who will be there for me?
Thanks to you, I went from victim to victorious

My three sisters and I suffered just about every form of abuse you can imagine - emotional and physical attacks by my mother, later sexual abuse by her and her boyfriend. When I was 12 years old, we were all removed from our home. After that, I bounced around, from a foster home to an aunt’s house, then back to another foster home. There was so much I did not know about the foster care system. Without knowledge or the power to speak up, I felt like a victim.

Soon after, I met my CASA volunteer and everything changed. My CASA taught me how to communicate, how to represent myself and my needs. He helped me understand what was happening in court and taught me how to stand up for myself.

When I had something to say, my CASA made sure my voice was heard. When I did not want to or could not speak, he spoke for me.

At every school event, my CASA was there. From sporting events to my high school graduation, he was there. When I took hold of my diploma, I heard his cheers above the rest.

About that same time, I was placed into my final foster home, where I learned about service to others. From that moment on I decided that there was much that I need to give back.

My CASA taught me that if you have a voice, there is someone who is willing to listen to it and to try to make change.

I’ve been given a powerful voice. I intend to use it as much as I can, for as long as I can.
This bill will help assure abused and neglected children in Connecticut reap the benefits of having a CASA volunteer in their lives.

- Tara Perry, Chief Executive Officer, National CASA Association

Dear Friend,

Thanks to YOU in 2016 a **CAC Volunteer Advocate**:

**Advocated for an adoption of 8 and 10 year old siblings** who needed multiple ongoing services and interventions. The adoption of the siblings took place on National Adoption Day.

**Researched and identified a specific therapist** to work with a therapy-resistant 12 year old who had several failed relationships with previous therapists. This therapeutic relationship has blossomed. The child told the volunteer that she likes working with this therapist and her panic attacks are under control.

**Accompanied a 19 year old to several different prospective employers** and helped her complete job applications. Ultimately, the youth realized her goal of working, taking her one step closer to self-sufficiency.

**Responded to a phone call from the teacher of a 10 year old** on a Monday morning and learned that the child’s foster home had changed over the weekend and she was very upset that morning at school. The teacher called the volunteer to ask if she could please come to school to help calm the child down which the volunteer immediately did.

**Initiated a housing appeal** which resulted in a severely developmentally delayed 20 year-old girl being placed in a group home that could better meet her complex and individualized needs. Now, for the first time, she has a room decorated with her favorite color, purple.

**Went with a 14 year old and her mother** to visit various therapeutic schools to find the one that would be the best for her.

**Worked with a troubled transgender 13 year old** and successfully overcame obstacles to connect the teen to a one-on-one mentor from an organization that works with transgender youth.

**Identified and secured a space at an after-school program** for a young girl who was living with her grandmother who had not been able to arrange any socialization programs for the young girl.

**Was the only familiar face a 5 year-old girl saw** when she needed to be placed in a psychiatric hospital.

With your ongoing support we will continue to speak up for the children in your backyard.

Sincerely,

Elaine Harris
President,
Board of Directors
Stacey Sobel, Esq.
Executive Director

Your Support Helped Bring CASA to Connecticut

**CAC GOAL:** Brighter futures for **MORE** abused or neglected children

**How:** Pass new legislation allowing Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteers to help all children and youth

**Who:** CAC teamed with **citizens and legislators** to draft and pass Public Act No. 16-210

**Success:** For the first time, CASA volunteers can be court appointed to advocate for the best interests of 100% of Connecticut’s vulnerable children in the courtroom and community.

Former CT foster parent Patrice Comey, Stacey Sobel, and volunteer Mari Bebon Flicker testify in support of CASA legislation in Hartford

A Special Thanks to:

Senator Richard Blumenthal
Governor Dannel Malloy
Commissioner Joette Katz, Department of Children and Families
Patrice and James Comey
All State Senators and Representatives who unanimously supported the CASA legislation

With your ongoing support we will continue to speak up for the children in your backyard.
Our Donors
July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016

2,500
This year CAC volunteer advocates made over 2,500 community contacts on behalf of their children.

This year CAC volunteers advocated in court over 200 times for the best interests of their children.

$25,000+
Crane Fund for Widows and Children
Cindy and Evan Goldberg
Bernard and Patricia Goldstein
Family Foundation

$15,000-$24,999
AIG Matching Grants Program
Near and Far Aid
William T Morris Foundation

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The Honorable Mary Sommer and Jay Sandak
Amy Starobin and Eric Kamisher

$50-$999
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Lindy Carmel
Lisa Cannan
Claudia Cohen
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Joan and Bob Fields
Mari and James Flicker
Barbara A. Long
Donald E. Foley

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Allison and Jack Feuer
Jennifer Foster

$500-$999
Mara and David Arzi
Erica Buchsbaum
Lindy Carmel
Lisa Cannan
Claudia Cohen
Devan Auto Group
Nicole Dodge
Joan and Bob Fields
Mari and James Flicker
Barbara A. Long
Donald E. Foley

Lisa Friedland
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Alex Bergstein

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Cindy Zuckerbrod

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Joan de Regt
Julie DesChamps
Jen Dolce
Christy Duggan
Nico Eades
Mary and Raymond Eckert
Karen Elders
Ninette Enrique
Michelle and Phil Falcone

thank you
"The CAC volunteer has gone above and beyond … she is an asset to the case. I cannot say enough positive things about her."

- Caseworker, Department of Children and Families

We are grateful to all who contributed to CAC. We recognize and thank these generous individuals, corporations, and organizations for their gifts and heartfelt support.

- Child Advocates of SW Connecticut

Mary and Daniel Jay Hoffman
Michelle Howard
Claire Hurley Hertan
Jennifer Hyde
Kristy Jelenik
Melissa Kane
Fairfield CT Chapter of Kappa Alpha Theta
Amy Katz
Lulu and Topher Kleinbeck
Shari Korn
Marilyn and Joseph Kreitz
Nancy Landauer
Laura Leeds
Susan and Robert Leffler
Holden LeGette
Amy Levantin
Jo Levinson
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Raffaela and Ivan Togni
Robin and Michael Valentino
Nicole Volavka
Vicki Volper
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Tammy and John Ward
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JL Rocks
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kpeArts by Kristin Edwards
LERA Jewels
Dustin Lowman
Julie Marchesi
McArde’s Florist and Garden Center
Mitchells/Richards
NetSuite
Nancy Rebold
Tessa Rebold
Serena & Lily
Storelli Sports
Tulah Jem
Jill Weiss and GoStride
The Whelk
Gail Wolff
Cindy and Alan Zuckerbrod

www.ctchildadvocates.org
I'm working with very young children who are not placed near where I live and I have to be creative to find opportunities to visit with them. One of my greatest rewards was when I was greeted by the kids with 'Wow! You just keep popping up!' Showing them I am 'in it' for the long term is my primary goal.

- Gail, CAC Volunteer Advocate

As a child advocate, I have had the opportunity to be a reliable, caring, consistent, non-judgmental force in a child’s life and have felt the unexpected joy of hearing, ‘you’re the only adult I like to see!’ at the end of a visit. I think I can make a difference in his life, while he is opening mine.

- Catherine, CAC Volunteer Advocate

Congratulations to CAC’s new volunteers who completed over 35 hours of training to become CAC volunteer advocates.

Wendy Baker
Jeannie Ballentine
Lindy Camel
Ronni Eisenberg
Allison Feuer
Elliott Landon
Lauri Levitt-Friedland
Annie Lodge
Evie Lynch
Nancy Roberts
Patricia Squires
Donna Steinberg
Michelle Titlebaum

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- Gail, CAC Volunteer Advocate
Celebrate & Support

Our third sold-out Love Luncheon, attended by over 300 guests, featured Guest Speaker Ashley Rhodes-Courter, author of the bestselling book *Three Little Words* and honored CAC Outstanding Volunteer Sheri Warshaw and CAC Young Leaders Tessa Rebold and Ben Goldstein.

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Financial Report
Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2016

Revenue Total - $398,995
- Special Events Net $153,335
- Individual, Business Contributions $122,541
- Grants $73,000
- State of CT Contract Income $50,000
- Interest & Misc $119

Expense Total - $311,207
- Fundraising 9% - $27,939
- Management & General 11% - $34,534
- Program Services 80% - $248,734
Thanks to you, **we** will be there for her.

Casey and her siblings were exposed to drugs and alcohol even before birth. Her sister had a cleft palate, her brother a severe case of fetal alcohol syndrome.

For the first 12 years of her life, Casey’s mom beat her frequently. While her mother used money for alcohol and drugs, Casey was forced to steal food.

Finally, a teacher intervened and Casey and her siblings were placed in foster care.

For four years, as Casey and her siblings moved from foster homes to relatives’ homes, they learned they could rely on their CASA volunteer. She tried to comfort them and guide them through the system. She attended school meetings, spoke with doctors, therapists, and visited regularly. She was a loving presence in their lives and a voice for their best interests in the courtroom.

Finally, the children were adopted by relatives. Their CASA volunteer remains a close friend of the family.