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.
Executive Director’s Message

Dear Friends and Supporters:

THANK YOU! Because of YOU, the staff and volunteers with PARACHUTE: Butler County CASA served 100 more children in 2018 than in 2016. YOU are saving children’s lives, helping them heal and finding the road home to a better future.

Life can be very scary for children who experience abuse and neglect. Their life hangs in the balance. However, children with a CASA volunteer are different. A CASA is a community volunteer – a Court Appointed Special Advocate - trained to speak up for the best interests of a child, birth to 18 years of age, who has been abused, neglected, or abandoned. Our goal is to reach all hurting children in need of healing and security. We want all children to achieve their dream of being safe, being loved, to succeed in school, and grow up in a nurturing, forever home.

Last year, 313 children did not have to face this alone, they knew what it felt like to have support from a one caring, consistent adult, their CASA volunteer. For some, it was the first time they ever had someone they could trust!

Listen to Charlotte, age 13 – “My little brother, Charlie, and I have moved more times that I can count. My mom had a lot of problems with drugs and other bad stuff, which is why we don’t live with her anymore. Me and Charlie lived with our grandma, but I don’t think she liked us. She was always angry and said mean things to us. We didn’t get much food there. Everything we did was a problem. I was scared to come home because she would yell and hit us in the face. Our CASA volunteer knew it was a bad place, so she got us to live with our aunt. Even though she was family, it didn’t feel like home either. I felt lost and out of place, so I ran away. I wasn’t thinking. It was just all too much for me.

I got scared and called my CASA. She made sure I got home safely. She’s the only one I can count on. Because I ran off, they placed me in a foster home, which is really far from my brother and my CASA. But I talk to my CASA every week and she visits me every other week. She makes sure I get to see Charlie too. I talk to a counselor now too, because of my CASA and I am getting help at school. I’ll be moving to another home where Charlie and me can be together, and go to school and maybe even live there for a long time. I am so lucky to have a CASA. She is the person I feel most comfortable talking to and being around. I am so happy to know that she is always there when I need her.”

2018 also marked PARACHUTE’s 30th anniversary - 3 decades of quality advocacy helping children! Please take a moment to peruse our 2018 annual report, which includes highlights from the year. The hard work of volunteers, Board, staff, and people like YOU who are giving PARACHUTE the opportunity to serve more children than ever... 2,225 children served to date since 1988. We are all in this together – being a voice for kids like Charlotte and Charlie and so many more!

Thank you!

Chris

Chris Schultz
Executive Director
2018 by the numbers...

2018 EXPENSES $357,554
7/1/2017 - 6/30/2018
END OF THE YEAR ASSETS $402,037
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS $80,717

Fundraising 1.5%
Management, Volunteer Recruitment & General 11.5%
Direct Advocacy 87%

2018 REVENUES TOTAL $539,211
(REVENUES $426,271 + IN-KIND $112,940)
7/1/2017 - 6/30/2018

Events 4%
Ohio CASA 6%
In Kind Donation Services (Includes value of CASAs’ donation service time) $100,940 - 21%
Business & Groups 4%
United Way 9%
VOCA & SVAA 30%
Foundations 15%
HJW/L 4%
Individuals 7%

Be a Child’s Voice

2018 Highlights

313 Children SERVED
77 CASA Active Volunteers
Trained 23 New Advocates

5,047 Hours donated serving children
316 Court Hearings Attended

Children with CASAs get more help to heal from their trauma.
95% of the CASA volunteers’ recommendations for therapeutic, medical, & educational services were accepted by the court in 2018.

Children Served 2018 by School District

Middletown 37%
Hamilton 40%
Talawanda 4%
Lakota 6%
Fairfield 4%
Other 4%

95% of the children’s cases closed to date in 2018 ended up in a safe, nurturing, and permanent home due to the advocacy of our CASA volunteers.

Since 1988
2,225 Children served
547 CASA Volunteers Trained
6,799 Court hearings attended
154,033 volunteer hours donated

Children in foster care are 30% more likely to be abused. 100% of our CASA children in 2018 were reported safe from harm with no recurrence of abuse.
2018 was an eventful year...

Fire & Iron Motorcycle Station #133 raised $5,800 for PARACHUTE: Butler County CASA. The 80 mile “Ride to Stop Child Abuse” took place on June 2, 2018. Members of the station awarded the check to PARACHUTE staff and our CASA Volunteers at the Annual Summer Potluck.

The Greater Cincinnati Direct Sales Network hosted their annual “A Wicked Night Out Charity Ball” October 27th with PARACHUTE as the beneficiary of the proceeds. 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.

Thank you Fairfield Police Department for raising $3,250 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 Fairfield Community and for speaking up for the abused and neglected children across Butler County.

PARACHUTE: Butler County CASA is honored to be the 2018 recipient of the Power of the Purse Impact Grant of $10,000 to train more community members to serve as CASA Volunteers. PARACHUTE staff and board members were on hand to accept this year’s award at The Power of the Purse Annual Gala held at Wetherington Golf and Country Club with over 100 members and guests in attendance.

Serve With Liberty visited PARACHUTE: Butler County CASA in May 2018. Thank you to our wonderful Liberty Mutual Volunteers who spent the day at the PARACHUTE office getting our garden and patio ready for the summer season. The volunteers also worked through the afternoon folding, stuffing, addressing, and sealing envelopes while learning more about the work of our CASA Volunteers. For 2018, Liberty Mutual employees, who participated in the Give With Liberty program, donated $1,588 to PARACHUTE. Thank you!
Over 20 years
Bonnie Tromans

15 – 20 years
Gabrielle Strand
Ginger Tannenbaum

10 – 15 years
Carol Swisshelm
Jill Berry
Chris Hacker
Tracee Leugers
Joe Statt

5 – 10 years
Mark Daudistel
Pam Daudistel
Darlene Davidson
Karen Bell
Carrie Ledford

5 – 10 years
Lisa Farthing
Brenda Daniels
Christine Birhanzl
Diane McClain
John Green
Kelley Dixon
Cindy Trauthwein
Al Kaled
Jenny Cox
Brenda Yablonsky

Up to 5 years
Karim Drake
John Moul
Dave Gilday
Brenda Wanninger
Lori Argalas
Beverly Gorman

Ashley Monk
Shellie Neumeier
Joanne Willman
Julie Phelan
Fay Smillie
Erin Schmertz
Kendra Smith
Andrea Brunner
Sue Biddle-Jewell
Sharon Henrichsen
Judy Reid
Jennifer Wacker
Nancy Nix
Shanna Studer
Stephen Forsstrom
Krystal Burkhardt
Janet Bailey
Ernest Riley

Peter Engelhard, Jr
Faye Angel
Jennifer Roumani
Traci Ryder
Amanda Katz
Penny Herr
Bobbi Jo Rod
Annie Henn
Linda Pope
Shannon Anderson
Leslie May
Beth Hiltz
Christina Farrish
Megan Eastman
Beverly Blevins
Diane Neilson
Diane McIlvain
Carol Schaber
Alyssa Weisman

Connie Girard ✓
Susan Johnson ✓
Jayne Davidson ✓
Alyssa Moorman ✓
Cindy Elam ✓
Syndee Robinson ✓
Mary Compton ✓
Ann Tirement ✓
Gina Brown ✓
Lori Garver ✓
Kathy Louder ✓
Vickie Rocheleau ✓
Cheryl Brunner ✓
Patty Kelley ✓
Kim Bryant ✓
Shane Reifsiece ●
Chris Hudak ●
Melissa Briski ●

denotes new CASA volunteer trained in 2018 and assigned a child’s case.

* denotes new CASA volunteer trained in 2018 and assigned a child’s case in 2019.

● denotes new CASA volunteer trained in 2018, but not yet assigned a child’s case.

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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.
PARACHUTE: Butler County CASA celebrated 30 years of child advocacy on October 18, 2018 at the Niehaus Family Farm. Current and former CASA volunteers, board members, PARACHUTE staff, Hamilton City Mayor Pat Moeller, and the family of Judge David Niehaus were in attendance. Mayor Moeller presented Executive Director, Chris Schultz, with a city of Hamilton proclamation commemorating the anniversary and shared some of his personal reflections of Judge Niehaus and his loyal support to the CASA program. Ellen Reister, Hamilton Junior Women’s League Auxiliary member and former PARACHUTE board/staff member, shared the history of the agency, while Lisa Farthing, a member of the first CASA training class reflected on her volunteer experience in the early days and her most recent experience as she has returned to CASA volunteer service. Chris Schultz reminded us how the agency has grown, from a small collaboration between Judge Niehaus, Hamilton Junior Women’s League, Butler County Commissioners and concerned citizens, into a thriving nonprofit that has trained over 550 volunteers and served over 2,000 children since 1988.

The CASA volunteers and PARACHUTE Staff members were recognized for their years of service. A video presentation of PARACHUTE through the years topped off the evening with a great meal provided by Troy’s Cafe. It was a pleasant night of fellowship - catching up with former CASA volunteers and those currently serving children throughout Butler County. Thank you to all who donated in honor of our anniversary and those in attendance for the celebration.
**Thank You to All of Our Donors**

January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount Range</th>
<th>Donors</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$10,000 and Above</td>
<td>Butler County United Way, Charles H Dater Foundation, Hamilton Junior Women's League, Insuring the Children Foundation, Power of the Purse Fund – WCL Fdn, Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$5,000 - $9,999</td>
<td>Daniel &amp; Susan Pfau Foundation, Fire &amp; Iron Station #133, Hamilton Community Foundation, KA9 Fraternity – Miami University, Maxwell C Weaver Foundation, Molyneaux Foundation, Joe Statt, State Victims Assistance Act (SVAA), United Way of Oxford &amp; Vicinity</td>
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<td><strong>Up to $99</strong></td>
<td>Eric &amp; Marcie Addington, Amanda United Methodist Women, Amazon Smile Rewards, Sherry Armstead, James &amp; Mary Jo Ashburn, Anita Augspurger, David &amp; Martha Bach, Marlon &amp; Janet Bailey, Shelly Bailey, Adrienne Barkley, Dr. Anthony &amp; Jane Behler, Karen &amp; Richard Bell - A, Dr. David &amp; Cecilia Berg, Ricardo &amp; Paula Bethart, Brian &amp; Leslie Black, Beverly &amp; Dennis Blevins - A, Alice Bolger, Dr. Cesario &amp; Carol Bondoc, Brand-it For Good/Ketmoy, Henry Brands, Andrew &amp; Kathy Brossart, Judge Henry &amp; Alida Bruewer, JoAnn Buschelmann, Ellen Campbell, Camden United Methodist Church, David Christman, Janie M Cochran, Brad &amp; Barb Cotterman, Carol Crawford</td>
</tr>
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**A – Anniversary Donor**
Up to $99
Darlene & David Davidson
Michele DeCresce
Jack & Merry DePew
Barbara Diehl
Thomas & Melissa Dierking
Eric Dinkel
Anthony & Cynthia Dowrey
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Vincente & Florence Gallardo
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Chris & Jane Haight
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Hamilton Flea

In Memory of Gifts:

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Steve Timmel
Donna Brands
Henry Brands
Judy Harbin
Florence Harbin
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Mary Alcorn
Jack & Merry DePew
Jared Whalen
Ed & Judy Shelton
Tiffany Hubbard
Anita Augspurger
Janet Fatika
Doris & Louis Shellenbach
Mary Clare Schellenbach

In Memory continued

Eriah Ringel
Rita Ringel
Joe Schlager
Kym McCaughy
Judge David Niehaus
Jack & Charlotte Sharon
Harriet Stitsinger
Robert & Rebecca Weigel

A better life for Every Child

Giving Tuesday Donors

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Friends of Children Society

Gift of Security
Dorothy & Allan Blake
Randy & Kathy Horne
Jolynn Hurwitz
Kathy Swormstedt

Multi-Year Pledges
Kym McCaughy
Shannah Morris

Gift of Safety
Matthew & Chelsea Boll
Robert & Barbara Brown
Kristen Campbell
Amy Debbane
Diane & David McClain
Dr. Gayle Niehaus
John & Ellen Reister
Chris Schultz
Kathy Staarmann

In Honor of Gifts:

Jason & Tammy Snyder
Greater Hamilton Chamber
Carol Swisshelm
Jennifer Allan
Diane McClain
Rebekka Seigel
Joseph & Vickie Beer
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Fritzi Wellman
Rhonda Brown
Mary Lou Fening
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Janie Cochran
Frances Sack
Steven & Susan Huffman
Michele DeCresce
Mother’s Day
Mary Lou & Jim Fening

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.
PARACHUTE Staff

Chris Schultz
Executive Director

Tonya Buchanan
Data & Training Specialist

Sarah Owens
Volunteer Coordinator
Staff Attorney

Janie Cochran
Recruitment &
Development Specialist

Amy Ashcraft
Volunteer Coordinator
Staff Attorney

Sharon Marshall
Administrative Assistant

2017 - 2018
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Carol Crawford
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Heather Reister
Andrew Spaeth

Mary Lou Fening
Josh Hodges
Erin Robinson
Sharing the Good News

“After retiring, I knew I wanted to volunteer again as a CASA. It is important to me to contribute and give back, and this work as a CASA is meaningful and heartfelt. The training for new volunteers now is very thorough and more robust than it was in 1988. Today, more resources are available and the support for volunteers from the Parachute staff is incredible. Over the past 30 years, Parachute has built a successful program and I have found the relationships between Parachute, Children’s Services and the Juvenile Court to be very positive.”

Lisa, CASA volunteer (member of 1st CASA class/returned 2017)

“Our CASA Volunteer was a blessing from day one. As a foster parent, I have 7 children placed in my home and our CASA treated all of the kids so very, very well. The children greeted her by running to her and almost knocking her over with hugs every time she came to visit. She was helpful in every way and was genuinely interested in all of the children’s well-being. Can’t imagine going through this process without her.”

Foster Parent

“Our CASA, Ernest, made us feel very comfortable – he listened and showed us he cared. He took the time to hear each one of our concerns and our family grew to love him. He was humble, honest, trustworthy, and got our family to a better place.”

Valerie, Grandmother

Thank you to our In-Kind donors:

Butler County Republican Party – Gift Cards
Butler Co. Commissioners
Butler Co. Juvenile Court
City of Hamilton – Bottled Water
Colonial Schools – Hats, gloves, scarves
Duffels for Darlings
Hamilton Junior Women’s League
KAΘ Fraternity – Miami University
Knights of Columbus Auxiliary – Gift Cards
Liberty Center Community Booth
Miami University CPAC – Holiday Gifts
Miami University Middletown & Hamilton Centers for Civic Engagement
Office of Service Learning & Volunteerism

Thank you to the Hamilton Junior Women’s League for raising and awarding $20,000 to PARACHUTE from their 2018 signature event – Eat. Drink. Give – Family Feud (Butler County vs. City of Hamilton).

An extra special Thank You to HJWL for their key role in the founding of PARACHUTE and for their continuous support for the past 30 years. ❤️
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 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 $1,850 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 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 or gardening projects, or stuffing envelopes – call or email us for more ideas! (513)867-5010 or casa@parachutecasa.org.

Make A Difference

Learn how your donation can enable PARACHUTE to Make A Difference in the lives of Butler County Children. PARACHUTE is a non profit agency that depends on financial support from the community to continue our mission of providing advocates for abused and neglected children!

DONATE

Connect With Us!

513.867.5010 | casa@parachutecasa.org
www.parachutecasa.org

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.