Will you be there for me?
Thanks to you, I have come so far.

Savanna assumed the role of a parent at a very early age. Her mother — consumed by her addiction to alcohol and drugs — was seldom home to take care of Savanna and her four siblings.

When Savanna was 12 years old, the five children were taken into foster care and placed in different homes.

“I worried a lot about my brothers and sisters. I wasn’t waking them up in the morning, wasn’t tucking them in at night.”

Savanna not only struggled with losing daily contact with her siblings — for whom she felt responsible — she still longed for her mother to return to them.

“I had a lot of hope in the beginning that my mother would change. I thought, maybe she’ll stay clean, maybe she’ll come visit us. It was hard for me to give up on her, to give up on that hope, and move on with my life.”

Through treatment in two residential treatment facilities, what helped Savanna was the steady support of her CASA volunteer. Finally, Savanna was able to let go of her disappointment in her mother and move forward with her own life.

“Having someone there consistently for the last five years, telling me that everything was going to be OK, someone who was not going to give up on me like my mother had, made all the difference in my life.”

Savanna is now a senior in high school, working toward her high school diploma. She recently participated in a Job Corps program, the first step toward pursuing her dream of becoming a police officer.
Dear Friend,

When a child’s future hangs in the balance, we are there.

We are ordinary people, trained volunteers, who step up to assist judges and serve vulnerable children as court appointed special advocates (CASAs).

Whatever their age, children who suffer abuse or neglect face a frightening unknown. We make sure they do not face it alone.

We stand by them. We are there whenever they need us, for as long as it takes to find a safe, permanent home. We are a consistent presence caring, listening and putting a child’s best interests before all others. We help them heal and thrive.

We take the time to get to know the child. We talk to people who touch their lives – foster parents, family members, teachers, doctors, social workers, therapists and attorneys. We gather the details only a dedicated volunteer with a caseload of one can deliver. Every detail helps a judge move a child out of the system and into a permanent home.

With your help, we can do more. CAC is the first CASA program in Connecticut. CAC is working to expand and bring the CASA program to more children. With permission from the Judicial Branch and your support, we are ready and able to serve many more children in our community.

Thanks to YOU in 2018 a CAC Volunteer Advocate:

• Advocated tirelessly to ensure a child’s significant educational deficits were being addressed through appropriate interventions and services
• Visited regularly and accompanied a lonely and suicidal 15-year-old to family night dinner at state psychiatric hospital
• Secured financial assistance to the YMCA so that a little girl could attend the gymnastics class that her guardian could not afford
• Helped prepare a 17-year-old to take her driver’s permit test (twice)
• Ensured that a 4-year-old boy had consistent visits with his older brother who was placed in a separate foster home, several towns away
• Spoke daily with a child who was nervous about starting a new school
• Was the only familiar face seen by a 9-year-old child on the day that she had to abruptly move from one foster home to another
• Helped a 16-year-old girl draft her resume, complete a job application, and prepare for her first job interview
• Received a phone call from a former foster child who told her that he loved her and thanked her for always being there for him

Thank you!

Members of Kappa Alpha Theta Sorority at Sacred Heart University donated dozens of books and created cuddly blankets and uplifting cards with messages of love and caring for CASAs to share with their children.

Sincerely,

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

With your ongoing support we will speak up for more children in our backyard.
This year CAC volunteer advocates contributed over 3,600 hours of advocacy on behalf of their children.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Donors</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$25,000 - $100,000</td>
<td>Crane Fund for Widows and Children, Cindy and Evan Goldberg, The Winston Foundation</td>
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<td>$15,000 - $24,999</td>
<td>Ioanna Donohue, Bernard and Patricia Goldstein Family Foundation, William T. Morris Foundation</td>
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<td>$10,000 - $14,999</td>
<td>Elaine and Charles Harris, Ali and Brian Kreiter, Near and Far Aid, Kate and Bart Osman, Allison and John Peyton, Jane and Brad Purcell, Nancy and Matt Rebold, Jane and Brad Purcell, Allison and John Peyton</td>
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<td>$2,000 - $9,999</td>
<td>The Bank Street Group LLC, April Book, Irwin Cohen, Collin Comey Guardian Angel Fund, Patrice and James Comey, Jennifer Creswell, Jill A. Dyal, Cheryl and Blair Efron, The Exchange Club of New Canaan Foundation, Lucy and Scott Hazard, HealthCor Foundation Trust, Rick Kleeman, Patricia and Paul Kuehner, Laure Levitt and Michael Friedland, Anne and Jon Liebergall, New Canaan Community Foundation, Claire and Eddy Orenstein, The Shack Sackler Family</td>
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<td>$500 - $999</td>
<td>Sonia Alcantarilla, Kate Andrews, Jonathan, Paul Muzzey, Harley Osman, Georgiana and Ira Platt, Sherry Ramsay, Susan Saunders, Carrie and Richard Silverstein, Pam Stone</td>
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<td>$1,000 - $1,999</td>
<td>Advocate Capital, Inc., Lucy Antrim, Kathy Artx, Jamie Camche, Lindy and Mark Camel, ClearBridge Investments, Catherine and Elwood Davis, Jeffrey Elliott, Bill Fieber, Arlyn and Edward Gardner, Carol Glassmeyer, Heidi Hammer, Kristy and Robert Harteveldt, Erika Hoke and Stephen Sander, Mary Johnston, Barbara J. Joseph, Terri and Kevin Knight, Patti and Alan Masarek, Catherine and John McNear, Susan Murphy, Paul Muzzey, Harley Osman, Georgiana and Ira Platt, Sherry Ramsay, Susan Saunders, Carrie and Richard Silverstein, Pam Stone</td>
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<tr>
<td>$250 - $499</td>
<td>Stephanie Ani, Paula and Mark Argosh, Lois Backon, Kate Baruch, Totney Benson, Blair Bijou, Eileen and Jonathan Brostoff, Linda and Iain Bruce, Michelle Callaghan, Lauren Capen, Laura Casellas, Michele Cavoli, Gall and Eric Cohen, Cathy and Robert Colgan, Lindsey Collins, Eleanor Davidson, Erica Davis, Kristen Davis, Nia and Gus Demopoulos, Trish DePhillips, Marie and Patrick Doan, Jessie Elsas, Dick Ferguson, Meredith Feurtado, Lisa and Ed Friedland, Emily Garrett, Kay Garrett, Julia Genser, Alexandra Gladstone, Karen and Robert Sobel, Alexandra Stevens, Jean Strom, Ariel Sullivan, Laura Sullivan, Lauren Swenson, Kathryn Tabner, Lisa and David Tuttle, Jill Weiss, Kathleen and Laurence Whitemore</td>
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</tbody>
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Our Donors: July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018

- **3,600**

- **200**
The 15-year-old transgender youth I work with has serious mental health diagnoses and has run away from three foster homes, lived on the streets, been hospitalized twice, and placed in a long-term residential facility. Through it all, I know I’ve made a difference when she calls, texts and seeks me out for visits and advice. She knows that I am always available to listen, and am only a phone call away.

- Rachel, CAC Volunteer Advocate

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

Alicia and Chris DeBrady
Alexis DiBiasio
Jen and Jared Dolce
Melanie Dumas
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Shelley Warshaw
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The Honorable Lisa Wexler
Valerie Wilpon
Amanda Wilson
Gail and Steve Wolff
Mugs and Bill Zales

Gifts in Kind
Kappa Alpha Theta Chapter at Sacred Heart University
NetSuite/Oracle
Nielsen’s Florist

www.ctchildadvocates.org
Over the past five years, Ryan has suffered through eight failed foster homes, ten psychiatric hospitalizations, five institutional placements, DCF case worker turnover, and is currently seeing his 16th therapist. But at each upheaval, Ryan has sought me out. Ryan knows I will consistently show up with a game to play and a listening ear, as I continue to advocate for his best interests.

- Bob, CAC Volunteer Advocate

The lawyers know the statutes, the social workers the regulations. But the CASA volunteer is assigned to know the child, one child at a time, to understand the boundaries of her life, to telephone her teachers, to consider her hopes and dreams, to try to come to some conclusion about what will be in her best interests. For children whose pasts have been chaotic and whose futures are uncertain, the CASA volunteer may be the most consistent, interested presence in their lives.

- Anna Quindlen, Author and Columnist

In Loving Memory
of our volunteer advocate
Irene Judge who served children from 2010-2018

www.ctchildadvocates.org
Our fifth annual Love Luncheon featured a powerful presentation of “A Day in the Life” stories of human trafficking among foster youth, plus the inspiring words of foster youth Kiana Campbell.
CAC honored Outstanding Volunteers Catherine Davis and Cindy Zuckerbrod.

Expense Total - $353,666
- Fundraising 10% - $34,212
- Management & General 11% - $39,909
- Program Services 79% - $279,545

Revenue Total - $475,751
- Special Events Net $190,985
- Individual, Business Contributions $146,573
- Grants $96,000
- State of CT Contract Income $42,084
- Interest & Misc $109

www.ctchildadvocates.org
Thanks to you, **we** will be there for her.

One day an ambulance took her mom away. She didn’t come back.

"My Mom was gone a lot. When she was home, she cried ALL THE TIME. I was always afraid. One day an ambulance took her away. She didn’t come back. Some people came. They said I had to go with them. I started moving around a lot. There was always a new face. With all the people around, why was I still so afraid? Then Sue showed up. At first I thought she was just another face. But then she came around a lot. When I had to move again I thought I lost her. But she was already over there to make sure I was good. There are still some hard days, but Sue always has my back. She’s been there a while now. I still don’t know where I’m gonna end up.

But I haven’t been afraid in a long time."