie Ledford
Tracee Leugers
Jenny Logan Cox
Andrea Marcum
Fred Marcum
Leslie May
Diane McClain
Ashley Monk
John Moul
Shellie Neumeier
Nancy Nix
Desiree Ochs
Julie Phelan
Debra Pizzuco
Linda Pope
Judy Reid
Ernst Riley
Bobbi Jo Rod
Tabatha Roosa
Jennifer Roumani
Traci Ryder
Rachel Scherzinger
Erin Schmertz
Katie Smiddy
Fay Smillie
Kendra Smith
Joe Statt
Gabrielle Strand
Shanna Studer
Carol Swisshelm
Ginger Tannenbaum
Ambra Thomas
Steve Timmel
Cindy Trauthwein
Bonnie Tromans
Jennifer Wacker
Brenda Wanninger
Alexis Watkins
Joanne Willman
Brenda Yablonsky

95% of the children’s cases closed to date in 2017 ended up in a safe, nurturing, and permanent home due to the advocacy of our CASA volunteers.

- denotes new CASA volunteer trained in 2017 and assigned a child’s case.
- denotes new CASA volunteer trained in 2017, but not yet assigned a child’s case.
- denotes CASA volunteer who was retrained in 2017 and assigned a child’s case.

Spring CASA Volunteer Training 2017

Fall CASA Volunteer Training 2017

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.
LEARN – 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.

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.

DONATE – Every donation is so important and assists PARACHUTE in continuing this lifesaving work for our community. It costs $1,850 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 or sign up through the PARACHUTE website to become a monthly donor - www.parachutecasa.org.

PARTNER - 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 or gardening projects, or stuffing envelopes – call or email us for more ideas! (513)867-5010 or casa@parachutecasa.org.

A Family’s Appreciation

“We were very grateful that Diane was chosen as our granddaughter’s CASA volunteer. She is an amazing woman who truly advocates for a child’s best interest. Our granddaughter dearly loved Diane and was so excited each and every time she came to visit our home to spend one on one time with our granddaughter. Diane is remarkable in every way - we cannot say enough positive things about her. There were times I felt I may not be handling things just right and Diane would talk to me and reassure me to just love our little granddaughter, do the best we can, and to always put her needs first. Diane is smart, caring, loving and someone I could talk to easily. I trusted her advice and it always worked out for the best. Parachute has a wonderful volunteer in Diane and we couldn’t have asked for a better advocate, not only for our granddaughter, but also for me and my husband.”

Thank you so very much! John & Joanne, Grandparents for a CASA child