

# Annual Report

FY 2021



**OUR MISSION** is to advocate for abused and neglected children in the Shenandoah Valley. We currently serve the counties of Rockingham, Augusta, and Rockbridge, as well as the independent cities of Harrisonburg, Staunton, Waynesboro, Lexington, and Buena Vista.



**CASA**

Court Appointed Special Advocates  
FOR CHILDREN

**BLUE RIDGE CASA**

## Dear Friends,

What a year it has been! COVID brought uncertainty to all our lives last year. We spent most of the last 18 months trying to understand what was going on, what was happening next, how we could prepare to deal with it and wondering - scared - if we were going to be ok.

These high levels of uncertainty are too familiar to the hundreds of children in foster care in our area. They live feeling unseen, unheard, and unimportant, and COVID just made it worse for them. It is impossible to overstate our appreciation for the commitment of our amazing volunteers, our generous donors and supporters, and our dedicated staff who helped make this a remarkable year even as we faced unique challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic. We are happy to share these highlights:

- We served 124 children, a 10% increase over last year
- We recruited, trained, and activated 18 new CASA Volunteers
- 56 CASA Volunteers served 124 children and contributed 4,499 hours to their advocacy work

We want to take a moment to celebrate these successes and honor all of you while recognizing the adversity and difficulties magnified by the pandemic that confronts the children we serve. The child welfare system became overwhelmed during COVID. Essential services and support were either suspended or reduced for months. Courts had to close, delaying cases. The emotional and mental toll on foster children has been significant. Isolation has increased their anxiety and depression. The stress created by COVID compounded the trauma they have already endured. We have yet to see how this experience will affect their development.

Through this lens, we see just how vital CASA Volunteers are in the lives of these children, as their connection and concern became imperative for ensuring the safety of children who were isolated from their teachers and friends. We are proud that our staff quickly adjusted to new ways of conducting business and assisting CASA Volunteers, and that those CASA Volunteers immediately found innovative ways to engage with children and support their caregivers.

As we rose to meet these challenges, we also reached new heights of efficiency and effectiveness to sustain and enhance

### **FY20 BOARD MEMBERS**

#### **Quinton Callahan, President**

Clark & Bradshaw PC

#### **Hannah Johnson, Vice President**

Motivo

#### **Kent Iberg, Treasurer**

Retired, Vector Industries

#### **Arianna Williams, Secretary**

Lantz Construction

#### **Brooke Goolsby**

James Madison University

#### **Kari-Lyn Henkel**

DuPont Community Credit Union

#### **Dwight E. Houff**

Retired, Houff Transfer Inc.

#### **Mark Hudzik**

First Citizens Bank

#### **Cathy Marsh**

Letterpress Communications

#### **Andrew Squires**

Ass't Commonwealth's Attorney,  
Rockbridge Co. & Lexington

#### **Benjamin Vucic**

James Madison University



our services. For example, moving recruitment information sessions, interviews, and training to virtual platforms has provided flexibility and convenience for incoming volunteers. This new digital approach also allowed the Program to expand its reach to potential volunteers. We created a new position, the Program Engagement Manager. This staff member increases our capacity to recruit new volunteer advocates while keeping our existing volunteers. We also opened a full-time Advocate Manager position in Harrisonburg. Additionally, we underwent a strategic planning process that produced a 10-year vision to achieve our long-term goals.

While we work to spread our mission and engage with new community members, we recognize to best serve abused and neglected children and their families, we must be a culturally responsive, equitable, and inclusive organization. We are focused on collaborating with community leaders to ensure we are taking the proper steps forward to better represent the children we serve and create positive change that helps build a better future for abused and neglected children of all backgrounds.

Our generous community stepped up to ensure that we could continue to serve these children who desperately need the presence of a caring, loving adult during the most traumatic time of their lives. It will take a concerted effort once again to fulfill our mission and continue to provide the critical services that can change a child's story.

We are so grateful to you, our generous supporters, and our incredible volunteers who give selflessly, so that abused and neglected children can have a better future.

Thank you all from the bottom of our hearts!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'JP Berrizbeitia', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Juan Pablo Berrizbeitia**  
Chief Executive Officer



# Our Commitment to Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

Blue Ridge CASA serves children and families of different races, ethnicities, abilities, classes, gender identities, sexual orientations and religions. We are dedicated to doing the work needed to better support our entire community.

We will continue to build collaborative relationships with various organizations and members of our community to recruit a diverse team of Board Members, Staff and CASA Volunteers that are representative of the population of children we serve. We will work closely with community leaders to ensure we are taking the right steps forward to create positive change and be a culturally responsive, equitable and inclusive organization.

By denouncing systemic inequities and striving to be better, we can Change a Child's Story and build a better future for abused and neglected children of all backgrounds in our community.

## OUR COMMUNITY

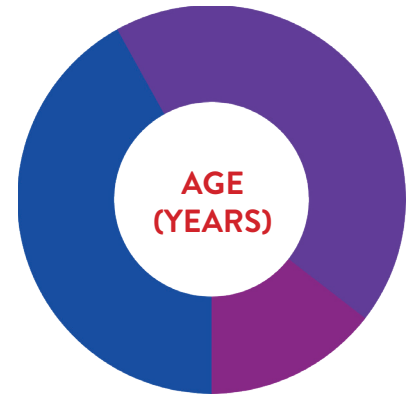


WHITE	83.4%
BLACK	5.5%
HISPANIC	7.5%
BI-/MULTI-RACIAL	1.7%
ASIAN	1.4%
OTHER	0.5%

## OUR CHILDREN



WHITE	82.3%
BLACK	8.9%
BI-/MULTI-RACIAL	5.6%
ASIAN	1.6%
OTHER	1.6%



0-5	62.3%
6-13	34.5%
14-18	3.2%





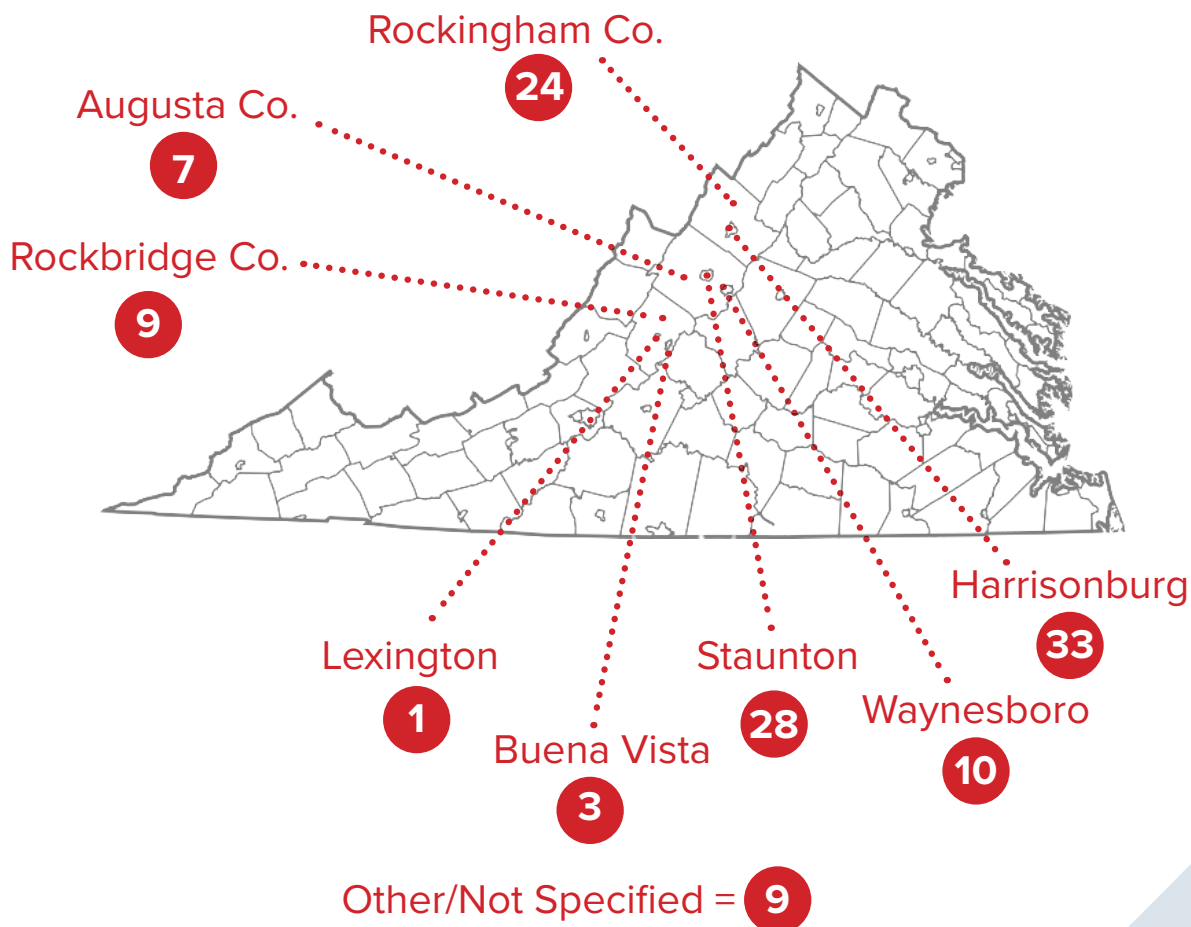
## Cities & Counties Served Within Virginia

Of **96** children in our area placed in foster care **this year** due to abuse or neglect:

**38** had a CASA  
volunteer

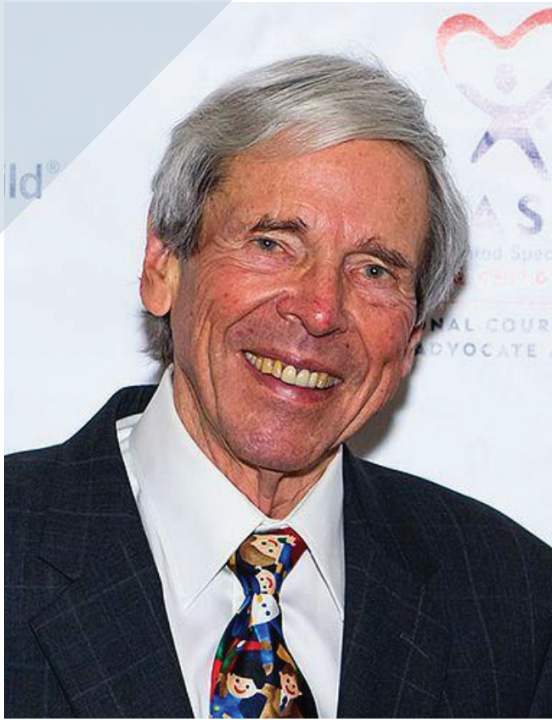
**58** needed CASA's advocacy

Our children come from **three** different regions of the Shenandoah Valley. This year, we served children in the following cities and counties:



**124** CHILDREN SERVED BY **56** VOLUNTEERS DONATING OVER **4,499** HOURS

## Why Advocacy Matters

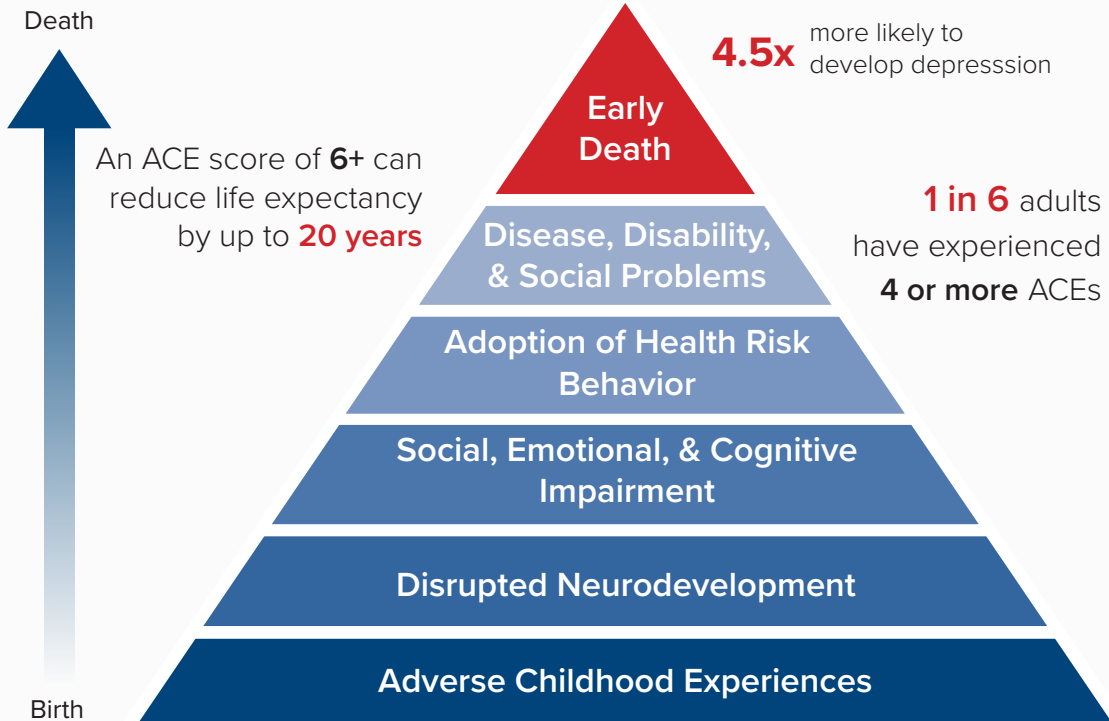


"While sitting as a judge in juvenile court, I realized there was no one in the courtroom whose only job was to provide a voice for the children. Forty years later, hundreds of thousands of volunteers have spoken up for millions of children. The idea has worked."

In 1977, Judge David Soukup, a Seattle juvenile court judge concerned about making drastic decisions with insufficient information, conceived the idea of citizen volunteers speaking up for the best interests of abused and neglected children in the courtroom. That first program spurred a movement that grew into a national network of Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) programs recruiting, training, and supporting volunteers.

### Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

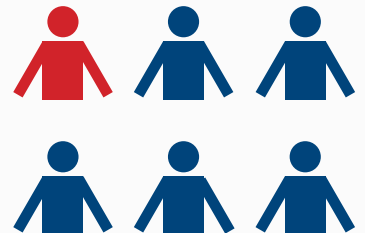
are potentially traumatic events that occur in childhood. They include emotional, physical, and sexual abuse, neglect, and household abuse/neglect



### 4 or more ACEs

- 3x** the levels of lung disease or adult smoking
- 14x** the number of suicide attempts
- 4.5x** more likely to develop depression
- 11x** the level of intravenous drug use
- 4x** as likely to have begun intercourse by age 15
- 2x** the level of liver disease

**1 in 6** adults have experienced **4 or more ACEs**



Studies have found a **1%** increase in unemployment can lead to a **20%** increase in child neglect.



# Why Advocacy Matters



During a child's time in the system, they might have **dozens** of social workers, attorneys, therapists, teachers and caregivers—but will have only **one** CASA volunteer. For many, their CASA volunteer is the one **consistent** person in their life.

## Thank You to Our Volunteer Advocates

Elma Allen  
Judy Augst  
Peggy Ballin  
Atin Basuchoudhary  
Donna Berry  
Hilary Bride  
Kathryn Brown  
Karen Chamblee  
Laura Chandler  
Maureen Connors  
Frances Craig  
Leontine Cunningham  
David Curtin  
Rebecca Davis  
Kay Dean  
Michael Deaton  
Patricia Devitt  
Catherine Elkins  
Rosanne Facciolo Mackey

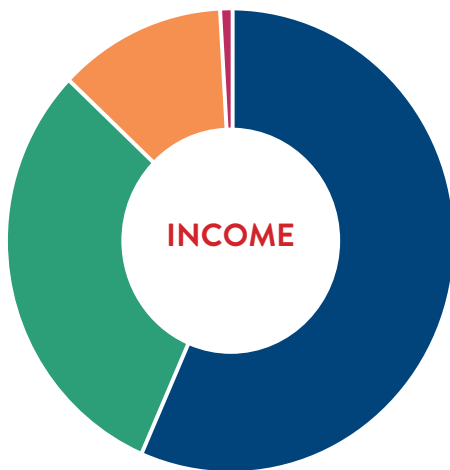
Lealah Gravely  
Carolyn Harvick  
Sherry Herr  
Rose Holden  
Annabelle Hoover  
Sarah Janowski  
Anna-Lisa Kelly  
Linda King  
Ruth Kitchen  
Timothy Kolly  
Deb Koons  
Nancy Leake  
Heather Link  
Brittany Miller  
Lois Blauch Miller  
Judy Myers  
Laura Nichols  
Bernadette O'Neill  
Eva Rath

Jan Rhodes  
Heidi Rizzo  
Brenda Robey  
Jennifer Schrom  
Lisa Sinegra  
Debra Smith  
Janielle Spears  
Patricia Stimers  
Ron Stimers  
Kylie Stottlemeyer  
Miranda Stroop  
Justin Taylor  
Melinda Timmons  
Kate Trammell  
Mary Sue Traxler  
Eva Voth  
Patricia Wiese  
Sue Wright

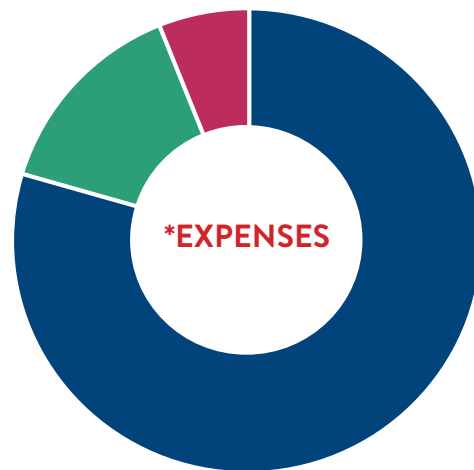




## Financials



IN KIND/MISC 1%  
EVENTS 12%  
DONATIONS 30%  
GRANTS 57%



FUNDRAISING 6%  
MANAGEMENT 14%  
PROGRAM 80%

*\*functional expenses from our most recently filed 990*

## Grantors

Augusta Health  
City of Harrisonburg  
City of Staunton  
Community Action Partnership of Staunton, Augusta, & Waynesboro  
Community Foundation of Harrisonburg & Rockingham  
Community Foundation of Staunton  
Community Foundation of the Central Blue Ridge  
Dan & Betsy Brittigan Fund  
Harry F. and Margaret M. Flippo Foundation  
Karis  
National CASA Association  
United Way of Greater Augusta  
United Way of Harrisonburg & Rockingham  
United Way of Rockbridge  
Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services  
Washington & Lee University

# Thank You to Our Donors

Blue Ridge CASA for Children relies on generous individuals, businesses, and foundations to continue serving children in the area. A huge thank you goes out to all of our 2020-2021 donors - we couldn't have done it without you!

## INDIVIDUALS | \$10,000+

Todd & Jorie Carr  
Paul & Martha Vames

## \$2,500+

Dwight Houff  
Meredith Marku Reitz  
Kim Page

## \$1,000+

Allen & Cary Dahl  
Rosanne Facciolo Mackey  
David Grimm  
Dr. & Mrs. Preston Manning  
Whit & Sharon Menefee  
Deborah Patton  
George & Sharon Sproul

## \$500+

Anonymous  
William & Corinne Blasius  
Quinton Callahan  
Mark & Debbie Callahan  
David Didawick  
Elizabeth Hartman  
Jim & Pam Huggins  
Kent & Leigh Iberg  
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas MacNeil  
Dave & Jan Mangun  
Bill & Lisa Moore  
Mark & Erika Peterson  
Mary Ellena Ward & Jim Slack  
Christian Worth  
Mark & Denise Yurish

## \$250+

Bonnie Ayers  
Theresa Bezold  
Craig Miller & Lois Blauch Miller  
Jerry & Diane Bryant

Debra Drummond Berger  
Brent Holsinger  
Carter Hopkins & Debra Casado  
John Horst  
Elizabeth Leasure  
Brian Lux  
Cathy & Kris Marsh  
Colquitt Meacham  
Amber Puffenbarger  
Jerry Lynn & H. Roller Shipplett, Jr.  
Jan H. Smith & Robert W. Biersack  
Ryan Sodikoff  
Claudette Trout  
Eleanor Weber  
Hugh & Connie Westfall  
Jakob zumFelde

## \$100+

Kathryn Albright  
Ric Aldhizer  
Margaret Alt  
Margaret Armstrong  
Helene Baker  
Margaret Ballin  
Joanne S. Baumrind  
Paul & Marlene Bender  
Juan Pablo Berrizbeitia  
Janet Boller  
Robert Brown  
Karen Chamblee  
Linda Conrad  
Leontine Cunningham  
Christine Dee  
Doug & Martha Degen  
Joyce Dofflemyer  
Dr. & Mrs. Robert Driscoll  
Jonathan Eldridge  
Stefanie & Tim Eye  
Susanna Forren  
Jennie Garon  
James Gilchrist  
Kelly Grantier  
Tracey Grimm  
Jeffrey Guinn

Vera Hailey  
Marianne Halterman  
Tammi Hellwig  
Kari-Lyn & Chris Henkel  
Andrew Huff  
Christopher Jones  
Robby & Beth Jones  
Robert Jones  
James & Laura Joyner  
Ruth Kitchen  
Jason & Paige Kite  
Sara Kite  
Deb Koons  
Dale & Gwendolyn Lam  
William Layman  
Bob & Kay Lera  
Jim Logan  
Jan & Mike Lowry  
Matt Lunsford  
Sarah Lynch  
Joseph Maltby  
Sheila Marks  
Kent & Ann Massie  
Robin Mayer  
Steve & Martha McDonough  
David & Deborah Metz  
Sandy Meyer  
Kevin & Susie Miller  
Judy Myers  
Arnold Nowlin & Dorothy Rowland  
Richard Orem  
Jack & Stephanie Otteni  
Nikla Poindexter  
Penny Pruitt & Beth Martin  
Sue Ramsey  
Marita A. Ravenhorst  
Jan & Ted Rhodes  
Andrew Robertson  
Kelsey Rockey & Carl Larsson  
Mr. William M. Saxman  
Kate Sederstrom  
Ann Siciliano  
Lisa Sinagra  
Kim Snyder  
Karen Tayloe



# Thank You to Our Donors

Laura Toni-Holsinger  
Susan Totty  
Morris Trimmer  
Benjamin Vucic  
Catherine Wainwright  
Malcolm Warford  
Christopher Weaver  
Robert & Mabel Weiss  
Mrs. Louise Whipple  
Pat Wiese  
Veronika Winkler  
Jeff & Susan Young

## UP TO \$100

Hannah Adams  
Donna Ballard  
Candace Barnes  
CJ Bateman  
Shea Baum  
Dianalee Bohme  
Sandy Bracy  
Carol Bradford  
Lindsay Brubaker  
Judy Burtner  
Graham & Florentina Butler  
David & Deborah Byrd  
Rosemary Cecil  
Rick Chittum  
Christine Clancy  
Vivian Cochran  
Lamar & Angela Crawford  
Ava Crawford  
Barbara Debevoise  
Amanda Deshaies  
Hillary & David Dorzweiler  
Carolyn Dull & Salome Baugher  
James & Sondra Eicher  
Michael Evans & Amy Ghaemmaghami  
Beverly Eye  
Raymond & Barbara Firehock  
Karen Ford & Rich Harris  
Brooke Goodwin  
Brooke Goolsby  
Peggy Grandle  
Donna Griffin  
Danny & Shannon Grogg  
Bill & Karen Hanna

Laurence Heine  
Kathy Henderson  
Katrina Herron  
Caroline & Aaron Hewitt  
Susanna Holt  
Gladys Hopkins  
Mark Hudzik  
Dwaine & Judith Huewe  
Lisa Ingram  
Arianna Jensen-Wachspress  
Betsey Johnson  
Hannah Johnson  
Chris Jones  
Megan Lacey  
Mandy Lane  
Janet Lemmer  
Catherine Lemmond  
Ann McMillan  
Randy & Kim Metje  
Susie Miller  
Mike Mitri  
Phil Moran  
Tenney Mudge  
Kevin Murphy  
Molly Murphy  
June Nabers  
Christie Nygaard  
Harold Oliver  
Deborah Palmer  
Joseph Paxton  
Helen I. Pearson  
Liliokanaio Peaslee  
Drs. Lundy & Ellen Pentz  
Shami Pizarro  
Laura Powell  
Barbara Prasse  
Bruce Richmond  
Ronald Robey  
Shirley Rogers  
Caesy Rolfe  
Dawn & Eric Ruple  
Celeste Shelton  
Laurel Shelton  
Catherine Shirey  
Karen Silveira  
Robyn & Brandan Sommerfield  
Chelsea Spade  
Kim Sprangel

Andrew Squires  
Daniel Stuhlsatz  
Sidney & Eleanor Supple  
Susan & Wayne Thompson  
Mary Sue & Gary Traxler  
Shawn Tucker  
Casey Tucker  
Bill and Mary Tueting  
Louise Ward  
Eileen Waterhouse  
Jennifer Wells  
Joan Whitesell  
Arianna Williams  
Michelle Wright

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS | \$10,000+

Boyd Thompson Trust  
E.C. Wareheim Foundation  
Joyce A. McDonald Trust  
Serendipity Farm

## \$5,000+

F&M Bank

## \$2,500+

Farmer Focus  
Greater Augusta Association of Realtors  
Harrisonburg Glass & Metals, Inc.  
Nichols Financial Group

## \$1,000+

Blauch Brothers  
Blue Ridge Insurance Services  
Clark & Bradshaw, P.C.  
Covenant Presbyterian Church  
DuPont Community Credit Union  
Harry F. Flippo & Margaret M. Flippo Foundation  
Hollister Inc.  
LD&B Insurance  
McDonough Toyota

## Thank You to Our Donors

### COMMUNITY PARTNERS, CONT'D

#### \$500+

1st Choice GMAC Real Estate  
Bethany United Methodist Church  
Brian Brumbaugh, D.D.S.  
Dr. and Mrs. Frederick L. Fox and the  
Gail P. & Frederick L. Fox Fund  
Dr. Joan Anderson  
Everence Foundation, Inc.  
First Citizens Bank  
First Presbyterian Church  
Geo R. & Evelyn W. Brothers  
Charitable Trust  
Harman Construction  
Harrisonburg Kiwanis Club  
Laurie E. Berman Revocable Trust  
Linda A. Dove Donor Advised Fund  
PBMares

Stone & Wood Hardscapes  
Washington & Lee Chapter of Kappa  
Alpha Theta

#### \$250+

City National Bank  
Elliot's Knob FOE Aerie 680  
Hershey Chocolate Company of  
Virginia  
Trinity Episcopal Church

#### \$100+

Beverage Tractor & Equipment  
Fraternal Order of Eagles - 4129  
Ladies Auxiliary  
Maury River Friends  
Shreckhise Landscape & Design  
Staunton Augusta Junior Women's  
Club

Trinity United Methodist Women  
Visulite Cinema

#### UP TO \$100

Amazon Smile  
Draft Electric & Plumbing  
Kathy Moran Wealth Group  
Kroger  
Target

## In Loving Memory of Joyce McDonald

Joyce Alexander McDonald was born on July 8, 1933, in Mt. Sidney on the kitchen table while her Aunt Ruth was making bread. After graduating from Mt. Sidney High School in 1951, she followed her passion for music and earned her Bachelor's Degree from Madison College. She was a band director at Madison County High

School and a librarian at Augusta Military Academy, where she was their first female instructor. She later returned to Madison College and earned her Master's Degree in counseling. On June 24, 1967, she married James Hugh McDonald. Joyce was a lifetime member at Salem Lutheran Church in Mt. Sidney, serving as the church organist for many years.



Upon her passing, Joyce ensured that her legacy of compassion would provide for the needs of our children for generations to come. Her estate left \$25,000 to Blue Ridge CASA for Children to fund our advocacy for abused and neglected children.



# Blue Ridge CASA for Children Staff



**Juan Pablo Berrizbeitia**  
Chief Executive Officer



**Angela Crawford**  
Director of Operations



**Megan Lacey**  
Director of Programs



**Amanda DePoy**  
Advocate Manager  
Staunton, Waynesboro, Augusta



**Christian Worth**  
Advocate Manager  
Lexington, Buena Vista, Rockbridge



**Tonya Dunlap**  
Advocate Manager  
Harrisonburg, Rockingham



**Casey Rolfe**  
Development Manager



**Maggie Dodson**  
Program Engagement Manager



# The Return of Top Chef Harrisonburg





## The Return of Top Chef Harrisonburg



After a year of postponements, uncertainty, and out-of-the-box thinking, on June 19, 2021, Blue Ridge CASA hosted the third annual Top Chef Harrisonburg event. Guests spent the evening taking in the stunning views at Bluestone Vineyards and sampling the culinary creations of six of Harrisonburg's finest chefs. WHSV Anchor Kyle Rogers and Chief Meteorologist Aubrey Urbanowicz emceed the affair. David Brenneman of The Golden Pony's creative take on a "PB&J" – pork belly and tomato jam on a baguette – won him the title of "Top Chef."

The proceeds provided funding for a full-time advocate manager for the Harrisonburg-Rockingham area. This staff person will recruit, train, and supervise our Volunteer Advocates. These advocates work directly for Judge O'Donnell in the Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court of Harrisonburg & Rockingham County.

For CASA staff and volunteers, the ultimate goal is to help ensure that these children in protective care find safe, permanent homes where they can thrive.







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United Way Partner

