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20-21 Annual Report

OUR MISSION:

To prevent and reduce the occurrence and trauma of child abuse and neglect.

Children's Trust 4519 Brambleton Avenue, Suite 110 Roanoke, Virginia 24018

(540) 344-3579

www.roact.org

THE PROGRAMS OF CHILDREN'S TRUST **WORK NON-STOP TO INCREASE THE SAFETY** OF CHILDREN IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

- Roanoke City (4,413)
- Roanoke County (2,359)
- Town of Vinton
- **Botetourt County (436)**
- Bedford County (1,593)
- Town of Bedford (1)
- Campbell County (1,482)
- Craig County (130)
- Town of New Castle
- City of Salem (16)
- Montgomery County (1,642)
- Town of Blacksburg
- Town of Christiansburg
- City of Radford (342)
- City of Galax (276)
- Grayson County (315)
- Town of Independence
- Carroll County (601)
- Town of Hillsville
- Pulaski County (1,671)
- Town of Pulaski
- Town of Dublin



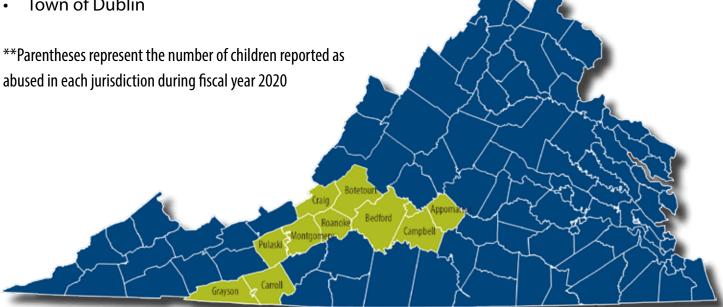


CHILDREN'S TRUST









Dear Friends,

As the air chills and the trees surround us with glorious colors it's hard to believe the world as we knew it turned upside down eighteen months ago and yet we are here, protecting and advocating for abused and neglected children. During this time we had to cancel events, move to remote work, opened a new Children's Advocacy Center in Carroll County, moved our Administration office from the Jefferson Center to Roanoke County, hired a Trauma Informed Specialist, conducted client visits on porches and in parks and entered the world of ZOOM.

Child abuse and neglect did not stop, it increased. The pandemic challenged us in ways we never thought possible, but through it all our team's compass was set in one direction—protect the children. You will see in our Program Data reports we did just that—continued to serve and protect.

If you step into our Children's Advocacy Center in Bedford you will notice painted handprints from floor to ceiling on the walls. Those are the handprints of children who have come to our center to be interviewed and examined because there is an active investigation of child abuse. It is the tiny purple handprint close to floor that always draws my eye. Too tiny, too helpless, will you help us give these children safety, hope and happiness?

I am grateful for our partners, donors, and volunteers for their support during a year like no other.

In gratitude,

Christina Ballard Executive Director

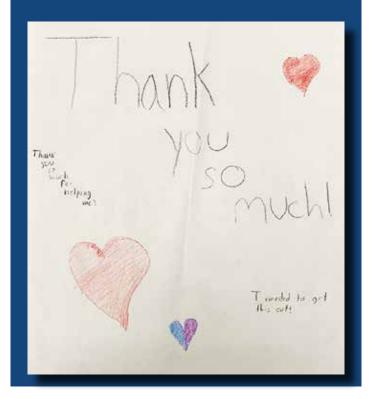






CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER

This fiscal year the CAC saw an increase in referrals for forensic interviews from the Department of Social Services and law enforcement. The CAC conducted 547 forensic interviews of children and served 427 non-offending caregivers through our Family Advocates. These cases came from 27 different localities that feed into our CAC locations in Roanoke, Bedford, the New River Valley and the Twin Counties.



From a parent:

"A parent's worst nightmare and the CAC made the process very smooth for both my daughter and myself".

Thanks to:



As a long term supporter of CAC services, the Bedford Community Health Foundation has provided funding crucial to the programs ability to offer forensic interviewing and family advocacy services for Bedford families. From the early development of services in the Bedford area, to the establishment of a Bedford CAC office, the Bedford Community Foundation has contributed toward our ability to offer consistent and quality services for children and families in need.



This year the Twin County Community Foundation awarded us a grant that enabled a Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) location to be established within the Twin County community at the local Joy Ranch facility. Having this Center within the Twin County Community allowed the CAC to offer services locally so that families would not have to travel to the New River Valley office.

From a CASA volunteer:

"My volunteer work as a Court Appointed Special Advocate is both fulfilling and challenging at the same time. I serve as an advocate for the best interests of a child who has experienced neglect and abuse. I enjoy learning about the child's circumstances, monitoring the progress of the case through Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, and reporting to the judge my assessment of what is best for the child. What I've learned in 8 years as a CASA is it takes the combined efforts of lots of caring people to help children get through these very trying circumstances."

~CASA Volunteer for 4 years





children this year. CASA currently has 55 active volunteers who provided a total of 3,353 case hours; a non-profit volunteer value of over \$95,000.

A total of 13 new volunteers were trained in 2020.

Thanks to:



Roanoke Women's Foundation provided funding for CASA to hire an additional part time staff position to serve an increased number of referrals received from Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court in Botetourt and Craig Counties. This position has allowed CASA to increase awareness and visibility to allied professionals and provide advocacy services to children in Botetourt and Craig Counties.

Healthy Families Roanoke Valley



Healthy Families began serving families in Roanoke in 2017. This year 5 families graduated the program when their children turned 3 years old.

Healthy Families home visitors completed 315 home visits, serving 54 families.

The Home Visiting Program is free to any parent who needs help adjusting to the needs of a new baby. Healthy Families participation is correlated with healthier birth rates, lower complications, and reductions in child neglect and abuse.

From a client:

"At first I didn't know how to take care of my son, but now **Healthy Families** has helped me understand how to care for my son. I liked how I could talk without feeing judged. I liked that my child was happy to see my home visitor and she was happy to be in my home."

Thanks to:



Through its efforts to address the broad needs of children from prenatal care through the age of five, the Roanoke Valley Children's Fund was a natural fit to support the Healthy Families program. Funding supported weekly home visitation offered to new or expecting parents to help ensure the health and development of both mother and baby.



This year Healthy Families was promoted by signs in and on Valley Metro buses in Roanoke. The project was supported by the Virginia Department of Social Services and the VDSS Community Based Child Abuse Prevention Program.

From Speak Up Be Safe®:

"Thank you so much for those videos! I had 3 disclosures (wow) so I am very glad that I was able to complete this lesson for the students." -- A local school counselor

From **Stewards of Children**®:

"This training is so relevant and well done.

Donna Britt is a terrific and engaging
facilitator. I will recommend this training to
several colleagues and other agencies.

Very helpful!"



Donna Hopkins Britt from the Speak Up Be Safe videos

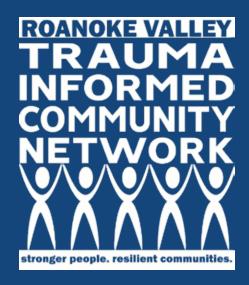
children first CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Since most schools were closed to visitors in 2020/21 many school counselors were relieved to have the Childhelp® Speak Up Be Safe in-school child abuse prevention curriculum available by video (thanks to BOSS Motion Picture Co.) or virtual platform. Facilitator Donna Britt taught and interacted with students from a small studio in her basement with the help of school counselors. We taught almost 2,000 students with these methods. Some schools offered the videos to every grade, which we rarely are able to do with one SUBS facilitator.

Thanks to:

The Louise R. Lester Foundation

The Louise R. Lester Foundation has been supportive of multiple programs at Children's Trust including the Children First Speak Up Be Safe program. In FY21, the Louise R. Lester Foundation also supported the CASA program in its effort to assist children in foster care in finding a safe permanent home in our community.



250 people have been educated with our Trauma Basics workshop.

TICN completed its first 12 month learning collaborative with 5 agencies who were interested in becoming more Trauma Informed.

Thanks to:



The Family and Children's Trust Fund of Virginia supported the growth of The Roanoke Valley Trauma Informed Community Network (TICN) from its start in early 2020.

By understanding the impact and prevalence of trauma, and adverse childhood events (ACEs), we can build understanding, compassion, and resiliency across all sectors.

The Roanoke Valley TICN is anchored by Children's Trust, which has committed to be the backbone agency, and now includes 20+ organizations. Our mission is to continue to provide resources, learning-collaboratives, education, and support to organizations and individuals seeking to deepen their understanding of the human condition.

Founding organizations:

- United Way
- Family Service of Roanoke Valley
- Roanoke County Dept. of Social Services
- Blue Ridge Behavioral Health
- Children's Trust



From the Director of Development:

When I came on board with Children's Trust in September 2020 after a fundraising hiatus due to COVID, I wasn't sure what to expect. I knew our programs had been working in creative ways to continue serving the children and families that needed us most. And it was important that we reengaged our supporters to let them know their gifts were as crucial now as ever. That support was evident in the fundraising wins that Children's Trust had in the last fiscal year.

We celebrated not one, but two record-breaking days of giving. Roanoke Valley Gives 2021 brought the completion of a \$25,000 challenge gift, raising a total \$45,900. CASA of Children's Trust was once again the recipient of Jersey's Mike's Day of Giving, raising over \$9,000, which far exceeded our expectations during a pandemic.

These wins clearly demonstrated that all our donors, new and loyal, are stepping up for children in a big way! Thank you for your support of Children's Trust and for joining us in our mission.

~ Brenna Sullivan
Director of Development





Want to make an even bigger impact for children in your community?

Consider including Children's Trust in your estate planning. A bequest to

Children's Trust can help ensure you're making a difference for years to come.

For more information about making a planned gift to Children's Trust, please contact

Brenna Sullivan at brenna.sullivan@roact.org, or at 540-344-3579 ext. 19

The Golden Halo Awards were created in 2008 to recognize and honor outstanding contributions to the cause of child abuse prevention, intervention and advocacy.

Over the years nominee's distinguished themselves clearly in one of the following categories: Social Services, Law Enforcement, and Legal/Judicial. Medical Professional. Mental Health Professional, Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA), Foster Parent, Educator, Janice Dinkins Davidson Leadership Award and the coveted Clarine Spetzler Guardian Angel Award.

Children's Trust was prepared and looking forward to our April 2020 Golden Halo luncheon when the world seem to turn on its axis as the COVID-19 pandemic halted all events. Looking towards the future it was decided that our 2020 winners would be celebrated at our April 2021 event. Again, COVID was still around an event with over 200 people in one space did not seem safe.

A decision was made that we would honor the 2020 Golden Halo winners individually and feature them in our Annual Report. If you run into one of these remarkable winners please Congratulate them!



It's Never Easy to Say Goodbye:

After 10 plus years of the Golden Halo event, we have decided to the end the event, but not the celebration of those individuals who continue to do astounding work in the field of child abuse prevention, intervention and advocacy. So, stay tuned.

To the hardworking Committee members, volunteers and sponsors throughout the years—a heartfelt thank you—we couldn't have done it without you.



The 2020 winners:

Clarine Spetzler Guardian Angel Award Freedom First Credit Union

Department of Social Services Award Lora McClure

Department of Social Services Award Whitney Caldwell

> Educator Award Emily Voldahl

Judge Philip Trompeter CASA Award Karen Fralin

> Foster Parent Award Ashley and Mike Supanich

Medical Professional Award April Rasmussen

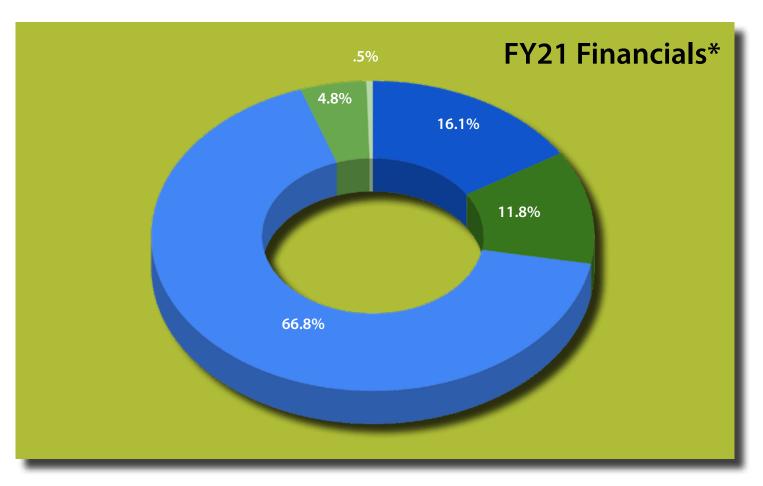
Janice Dinkins-Davidson Leadership Award Janice Dinkins-Davidson

> Law Enforcement Award Investigator Nathan Delp

> Legal Professional Award Anne Jones







Federal & State Grants	\$921,000.38	66.8%
Contributions	\$221,422.51	16.1%
Foundation Grants	\$163,277.32	11.8%
Local Government	\$66,500.00	4.8%
In Kind Donations	\$6,564.00	.5%

Budget: \$1,434,253.71 Revenue: \$1,380,676.05

Expenses: \$1,390,407.69

Children's Trust is grateful for the financial support given to help us with our mission to prevent and reduce the occurrence and trauma of child abuse and neglect. The need for funding created by the pandemic continues as stressors increase cases of child abuse. Please consider making a gift through our secure web-site www.roact.org, or by calling our office at 540-344-3579.

^{*}From unaudited financial statements

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