

2019 – 2020 IMPACT REPORT





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!

None of us will forget 2020. COVID-19 swept into the community and almost overnight changed our lives. Schools, libraries, recreation centers, movie theaters, restaurants, even houses of worship closed. Our collective mantra became wear your mask, wash your hands, and keep your distance. Our essential workers, often low-wage earners, struggled to keep their jobs and families safe and healthy.

As face-to-face contact with children, families and even Portsmouth CASA volunteers was prohibited, we sought ways to make connections. We became proficient at Zoom as tele-working became the norm. Our temperatures were taken each time we entered the Courthouse. While we were able to plant our Pinwheel Garden for National Child Abuse Prevention Month in April, we were forced to cancel the Dedication Ceremony.

However, our challenges were minor compared to those faced by many Portsmouth families. We quickly realized we could not sit on the sideline while so many struggled. We rolled up our sleeves and got to work. We are pleased to share the highlights of our response to COVID-19 with you in this report.

2020 tested us all. We are proud of the staff, board, volunteers, donors, and many kind individuals who worked shoulder-to-shoulder with us. We can come together to build strong families and communities.



Ali T. Sprinkle

Ali T. Sprinkle
President, Board of Directors



Susan M. Fincke

Susan M. Fincke
Executive Director



FIRST RESPONDERS FOR CHILDREN



Portsmouth's Child Protective Services and Foster Care staff have some of the hardest jobs in the city. Like other first responders, they may be faced with a life-threatening situation. They often encounter families under severe stress. It is literally their jobs to make sure our children are safe. Because we know secondary trauma is an occupational hazard for first responders, Portsmouth Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program and Trinity Episcopal Church teamed up to host an evening of serious de-stressing. While the stated goal of the Paint Party was to re-create a old barn in the snow, our real objective was to re-new weary hearts with a little silliness and laughter. Based on the smiles, we think it worked.



PARTNERING FOR PANDEMIC RELIEF

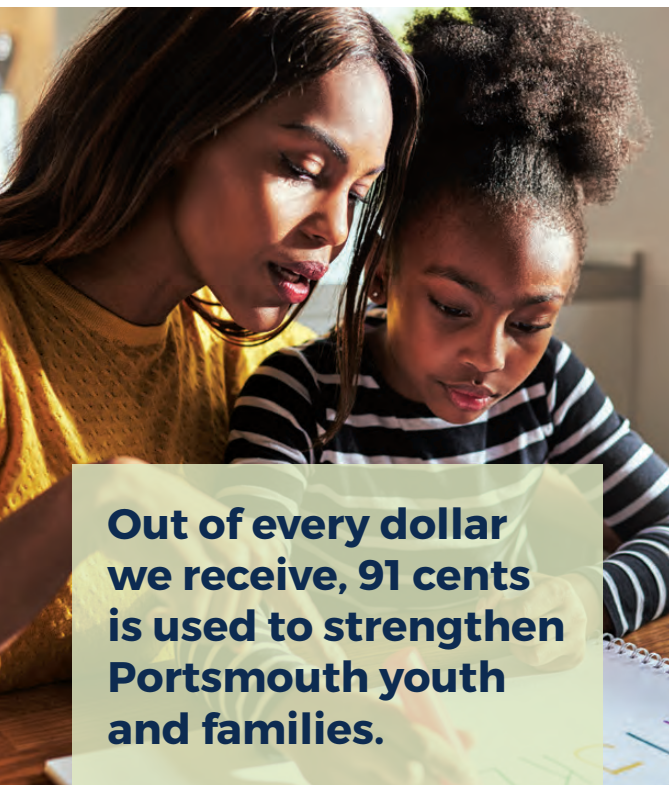


When the United Way of South Hampton Roads and The Hampton Roads Community Foundation teamed up to provide unprecedented COVID-19 emergency relief grants, we saw a unique opportunity to fulfill our family-focused mission. We gathered a few like-minded partners and designed a comprehensive project to support some of the most vulnerable children and families in Portsmouth. We were one of only two Portsmouth-based agencies to receive an emergency relief grant.

For six consecutive Saturdays, Portsmouth Rotary Club volunteers and the staff at Brutti's Catering prepared and packed hot nutritious meals. Those meals were then loaded into large vans by Portsmouth Redevelopment & Housing Authority staff. Brutti's was their second stop of the morning. Their first stop had been at

Trinity Episcopal Church, where volunteers had worked throughout the week preparing care packages. Each week families with children in Swanson Homes received a different meal and a different care package. One week it was bar-be-que chicken and household cleaning products. Another week it was Salisbury steak and children's books donated by Reading Enriches All Children (REACH). On average 100 households with 180 children or teens benefitted from this team effort.

When asked which items were most helpful, one parent's response warmed our hearts: "Everything! Your kindness and generosity was all we needed. Thanks"



Out of every dollar we receive, 91 cents is used to strengthen Portsmouth youth and families.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

JULY 1, 2019 – JUNE 30, 2020

ASSETS

Cash/Cash Equivalents.....	\$	170,864
Property/Equipment.....	\$	1,782
Other Assets.....	\$	1,393
TOTAL ASSETS	\$	174,040

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities.....	\$	0
Net Assets.....	\$	174,040
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS.....	\$	174,040



Design: CT Design Group
Printing & Distribution: Jones Printing Services

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Executive Director
Kelly Califano,
Portsmouth CASA
Program Coordinator
Tony Armistead,
Community Service
Coordinator
Linda Torres,
Bookkeeper

“IN THEIR OWN WORDS”



“As the Community Service Program coordinator, the biggest challenge for me in 2020 was the COVID-19 Pandemic, specifically working around governmental guidelines to provide direct services for our families. Many of our clients were not able to be assigned and/or to complete their placements after March 2020 due to closure of facilities. I was able to work with families to identify non-traditional resources and seasonal placements to help clients meet their court-ordered obligations.”

Tony Armistead, Community Service Program Coordinator



“Portsmouth CASA had many changes in FY20. I was brought on as CASA Program Coordinator and reached out to others in the CASA network to learn the day-to-day functions and tasks of the role. Towards the end of the fiscal year COVID-19 hit, meaning that our volunteers could no longer meet face to face with their assigned children. We worked together to ensure we could maintain relationships and continue to advocate for children virtually.”

Kelly Califano, Portsmouth CASA Program Coordinator



“I am proud to serve on the Board of Directors of the Friends of the Portsmouth Juvenile Court (FOPJC) because I strongly believe in its mission to advocate for programs and services that support children and teens in crisis. FOPJC continues to be a “beacon of hope” for families and community partners who seek to positively impact and strengthen the quality of life and the healthy development of the young people it serves.”

Lynn F. Briley, Board of Directors

Portsmouth Court Appointed Special Advocates make a life-changing difference for children who have experienced abuse or neglect. Each volunteer is appointed by a judge to advocate for a child's best interest in court. Our volunteers help judges develop a fuller picture of each child's life. Their advocacy enables judges to make the best possible decision for each child. We gratefully acknowledge the work and dedication of every 2020 Portsmouth CASA.

Jacqueline Hicks
Isiah Williams
Mary Hardy
Michele Harrington
Kathryn Bryant
Troy Joyner
Stacey Hill
Anthony Simmons
Shadeare Doyle
Paula Booth
Shannon Hodges
Carol Yeast
Marcia Gibson-Ali
Donna Merritt
Melanie Zucker
Mark Poindexter
Shannon Hardwick
Kenya Allen
Olivia Chzasz-Bagwell
Tracee Dozier
Naandi Fortt
Ruth Higgins
Eva Arts-Smith
Dina Harris
Silvia Castro
Gertrude Jackson
Arthur Robinson
Courtney Brewer

HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE BUILD STRONG MINDS



Isabella Broaddus

Exactly how do you teach a young person to build critical cognitive skills? Is there an instruction manual on mastering the ability to control impulses, regulate emotions or weigh consequences? Just what are the steps to resisting negative peer pressure?

According to research, there is a biological reason that most teens lack those skills. The pre-frontal cortex, where these skills are built, is not fully developed in the adolescent brain. Most parents of teens are painfully aware of this.

What if we had tools to help young people develop those all-important skills? And could those tools be used with youth on probation? Based on research conducted by the University of Washington and the Pierce County Juvenile Court in Tacoma, Washington, the answer to that question is "yes."

A team of probation officers implemented Opportunity-based Probation (OPB), a new approach to case management, grounded in the science of adolescent brain development. We know from research the teen years are when identities are being formed. Family and peers play critical roles in that process. We also know that adolescents respond better to tangible, immediate rewards than to threats of punishment.

OBP is based on building skills and helping young people develop an identity tied to achievement and possibilities. Probation officers work with youth to determine short- and long-term goals. Progress toward those goals is recognized with rewards, such as gift cards, tickets to events or bus passes. Because we know families are a critical part of supporting and sustaining pro-social behaviors, parents are also eligible for rewards.

Working with Portsmouth Juvenile Probation Officer Isabella Broaddus, we re-envisioned our family engagement efforts and launched Family Supports. This new initiative combines many of the services we previously offered under the OBP framework. We are grateful to the donors who share our commitment to engaging Portsmouth youth and families and giving them tools to be successful.



Connect with us:
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