



# **Chesterfield CASA**

## **Program Evaluation/Annual Report**

**July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022**



# Introduction

The mission of Chesterfield CASA is to promote safe, permanent homes for abused and neglected children by providing trained volunteers to advocate for them throughout their involvement in the juvenile court process. CASA volunteers are charged with five duties as specified in the Code of Virginia. They are:

- Investigate the case to provide factual information to the court
- Submit a written report to the court which includes recommendations as to the child's welfare
- Monitor the case to ensure compliance with the court's orders
- Visit the child in his or her placement
- Assist the Guardian *ad litem*

As volunteer advocates perform these duties, they are always supported by CASA staff who help them navigate the legal and child welfare systems.



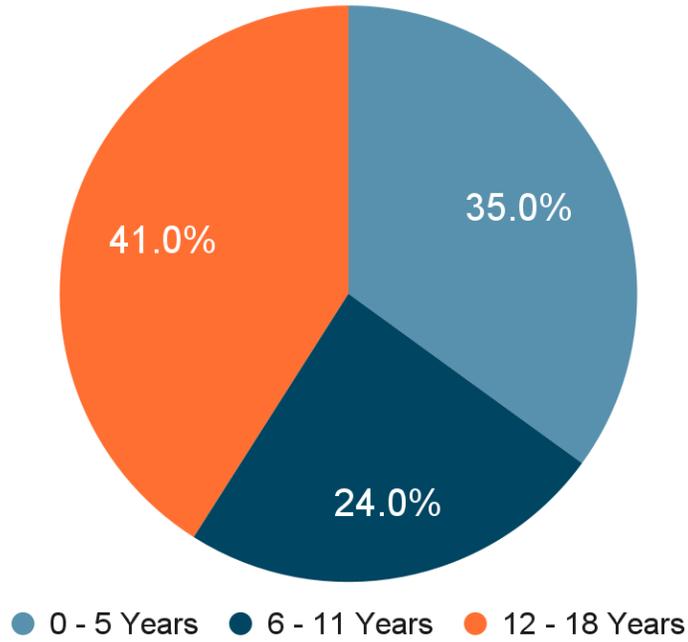
## Characteristics of the Program

Chesterfield CASA was founded in 1996 as a nonprofit organization. We serve Chesterfield County, as well as the City of Colonial Heights. Both localities share one local Department of Social Services and are encompassed under the 12th Judicial District Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court. The total overall population of this suburban area exceeds 344,000. Since accepting cases in 1997, our program has provided a powerful voice in court for more than 1,900 children.

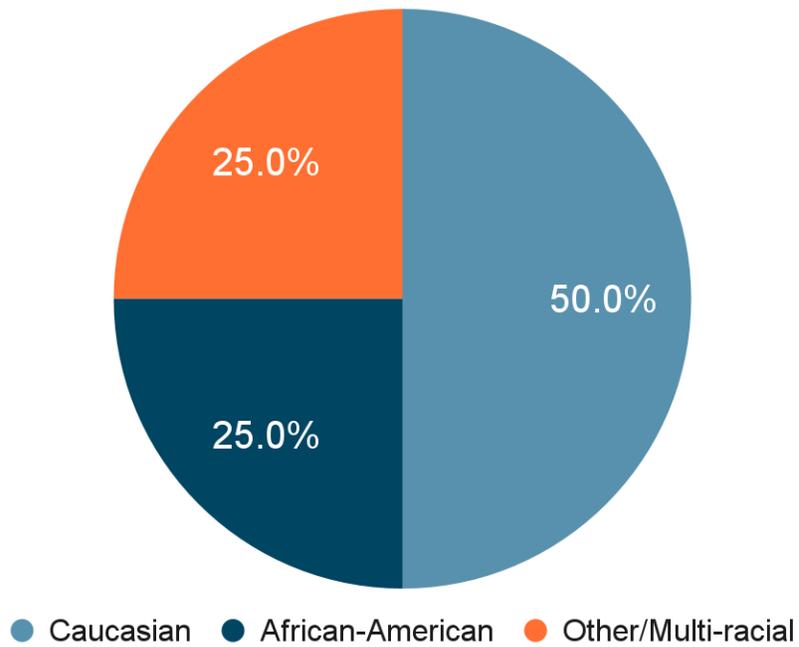


# Children Served

## Age of Children Served



## Race of Children Served



# The Role of CASA Volunteers

CASA's work requires that volunteers and staff gather information about each child and submit a written report to the Court at each substantive hearing. Within these reports, volunteers offer recommendations for services that the child and family might need. During the course of the year, Chesterfield CASA staff and volunteers:

- made 532 recommendations about the best interests of the children
- enjoyed strong confidence from the juvenile court judges, who ordered 96% of the recommendations offered

## Placement Close

<b>Outcome</b>	<b># Children Closed</b>	<b>% Children Closed</b>
Adoptive Placement	14	31
Own Home	15	33
Relative Placement	5	11
Third Party	4	9
Foster Home	2	5
Group Home	1	2
Other Home Placement	4	9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>100%</b>

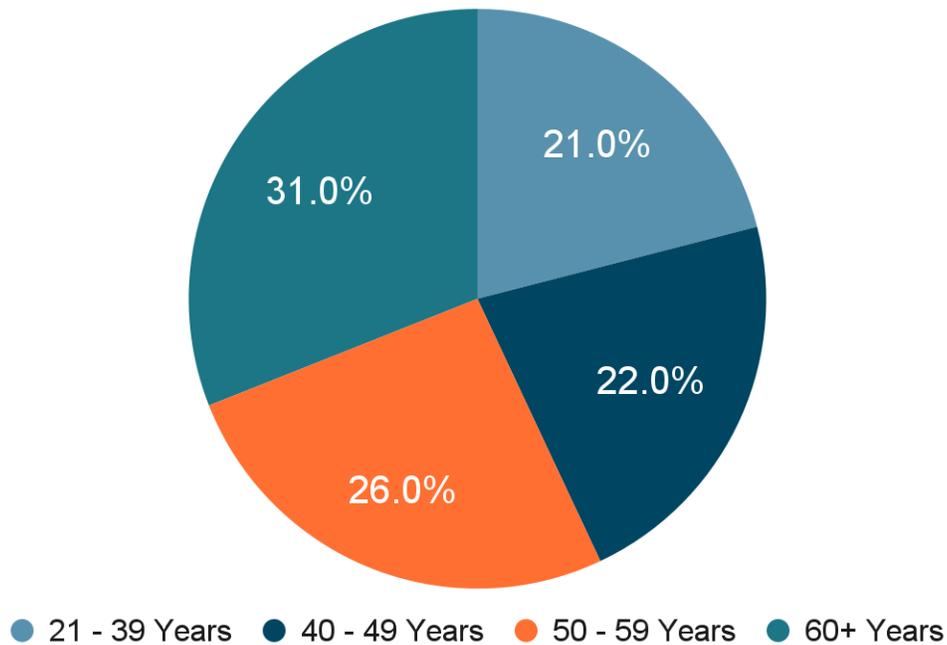
# CASA Volunteers

Update In FY21-22, 61 volunteers provided advocacy service to children at Chesterfield CASA. During the year 17 new volunteers were trained. The majority of advocates who re-signed did so because of health, family, or work commitments outside of their control.

CASA volunteers donated 3,888 hours valued at \$119,750 during fiscal year July 1, 2021. They also traveled 16,999 miles during the course of their volunteerism. These hours and miles are tracked monthly through timesheets.

Similar to other CASA programs across the country, the majority of Chesterfield CASA volunteers are female (87%) and Caucasian (75%). The chart below shows the age breakdown for our volunteers.

**Age of CASA Volunteers**



# Program Staff & Governance

For FY 21-22, Chesterfield CASA employed five staff: Executive Director, Program Director, and three Advocate Supervisors (one of whom is part-time). The Advocate Supervisors spend the majority of their time supervising our volunteer advocates so they feel supported in their roles. Our staffing structure allows us to meet the needs of our program while also ensuring Chesterfield CASA stays in compliance with the regulatory requirements of a 30:1 volunteer-to-supervisor ratio.

Chesterfield CASA is under the direction of a Board of Directors, which is comprised of citizens who have a passion for helping children in need. These individuals provide leadership, financial oversight, and strategic vision for the agency. Members may serve one or two three-year terms and are committed to helping the agency maintain adequate resources, promoting CASA's mission in the community, and providing fiscal and programmatic oversight.



Chesterfield Court Appointed Special Advocates is fortunate to have a talented and dedicated staff who make it possible for CASA volunteers to perform their important work for the children in our community.

## **Chesterfield CASA Board of Directors**

Rachel DeGraba, President  
Supreme Court of Virginia

Yvonne Mastromano, Vice President  
Virginia Voice

Liz Magill, Treasurer  
J. Hilburn Men's Clothier

Diane Beirne, Secretary  
Primis Bank

Matt Ackley  
Henrico County Commonwealth's Attorney Office

Cali Caldwell  
VCU Health

Nicole Justice  
Chesterfield County Public Schools

Gordon Phillips  
Virginia Office of Attorney General

## **Chesterfield CASA Team**

Mike Baum, Executive Director

Holly Abbott, Program Director

Annie Duffy, Training & Advocate Supervisor

Mandy Tennity, Advocate Supervisor