

A photograph of a young child with dark hair, wearing a purple tank top, walking barefoot on a green lawn. In the background, a vibrant rainbow arches over a dark, leafy area. The foreground shows the edge of an orange and blue inflatable pool.

# TOGETHER WE CAN **STOP CHILD ABUSE NOW**

**SCAN**  
of Northern Virginia

**2022**  
Impact Report

## OUR MISSION

# PROTECT **CHILDREN**

from abuse in Northern Virginia through education, advocacy, and community engagement.

## OUR VISION

A community where **EVERYONE** takes responsibility for keeping children safe from abuse in all the places they live, learn, work, and play.

## OUR VALUES

# CHILD **FIRST**

We put children at the center of everything we do.

Adults and systems are often prioritized over children and their right to safety. When we truly put the child first, pathways to care and prevention become clear.

At SCAN, we align all of our work with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child—the most rapidly and widely ratified international human rights treaty in history. The Convention changed how children are viewed and treated—not as objects but as human beings with distinct rights.

The United States is the only country that has failed to ratify this treaty.

We carry these core values into our work because we believe all children have the right to make decisions over their life and future.

**We are their voice.**

Every 10 seconds, a report of child abuse is made in the US.

Only about 1/3 of child sexual abuse incidents are identified, and even fewer are reported.

91% of child sexual abuse is perpetrated by someone trusted by the child's family.

Child abuse can be **PREVENTED**. Survivors can **HEAL**.



# Safer spaces, safer children

As a **survivor-led** team of child advocates, we put children at the center of everything we do. For nearly 35 years, Stop Child Abuse Now (SCAN) of Northern Virginia has remained the **only** region-wide organization focused solely on preventing child abuse and neglect across Northern Virginia.

Our services lift families up, advocate for survivors in foster care, support professionals working with children, and strengthen communities to better prevent and respond to child abuse.

## 2022 AT A GLANCE A YEAR OF IMPACT



**6,928**  
Hours spent with  
child survivors.

Those survivors are more likely to graduate from high school.



**83**  
Foster youth reached  
permanent homes.

Those children are half as likely to reenter foster care.

## PROGRAM STRATEGY



**Our priority is prevention.**

We all have a powerful role in preventing child abuse and neglect. We teach the community and professionals working with kids to prevent abuse.

**We build strong networks.**

NOVA's families, teachers, counselors, social workers, and neighbors are stronger together. We unite communities to maximize impact.



**We lift families up.**

For resilient single mothers, survivors of violence, or parents working several jobs to make ends meet, SCAN provides a safe space to work through parenting challenges.

**Every program is research-based.**

We ground everything we do in research and best practices. We're always looking for the best, most innovative solutions to make our mission a reality.



**We make sure youth facing abuse aren't alone.**

We arm communities with the tools to recognize and respond to abuse, so no child goes unseen or unprotected.

**For child survivors, we provide hope.**

Children removed from their homes due to abuse or neglect face a profound unknown. We stay with them until they reach safe, supportive homes to heal.



**483**  
Professionals trained to  
respond to abuse.

Those professionals learned how to dramatically improve the resilience of youth.



**238**  
Parents and children  
attended our classes.

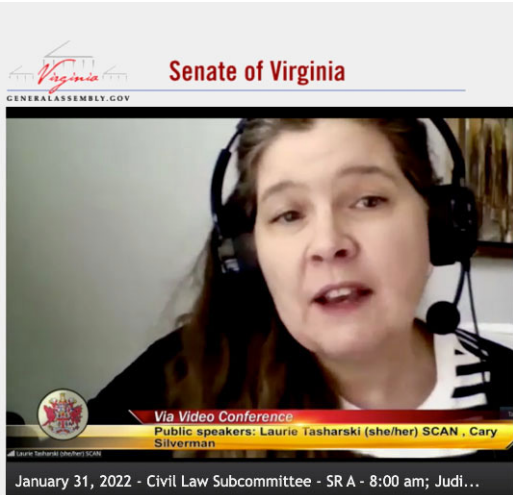
Those families are now half as likely to physically discipline their children.



LEARN MORE  
[SCANVA.ORG/STORIES](https://SCANVA.ORG/STORIES)

STORY SPOTLIGHT

ADVOCATING FOR SAFER YOUTH SPORTS



Teachers and school personnel identify 52% of all child abuse cases—more than any other profession or organizational type, including child protective service agencies and the police.

Adults working with children are on the frontlines of protection. They spend countless hours with our children and get to know them as individuals.

Youth-serving organizations have a responsibility to not only prepare their staff to recognize and respond to abuse but also to practice the highest security and hiring practices. Our children depend on it.

In January 2021, we joined partners in Richmond to speak in support of SB 483—a bill that would change youth sports leagues in Virginia for the better. It would mandate background checks for staff and

volunteers, provide child sexual assault prevention training for staff, and put critical policies and procedures in place to prevent and respond to abuse.

Unfortunately, SB 483 did not become law. *But our fight isn't over.*

While these safeguards aren't mandated yet in Virginia, we continue to offer them to community partners as a part of our Institutional Abuse Prevention program, making spaces for children safer by the day.

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

ONLINE SAFETY WITH ROSALIND WISEMAN

Our annual Allies in Prevention symposium was created to unite child-serving professionals for an evening of learning and thinking outside the box.

Each year, we bring Northern Virginia's professional community together to better understand the trends they are seeing and give them tools to keep children safe.

This year, we were joined by keynote speaker Rosalind Wiseman. Rosalind is a youth culture expert and the author of the best-selling book behind the cult-classic film *Mean Girls*.

Rosalind's address reached 100+ professionals in our community, better preparing them to keep kids safe online.



CHANGING LIVES

MARIA'S STORY

The challenges our foster youth face are almost unthinkable...

Maria was 14 when she suffered one of the most traumatic losses a child can endure... her mother died by suicide. Maria's father did not have the skills to process the trauma or recognize his daughter's rapid deterioration, and he would not allow Maria or the family to work through the tragedy in therapy.

Without a safe and supportive home to process her feelings, Maria struggled with suicidal ideation and was hospitalized. Her father did not come to visit or participate in her recovery. In fact, he moved the rest of the family 2,000 miles away and ended any contact with Maria.

Maria was placed in foster care, left to suffer from abandonment, anxiety, depression, self-harming behaviors, and an eating disorder without anyone who cared for her.

Because of our supporters, SCAN was able to connect Maria with Jill, a highly trained Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA).

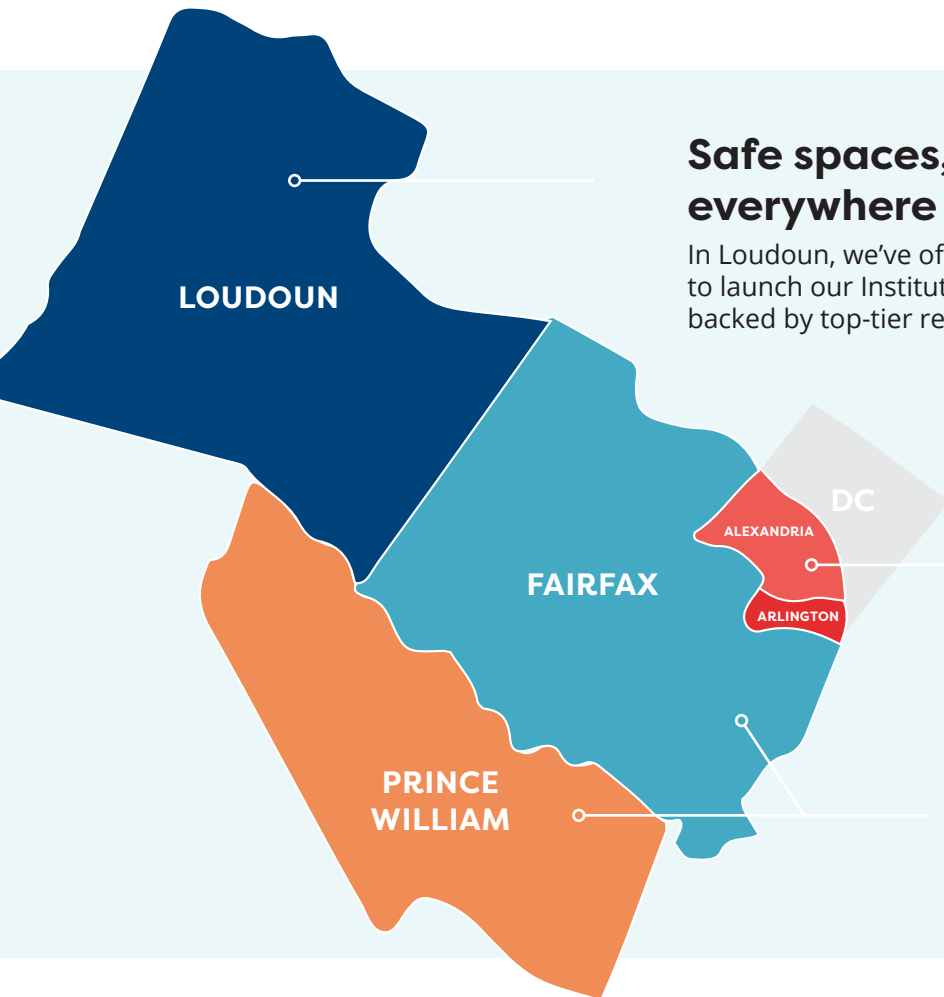
Every month, Jill met with Maria to help her navigate the difficult foster care system. Jill's consistency and passionate advocacy for Maria helped Maria heal from the trauma she had experienced. Jill even supported her academic ambitions by joining Maria on university tours and helping her complete college applications. Jill's presence and advocacy allowed Maria to improve emotionally and succeed academically—to the point of getting accepted to her first-choice university with a full scholarship!

*Maria is just 1 of the 152 children our CASA program served this year...*

*\*Names have been changed to protect privacy.*



# COMMUNITY IMPACT & BEYOND



## Safe spaces, everywhere kids are

In Loudoun, we've officially partnered with several organizations to launch our Institutional Abuse Prevention program—an effort backed by top-tier research that makes spaces safer for kids.

## Standing up for foster youth

Our trained advocates spend, on average, 15.5 months with kids in Alexandria and Arlington foster care before they reach a permanent home. *That's 75 days sooner than the national average.*

## 1:1 parent coaching

Our parents asked for flexible, one-on-one support, and we listened, creating a bilingual Family Coaching Program for all the regions we serve.

## Statewide leadership

Collaboration is a major part of our mission. When community organizations work together, our impact multiplies.

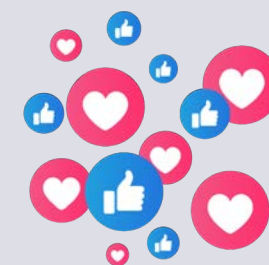
This summer, our Executive Director, Leah Fraley, joined the Board of Families Forward, the state affiliate of Prevent Child Abuse America and an organization focused on disrupting the cycles of child abuse, neglect, and poverty. We'll now work with state partners and advocates to provide critical programs for families, professionals, and children while also supporting the leadership of the roughly 50 affiliate programs across the state.

## National solutions

SCAN is a proud affiliate of Prevent Child Abuse America and The National CASA/ GAL Association for Children. Together, we are activating national solutions at community levels to make our country safer for children.



Standing up for survivors with our partners in DC.



**Our biggest fans are on social media.**  
Follow @SCANofNOVA to get updates like these first!

THANK YOU

To our donors and supporters that make this work a reality.

In child protection, we hear over and over that it takes a village to raise a child. While we’re proud to be that village, we know better than anyone that **it really just takes one person to change a child’s life.** Thank you for being that person for Northern Virginia’s children.

100 Women Strong  
ACT for Alexandria  
Adelina Cooke  
Alexandria Fund for Human Services  
Alexandria Rotary Foundation  
Alexandra Crawford-Batt and Councilman Justin Wilson  
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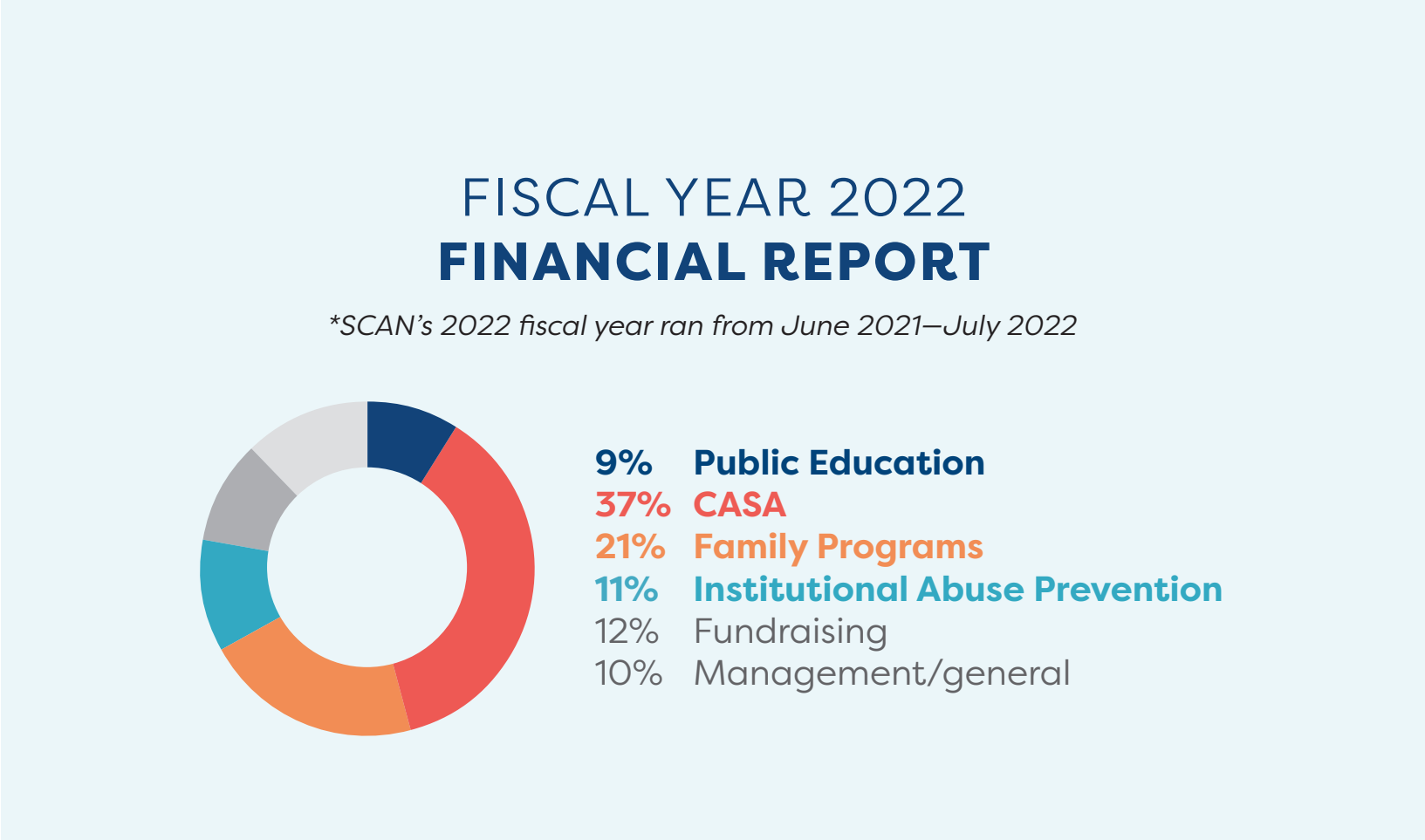
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