

IMPACT 2018-19 REPORT

2018-19
Family
Recovery
Children
Community



OUR MISSION

To collaborate with the courts to make a positive difference in the lives of Portsmouth's at-risk youth and their families.

OUR VISION

A community that provides the foundation and tools needed for all Portsmouth youth to achieve lifelong success.

OUR VALUES

INTEGRITY

We hold ourselves to the highest ethical standards for openness, transparency and accountability as reflected in our culture and behaviors.

TRANSFORMATION

We believe every Portsmouth youth and family has potential yet to be realized. Through our partnerships, we provide the hope and opportunities that give those we serve the possibility of a vibrant future.

ADVOCACY

We champion the well-being of Portsmouth's vulnerable children and families and work toward safe, stable, and nurturing homes for all.

RELATIONSHIPS

We strengthen relationships with existing community partners and cultivate new collaborations to help Portsmouth youth and families achieve lifelong success.



Greetings.

We invite you to peruse our FY 18/19 Impact Report. It gives context and depth to our important work with Portsmouth youth and families involved with juvenile justice and child welfare systems. It also acknowledges the incredible contributions of time and resources from folks like you who share our vision for the community.

Research shows that adverse childhood experiences such as violence in the home and community, incarceration and separation or divorce have detrimental long-term impacts on a child's health and well-being. We know that 41% of children in Virginia have had at least one adverse childhood experience, according to Voices for Virginia's Children.

We also know that when we understand the impact and respond with approaches that take that trauma into account, we can mitigate the effects on children. Our programs and services are infused with that understanding.

With this in mind, we have been hard at work building best practices into the organization. As you will see in this Impact Report, a committee of board members, staff and volunteers developed organizational values that will inform our every action and decision. We also are committed to developing a five-year strategic plan that will guide us to the year 2024.

We could accomplish little without the hard work and support of so many individuals like you, from the dedicated staff of the organizations and municipal departments that we partner with to the foundation and corporate leaders who provide resources to the legion of volunteers to our generous donors. Thank you for your unwavering support.



Douglas E. Weller

Douglas E. Weller
President, Board of Directors



Susan M. Fincke

Susan M. Fincke
Executive Director



YOUR SUPPORT GIVES YOUNG PEOPLE A FOSTERING FUTURE

Where do I go to get a copy of my birth certificate or Social Security card? What is a security deposit? Why do I need a checking account and a savings account? Young people on the edge of adulthood have so many questions. Many who turn age 18 or "age out" of foster care without a permanent family find themselves with no one to rely on for the answers.

They are more likely than their peers to drop out of school, experience homelessness, be incarcerated or become teen parents. The economic cost is \$4.1 billion nationwide, according to The Annie E. Casey Foundation.

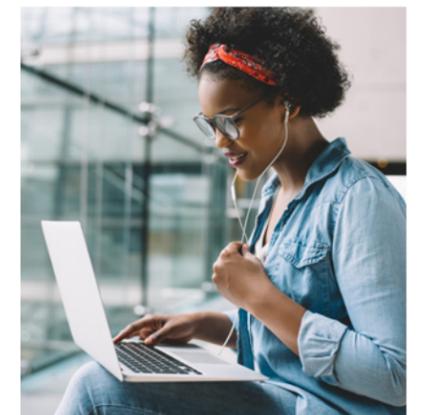
For several years, Virginia has had one of the highest rates in the country of youth aging out of foster care. While this is a complicated issue involving multiple systems, Portsmouth Court Appointed Special Advocates, or CASA,

CASA volunteers are eager to give older youth in foster care the answers and guidance they need to successfully transition to adulthood.

is addressing this challenge head on. Program Coordinator Natasha Knight has provided specialized training for CASA volunteers interested in working with older youth in foster care. Developed by the National CASA Association, Fostering Futures is a supplemental training that gives advocates the skills to support youth in five major areas: Independent Living, Support Systems, Education, Vocational and Employment Skills and Housing. CASA volunteers are eager to give older youth in foster care the answers and guidance they need to successfully transition to adulthood.

"The Fostering Futures program has given me highly useful tools to engage my teens. From communicating effectively with adolescents to supporting them developmentally and culturally, this program addresses the transitional needs of this unique age group" said Portsmouth CASA Kitty Bryant. "I walked away from this training with many hands-on activities to help my teens understand who they are, where they want to go and how to reach their goals. These steps are critical in beating the statistics that show foster care youth are at a great disadvantage to their peers. The program has given me confidence and optimism in my work to make a real difference in their lives."

Because so many of our friends and donors have room in their hearts for children, Portsmouth CASA volunteers are giving vulnerable young people the skills, knowledge and support to succeed. Thank you.



PORTSMOUTH ARTISTS CREATE “PEANUTS”-INSPIRED MASTERPIECES



Some of Portsmouth’s most creative artists transformed wooden children’s chairs into whimsical masterpieces inspired by Charles Schultz’s lovable “Peanuts” characters. Guests at the 2018 Children’s Chair Affair then bid on the chairs in a silent auction. Proceeds from the event benefitted the Portsmouth Court Appointed Special Advocate Program, helping recruit, screen and train citizen volunteers to advocate for victims of child abuse and neglect. CASA is one of several programs and services provided by Friends. Generous guests at the Children’s Chair Affair helped Portsmouth CASA stay up-to-date on child welfare policy changes to better serve Portsmouth children.

CHILDREN’S CHAIR AFFAIR ARTISTS

- Ken Wright
- Jordan Sloan
- Pat Pfeiffer
- Kas Lippa
- Barbara Vincent
- David Ratcliff
- Ellen Bible
- J. Robert Burnell
- Lisa R.W. Sloan



Top left: Lt. Leon & Sandra Whitehurst; Right: Yvette Cherry & Portsmouth Vice Mayor Lisa Lucas-Burke; Bottom left: Brenda Aston & Barbara Vincent; Right: Patricia & Danica Royster

BUILDING ON STRENGTHS AND EMPOWERING FAMILIES TRANSFORMS LIVES

Once viewed as part of the problem, parents whose children are in custody now are being seen as partners in the solution. Research tells us that when parents are engaged and informed about what is happening with their child, both benefit.

We are committed to the recovery and resilience of all Portsmouth children, youth and families. Through our Transportation Motivating Change program, we empower parents to actively engage in their child’s treatment. Parents who travel to spend time with their child in custody are eligible for a TMC stipend. The program has been incredibly successful.

“Since the program began, there has been a higher visitation rate among our incarcerated youth,” Probation Officer Raychelle Chaudhuri



said. “Promoting families to maintain contact with incarcerated and/or detained youth, being active in their progress toward release allows the family to have regular contact with the youth’s caseworker and provides the youth with a continued support system.”

“Since the program, began there has been a higher visitation rate among our incarcerated youth.”

– Juvenile Probation Officer Raychelle Chaudhuri

“We are guilty of many errors and many faults, but our worst crime is abandoning the children, neglecting the fountain of life. Many of the things we need can wait. The child cannot. Right now is the time his bones are being formed, his blood is being made, and his senses are being developed. To him we cannot answer ‘Tomorrow,’ his name is Today.”

Gabriela Mistral
Chilean Poet & Educator
Nobel Prize in Literature 1945

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- Valencia Woods



Left to right: Portsmouth CASA Quarterbacks Tyree Scott, Mark Poindexter & Anthony Simmons

LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD MEN TO HELP BOYS IN NEED

Get in the game!

This is the message from the Portsmouth CASA Quarterbacks. Don't sit on the sideline when there are boys and young men in Portsmouth who need someone to block and tackle for them in the foster care system.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteers are screened, trained and supervised to advocate for children who have been abused or neglected and are often in foster care. They help judges make more informed decisions about the child by providing information gathered from teachers, school counselors, doctors, even family members.

According to Portsmouth CASA coordinator Natasha Knight, the number of boys and young men being brought into foster care has increased. Most CASA volunteers are women.

She learned about CASA Quarterbacks being used successfully around the country to recruit men. Portsmouth CASA is one of approximately 1,000 accredited CASA programs in the United States. She recruited and trained her starting lineup and launched CASA Quarterbacks in January, right before the Super Bowl.

"What we're doing here is going out there and telling males, look this isn't just a female's job," said Tyree Scott, one of the CASA Quarterbacks. "We have some ownership, too."

Scott, 40, recently retired from the Navy after 23 years as an information systems technician. He has moved to Maryland and wants to continue as a CASA in that area, but he also remains committed to the children he has helped as a CASA here. For example, he shared his cell phone number with a boy in case the boy still wants to reach out to him.

It's important for boys to see male figures in the advocate role, said CASA Quarterback Anthony Simmons, noting that some of the children come from broken homes.

"I want to make sure one child, one family, gets what they need to thrive."

— Mike Poindexter



"To have a male figure who is going to be there for them, have their back and not drop the ball — the kids really have a different response, in a positive way," Simmons said.

Simmons, 46, hails from Mississippi and now lives in Norfolk. He said he became a CASA because he wanted to be "a real voice for kids that are looking for help."

Simmons has been assigned to three cases involving four children. All the cases ended up with the reunification of the children with family members.

"You have to love this program in order to do it. It's not for everybody," Simmons said. "It's really a lot of work. But the satisfaction you get out of doing that work is seeing that smile on that child's face."

Mark Poindexter, a 56-year-old pastor, completed his CASA pre-service training in fall 2018, then was invited to join the Quarterbacks. The club is trying to break the stereotype that men aren't as nurturing as women and thus are less suited for work related to children, he said.

"There are a number of young men who need an example of masculinity that is more positive in nature," Poindexter said. "But also some of the young women need to see men who are involved, who are caring, who have their best interest at heart. That needs to be seen, too."

Poindexter's involvement in CASA was a natural extension of his years of working with children, whether helping with church camp, coaching Little League or serving on school crisis teams.

Poindexter said he doesn't just see children as our future. "I see them as an integral part of today. I realize that because of circumstances, some children don't have as fortunate an environment." As a CASA, Poindexter said, "I want to make sure one child, one family, gets what they need to thrive."

Because of donors, like you, CASA Quarterbacks are giving Portsmouth children in the child welfare system a chance to cross the goal line. Thank you.



For information on how to become a CASA volunteer, call 397-2799 x 2 or email PortsmouthCASA@fopjc.org.



Left to right: Delegate Jay Jones, Friends Executive Director Susan Fincke & Portsmouth Sheriff Michael Moore

AT PINWHEEL GARDEN DEDICATION, DELEGATE JONES SHARES HEAVEN'S LAW, IMPORTANT REFORM TO PROTECT CHILDREN

Heaven Watkins was living with her mother in Minnesota when she was removed by Child Protective Services officials and placed in a relative's care. Heather's mother regained custody and moved to Norfolk, where once again, CPS workers were called to investigate. Heaven was so severely injured she required hospitalization.

When released from the hospital, Heaven returned home. Three months later, 11-year-old Heaven died at the hands of her mother, who pleaded guilty to felony homicide and felony child abuse.

At the time of Heaven's death, there was no mandate for CPS workers to check for prior abuse investigations in other states. Heaven's Law, which passed both the House and Senate unanimously in the 2019 General Assembly, requires CPS staff to look back at least five years for any records of abuse or neglect investigations in other states.

Delegate Jerrauld "Jay" Jones shared the story behind Heaven's Law at the 2019 Pinwheels for Prevention Garden Dedication, reminding those gathered of the need for constant vigilance when it comes to protecting children.

As a member of the Virginia Commission on Youth and the board of Boys & Girls Clubs of Southeastern Virginia, Jones has a front-row seat for many of the issues affecting Virginia children and families.

While we celebrate the passage of Heaven's Law, we mourn the loss of Heaven Watkins. The Pinwheel Garden is our way of creating awareness and appreciation for efforts to protect children. Our 2019 Pinwheels for Prevention sponsors share our vision of safe and nurturing homes for all children.

Jones has a front-row seat for many of the issues affecting Virginia children and families.

2018 PINWHEELS FOR PREVENTION SPONSORS

HEROS

Dominion Energy
TowneBank
Grove Church
Harbor Point Behavioral Health Center
Trinity Episcopal Church
Rotary Club of Portsmouth
Children's Specialty Group
I.C. Norcom High School Senior Class
City of Portsmouth

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Franklin D. Edmondson, Commissioner of the Revenue
Financial Counselors of Virginia
First Presbyterian Church
Judi Luffman
Eureka Club
Cathy Revell

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Mark & Ulla Gaduldig-Yatrofsky
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Ann M. Kirk-Mendes
Norfolk By Boat
Portsmouth Bar Association
Portsmouth Fire, Rescue & Emergency Services
Portsmouth Police Department
Danica Royster
Sprinkle & Sprinkle, PLLC
Third Baptist Church



FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Our work would not be possible without the generosity of many individuals, companies and foundations, along with generous public funding. Thank you!

GOVERNMENT FUNDERS

- City of Portsmouth
- Victims of Crime Act
- Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services
- Virginia Juvenile Community Crime Control Act

CORPORATE, CIVIC AND FOUNDATION FUNDERS

- Beazley Foundation
- Calvary Baptist Church
- Children's Specialty Group
- Dominion Foundation
- Eureka Club
- Financial Counselors of Virginia
- First Presbyterian Church
- Grove Baptist Church
- Harbor Point Behavioral Health Center
- I.C. Norcom High School Senior Class
- Jones CPA Group
- Kroger Community Rewards Program
- Landmark Foundation
- Little Shoppes On High Street
- Network for Good
- Network Interfaces Corp.
- Norfolk By Boat
- Portsmouth Bar Association
- Portsmouth Fire, Rescue & Emergency Services
- Portsmouth General Hospital Foundation
- Portsmouth Police Department
- Portsmouth Rotary Club
- Rockmaster D.J. Entertainment Group
- Sprinkle & Sprinkle, PLLC

- Stellar Wine Co.
- Southeast Virginia Community Foundation
- Third Baptist Church
- TowneBank
- Tranquility Manor
- Trinity Episcopal Church
- United Way of South Hampton Roads
- United Way of the Virginia Peninsula
- WalMart 3831
- Warden Family Foundation
- E.C. Wareheim Foundation

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- G. Anthony Yancey
- Arlethia White-Farris
- Lt. Leon Whitehurst (ret.)



Portsmouth CASA Coordinator Natasha Knight and the Spring 2019 class of CASA volunteers celebrate after the Swearing-In Ceremony performed by Hon. Bryan K. Meals, the Chief Judge of Portsmouth Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court. Congratulations to one of the largest "graduating" classes in Portsmouth CASA history.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

JULY 1, 2018 – JUNE 30, 2019

ASSETS

Cash/Cash Equivalents.....	\$153,663
Accounts Receivable.....	\$ 419
Fixed Assets	\$ 3,317
Deposits.....	\$ 149
Prepaid Expenses	\$ 2,540
TOTAL ASSETS.....	\$160,088

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

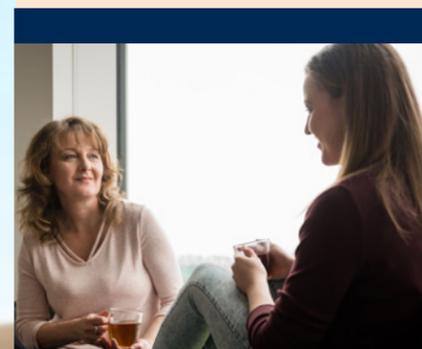
Current Liabilities	\$ 0
Net Assets	\$160,088
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS.....	\$160,088

Portsmouth CASA is grateful to all our volunteers who have dedicated their time and talents to advocating for abused and neglected children in our community.

COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES

- Kenya Allen
- Eva Arts-Smith
- Paula Booth
- Shanelle Branch
- Kathryn Bryant
- Irene Candis
- Silvia Castro
- Olivia Chzasz-Bagwell
- Shadeare Doyle
- Tracee Dozier
- Naandi Fortt
- Marcia Gibson-Ali
- Shannon Hardwick
- Mary Hardy
- Michele Harrington
- Dina Harris
- Jacqueline Hicks
- Ruth Higgins
- Stacey Hill
- Shannon Hodges
- Bryane Ingram
- Gertrude Jackson
- Kimberly Johnson
- Troy Joyner
- Brenda Littles
- Donna Merritt
- Tuiz Mills
- Mark Poindexter
- Arthur Robinson
- Tyree Scott
- Anthony Simmons
- Taylor Stott
- Kathleen Wilder
- Isiah Williams
- Carol Yeast
- Melanie Zucker

thank you!





STAFF

Susan M. Fincke, Executive Director

Natasha Knight, Portsmouth CASA

Program Coordinator

Tony Armistead, Community Service

Program Coordinator

Linda Torres, Bookkeeper

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