



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. ”

Our Mission:

Child Advocates of SW Connecticut recruits, trains and supervises court appointed volunteers who work to ensure that each abused or neglected child has a safe, loving and permanent home.

We are a volunteer-powered organization



CASA Staff, left to right, Jackie Grundel, Becky LeGette, Kate Martin, and Stacey Sobel

of committed people who believe society has a fundamental obligation to improve the lives of our most vulnerable children.



CAC Board of Directors

Front row: Kate Osman, Terri Knight, Elaine Harris, Amy Starobin Kamisher
Back row: Bradley Purcell, Nancy Rebold, Scott Hazard, Jonathan Liebergall, John Peyton



383 Main Avenue, Suite 409
Norwalk, CT 06851
PH 203-750-3241
FX 866-881-1041
www.ctchildadvocates.org

Superior Court for
Juvenile Matters
123 Hoyt Street-5th Floor
Stamford, CT 06905



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

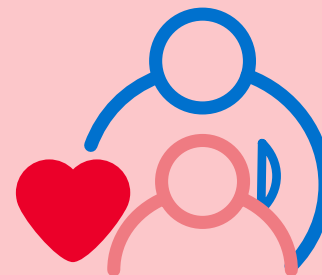
Elaine Harris
President
Scott Hazard
Treasurer
Nancy Rebold
Secretary
Amy Starobin Kamisher, Esq.
Terri Knight
Jonathan Liebergall
Kate Osman
John Peyton
Bradley Purcell

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Paule Couture, MD
Honorable Gerald Fox III
Georgiana Platt
Honorable Mary E. Sommer

STAFF

Stacey G. Sobel, Esq.
Executive Director
Jackie Grundel, Esq.
Program Director
Kate Martin, Esq.
Program Director
Becky LeGette
Program Manager



Designed by Seth Johnson
www.thedesignfish.com

“ 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

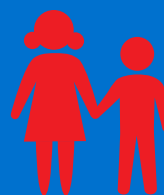
A Special Thanks to:

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

State Senator and Majority Leader Bob Duff, Norwalk
State Senator Eric Coleman, Hartford
State Representative William Tong, Stamford
State Representative Caroline Simmons, Stamford
State Representative John Shaban, Redding

**2,500**

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

**200**

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

Our Donors

July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016

\$25,000+

Crane Fund for Widows
and Children
Cindy and Evan Goldberg
Bernard and Patricia Goldstein
Family Foundation

\$15,000-\$24,999

AlG Matching Grants Program
Near and Far Aid
William T Morris Foundation

\$10,000-\$14,999

Ioanna Donohue
Elaine and Charles Harris
New Canaan Community
Foundation
Jane and Brad Purcell
Nancy and Matt Rebold

\$2,000-\$9,999

Debbie Doppelt
Susan and Robert Feitler
The Goodnow Fund
Lucy and Scott Hazard
HealthCor Foundation Trust
Ellen and David Horing
Rick Kleeman
Terri and Kevin Knight
Carolann and Steven Leffler
Legg Mason Global
Asset Management
Anne and Jon Liebergall
Kate Osman
Georgiana and Ira Platt
Dana and Gregory Rogers
The Honorable Mary Sommer
and Jay Sandak
Amy Starobin and Eric Kamisher
Starwood Hotels & Resorts
Worldwide Foundation
Kathrine Stein
Jody Truwit

\$1,000-\$1,999

Deb August
Alex Bergstein

Susan Beyman
Senator Richard and
Cynthia M. Blumenthal
Bridget Casey
Maggie Cellar
ClearBridge Investments
Patrice Comey
Michelle and Christopher
DeLong
Julie and Martin Franklin
Arlyn and Edward Gardner
Jennifer and Brad Gerla
Jennifer and Steven Goldstein
Karen and Tom Hamilton
HomeServe USA Corp
Iridian Asset Management
Mary Jeffery
Sally and Kevin Korsh
Diane Lowman
Lauren and Greg Mario
Patti and Alan Masarek
Catherine and John McNear
Barbara Moody
Erin and Bob Noonan
Harley Osman
Allison and John Peyton
The Shack Sackler Family
Pam Stone
Lisa and David Tuttle
Sheri Warshaw
Sharon Wessan
Carlotta Willkie
Ann Woodward

\$500-\$999

Mara and David Arzi
Erica Buchsbaum
Lindy Camel
Lisa Cannon
Claudia Cohen
Devan Auto Group
Nicole Dodge
Joan and Bob Fields
Mari and James Flicker
Barbara A. Long
and Donald E. Foley

Mimi Gammill
Edythe Gladstein
Kristy Harteveldt
Alysa and Jim Kabakow
Anne-lie Kleeman
Deborah and Glenn
Koennecke
Evie and David Lynch
David Lynn
Susie and David Moore
Sharon Morris
Stefanie Offit
Michelle Roberts
Margery St. John
Ronit and Andy Tarshis
Lisa and Tom Vacheron
Kathy Whittemore
Mary-Jane Wood

\$250-\$499

Nancy Anderson
Anonymous
Paula and Mark Argosh
Kathy Arrix
Leslie and Buck Balkind
Robin Batoff
Liz Benedict
Kim Buck
Jamie Camche
Sarah and Alec Casey
Michele Cavoli
Andrea and Nicholas
Chermayeff
Luisa Cobb
Nancy and Josh Cohen
Gail and Eric Cohen
Jenny Collins
Paule Couture, MD
Jill Coyle
Miriamne DeMarrais
Ashley Dineen
Marie and Patrick Dolan
Jessie Elsas
Jill Feinstein
Nancy N. Feldman
Allison and Jack Feuer
Jennifer Foster

Lisa Friedland
Rhoda and James Gladstone
Penelope Glassmeyer
Carol Glassmeyer
Marci Gordon
Pat Grant
Barbara and Richard
Greenspan
Antoinette Griffith
Meghan Hannigan
Susan and Adam Harris
Ellen Lautenberg and
Doug Hendel
Fiona Hodgson
Sue and Robert Jacobs
Juanita James
Maija Judelson
Joanne and Shelly Kahan
Marjorie and Rich Kaplowitz
Amy and Neil Katz
Jackie Keeshan
Marie-France and Renee Kern
Julie and Jeremy Koster
Dawn and Richard Kurth
Florence and Gordon
Liebergall
Annie Lodge
Matthew Maddox
David and Liz Martin
Louise McGlynn
Hillary Miller
Laura More
JoAnna Morris
Christine DiModica O'Halloran
Jane and David Preiser
Nancy Risman
Candice Savin
Jeanne Savitt
Arlene Scher
Kristen Shapiro
Carrie Silverstein
Marla and Tom Sinchak
Patricia Spindel
Alexis Sweet
Rabbi Jeremy and
Riki Wiederhorn
Gail and Steve Wolff

Cristina Young
Jennifer Zonis
Cindy Zuckerbrod

Up to \$249

Gisselle Acevedo
Nancy Alchek
Gayle Alswanger
AmazonSmile Foundation
Phyllis Appel
Adele and Albert Aquila
Tammy and Johnny Babun
Marjorie Golden and
Russell Baris
Betsy and John Baron
Stacy Bass
Sharon and Doug Becker
Donna and Norman Beretta
Kathryn Biehl
Candace Blackwood
Lorin and Mark Blitzer
Sharon Botter
Jessica Bram
Eilene and Jonathan Brostoff
Kristin Burbank
Canfor Luis and Silvia Cattani
Choice Water
Marjorie Cion
Wendy Cohen
Sherry and Larry Cohen
Cathy and Robert Colgan
Terry Conrad
Christine and James Corgel
Kelly Corroon
Melissa Cutler
Nancy and Craig Cuttner
Pamela Dale
Catherine and Elwood Davis
Joan de Regt
Julie DesChamps
Jen Dolce
Christy Duggan
Nicole Eades
Mary and Raymond Eckert
Karen Elders
Ninette Enrique
Michelle and Phil Falcone

Laurie and Andrew Fishman
Kim Folston
Cathyanne and
Michael Forstl
Diane Fossi
Tracy Freedman
Janet Freedman
Kate and John Freeman
Andi and Rodd Friedman
Ilene and Alan Frost
Elissa Garber-Hyman
Joe and Mickey Geller
Sheri Gellman
Julie and David Genovese
Dru and Martin Georgiadis
Jill Gerla
Susan and Steve Gersh
Julia Gilbert
Alexandra Gladstone
Debra Wise Goldberg
Amy and Gary Goldberg
Gloria and Arthur Goldstein
Danielle Goldstein
Bonni Gould
Diane and Henry Green
Amy and Michael Gross
Tracy Grossman
Ellen Gurman
Leslie Hammer
Barbara Hanson
Donna Heller
Myra Hess
Moiria Hintsa
Kerri Ann Hofer

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



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
Shari Levy
Martha Lord
Susan and Doug MacFaddin
Carolyn and John Malkin
Julia and Edward Mally
Randi Mamelok
Jacob Manton
Catherine Marcus
AnnMarie and Matt Massie
Frieda Max
Barbie McKelvey
Kate McKenzie
Jessica and Mitch McManus
Wendy and Andrew Melnick
John Menz
Erica Merrill
Janet and Denis Mittleman
Donna and Jack Moffly
Patricia Mazingo
Diana and David Muller
Mack Muller
Linda Murphy Tavlarios
Jodie Mysel
Cori Orr
Kate Paliotta

Andrea and Bill Pecoriello
Michael Perry
Mr. and Mrs. Steve Phelps
Judy and Al Platt
Laurie and Jeff Platte
Jennifer Porter
Marie Pronesti
Sherry Ramsay
Alison Riith
Nancy Ripps
Diane and Lary Rosenblatt
Sandy Sadowitz
Kim Salomon
Diane Sammons
Barbara Santangelo
Cindy and Zane Saul
Carole Schwartz
Lori Shabtai
Lisa Shanahan
Meryl Silver
Tanya and Robert Smith
Diane and Richard Smola
Stacey Sobel
Brandy Solinsky
Page Soper
Ricki Stern
Susie Swirbul
Eve Taben
Lynne and Rick Taikowski
Jenny Tarleton
Maureen and Bob Tartaglia
Nancy Tartaglia
Raffaella and Ivano Togni
Robin and Michael Valentino
Nicole Volavka
Vicki Volper
Nancy von Euler
Abby Wallach
Tammy and John Ward
Hollie Dora Watman and
Robert Futterman
Seth and Gayle Weinstein
Amy and Ted Weisman

Lisa Weitzman
The Honorable Lisa Wexler
Maria and Celso White
Winokur Family Foundation
Michele Wolfram
Terrie Wood
Lauren and Jon Zirn

Gifts in Kind

Camilla Dietz Bergeron, Ltd
CenturyLink
Choice Water and
Ben Goldstein
Blue Ribbon Restaurants
Senator Richard Blumenthal
corroon by Kelly Corroon
Marie Dolan
Four Forks
Green & Tonic
Greenwich Orchids
J House Greenwich
JL Rocks
Kawa Ni
The K Group LTD
kpeArts by Kristin Edwards
LERA Jewels
Dustin Lowman
Julie Marchesi
McArdle's Florist and Garden
Center
Mitchells/Richards
NetSuite
Nancy Rebold
Tessa Rebold
Serena & Lily
Storelli Sports
Tulah Jem
Jill Weiss and GoStride
The Wheelk
Gail Wolff
Cindy and Alan Zuckerbrod

“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

OUR VOLUNTEERS

VOLUNTEERS

Georgia Adams
Kim Ambrose
Susan Amlung
Nancy Anderson
Adele Aquila
Mara Arzi
Diane Barston
Marcella Bianco
Kathy Biehl
Lesley Bowman
Eilene Brostoff
Lisa Cannon
Julie Chandler
Gail Cohen
Rosemary Contreras
Michele Corrow
Catherine Davis
Trish DePhillips
Nicole Dodge
John Fenton
Mari Flicker
Kate Freeman
Lisa Friedland
Andrea Friedman
Amy Goldberg
Pam Graber
Hank Green
Ellen Gross
Carissa Gulyas
Adele Handlers
Judy Hart
Lucy Hazard
Tina Healey
Laura Heneghan
Rachel Horan
Susie Johnson
Irene Judge
Anne Liebergall

Richard Liebman
Kate Madigan
Barbara Mandell
Wendy Melnick
Barbie McKelvey
Laura More
Steven Mueller
Bob Nalewajek
Bob Noonan
Kate Osman
Pouli Otton
Miriam Pacheco
Allison Peyton
Nancy Rebold
Janet Rubel
Lisa Shanahan
Patti Spindel
Patti Stack
Jodie Stanley
Katie Stein
Susan Stern
Ricki Stern
Ruthie Strother
Lenore Sturm
Susie Swirbul
Kathy Thompson
Jody Truwit
Julie Walsh
Sheri Warshaw
Joan Weinstein
Kelly Weldon
Sharon Wessan
Elizabeth West
Gail Wolff
Mary-Jane Wood
Lauren Zirn
Cindy Zuckerbrod



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



New CAC Volunteer Training Class

“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

Celebrate & Support



The
LOVE
Luncheon



Honoree Sheri Warshaw and Guest Speaker
Ashley Rhodes-Courter

Honorees Tessa Rebold and Ben Goldstein

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.



Event Co-Chairs
Kate Osman, Jody Truitt and Katie Stein

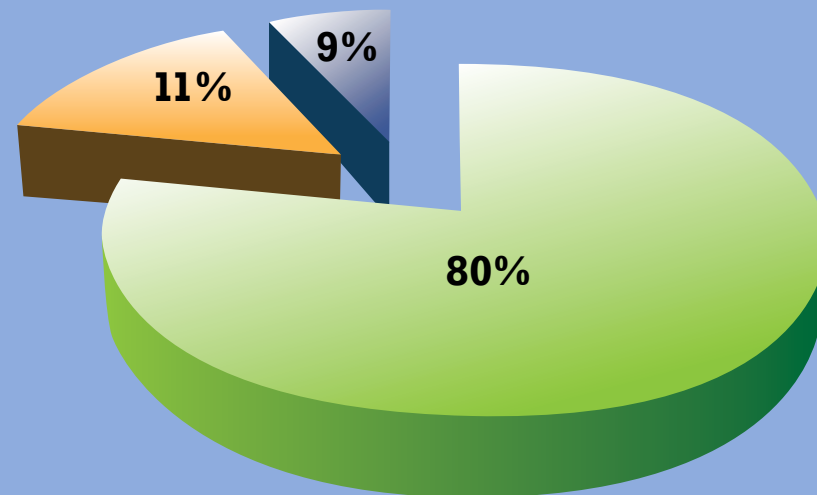


Patricia Russo, DCF Commissioner Joette Katz, Elaine Harris,
State Senator and Majority Leader Bob Duff



Financial Report

Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2016

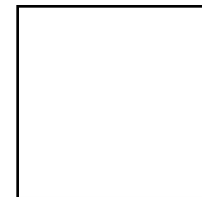


Expense Total - \$311,207

- Fundraising 9% - \$27,939
- Management & General 11% - \$34,534
- Program Services 80% - \$248,734

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



Coming soon
**Love Luncheon
2017**



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.

Thank you  