Help me see a better future
Thanks to you, I have come so far.

My mom was never really part of my life. I suffered in school with learning disabilities. At 16, I was so depressed I ended up in the hospital. My dad refused to pick me up and I had to go into foster care. I was abandoned, confused, alone, and scared.

Soon after I met my CASA volunteer advocate. During this difficult time, she kept showing up. Even when I was angry and tough to be around, she visited. She made sure I went to school and she attended school meetings. When I graduated high school she was there.

Instead of aging out of foster care at 18, I stayed in DCF care with the help of my CASA. She went with me into every store at the mall to fill in job applications to get my first job. She convinced me to go to the doctor to learn to take care of my own health. She helped me open my bank account and taught me how I could save money. I am now completing my associate’s degree, and my CASA is helping me visit colleges and fill in applications.

This year, my dream came true and my CASA helped me move into my very own apartment. My CASA is my guardian angel.
The CASA legislation 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 2017 a CAC Volunteer Advocate:

Served as the first CASA volunteer advocate ever in the State of Connecticut’s history. Connecticut’s new CASA legislation, passed with the help of CAC, allows abused or neglected children to be helped by a CASA volunteer. CAC began providing the state’s first CASA volunteers, bringing Connecticut in-line with 48 other states and expanding the opportunity to impact lives as we reach more children.

Collaborated with the Department of Children and Families to achieve district-wide policy change to ensure that foster children are getting the special education services they are entitled to under the law. The school district acknowledged that they will continue to improve services for foster children going forward.

Ensured that siblings who were spread out across the state, in several different foster homes, were able to celebrate Thanksgiving together.

Completed the required summer camp applications for three siblings. After completing the forms, the Volunteer also ensured the required medical forms were properly completed, which required travel to the various doctors’ offices. She then hand-delivered the camp applications to various sleep-away camps in CT to ensure that the camps were satisfied with the paperwork and that the children would be able to attend. The children had terrific experiences at summer camp!

Obtained an English tutor for a sixteen-year-old youth whose primary language is Spanish and needed to learn English to acclimate to her new school, meet new friends, and succeed in her classes.

Accompanied a fearful 19-year-old to medical and dental appointments that were years overdue.

Prepared a youth to calmly and politely advocate for what she wanted during a Planning and Placement Team meeting, empowering this youth to find her own voice.

Assisted a middle schooler in completing his application for a private high school that will better meet his specialized needs. Ultimately, he was accepted to the school and the volunteer helped secure scholarships and donations to pay for the school’s tuition.

Provided a consistent adult presence in the life of a teenage foster youth who had four different caseworkers, two different placements and two different schools in the span of one year.

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

Written by a 15 year old foster child to her CAC volunteer advocate

www.ctchildadvocates.org
This year CAC volunteer advocates contributed over 3,500 hours of advocacy on behalf of their children.
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

Karen Herman
Deb Hidy
Gregory Hillinski
Mary and Daniel Hoffman
Lori Holtz
Melanie Howat
Shannon Iafeliece
Christine Jaskiewicz
Tahir Javed
Bryanna Kallman
Amy B. Katz
Mike Kieley
Andrea Kline
Deb Koenig
Alexandra Konspure
Kurt Korinko
Shari Korn
Jennifer Krane
Kari Krumpelbeck
Karen Krupnik
Sally Kruteck
Pagna Ky
Deborah and Jon LaBerge
Elliott Landon
Amy Lee
Laura Leeds

Heldin LeGette
Mytym Leibowitz
Jose N Leon
Matthew Leonard
Tracey Lev
Amy Levantin
Travis Levers
Lauri Levitt
Melissa and Paul Levy
Barbara Levy-Berliner
Joanna Lipper
Diane Lowman
Elyse Luray
Susan and Doug MacFaddin
Joel Mack
EvaMarie Madera
Carolyn and John Malkin
Julia and Edward Malloy
Kathy Manto
Sarah Marchesi
Catherine Marcus
John Marmanides
Jeanette Marrero
Michelle Martinez
AnnMarie and Matt Massie
Catie Matheny
Anna and Walter Mattera
Michelle Mauboussin
Patricia McCormick
Lindsay McCuickin
Barbie McKelvey
Kate McKenzie and Craig Crews
Amy McNamara
Lynn Meehan
Myles Meehan
Janet Mendell
Robert Meston
Hillary Miller
Katalin Mitchell
Janet and Denis Mitterman
Angela Mosconi
Linda Moslow
Diana and David Muller
Robert Murphy
Brian J Nell
Meg Noah
Elizabeth Nusca
Annmarie Oddo
Linda Ogden
Judy H. Othner
Trish and Mike Paliotta
Scott Paris
Andrea and Bill Pecoriello
Jason Penta
Michael Perri
Lucy Peto
James Pettit
Lynn and Howard Peyton
Karen and Adam Phillips
Jennifer Porter
Kristina Puff
Tara Quinn
Amanda Quinton
Roso Ramirez
Joshua Rouh
Michael Rauscher
Ronna Reich-Schwarz
Michelle Rekosz
Kelly and Glen Reznikoff
Mary Jo Riddle
Rose Rinaldi
Lisa, Michael and Caroline Rintoul
Gary Robertson
Alexandra Rosenberg
Casey Rothenberg
Felicia Rubinstein
Lucille Russell
Ellen Russo
Shannan Sagar
George Sakelis
Diane Sammons
Jennifer Samuel
Graeme Sandford
Dale Sandlands
Philip Sandier
Christina Ann Sanzo
Cindy and Zane Saul
Candice Savin
Ruth Schreiber
Betsey Seklovitz
Helen Seplowitz
Lisa Shanahan
Carla and Ed Sheehan
Ashley Shiwarski
Daniel Signor
Avind Singh
Jeffrey Slinkin
Tanya Smith
Sonia Torcello
Michael Twardowski
Michael Van Schaick
Ann Vance
Chris Varlan
Aditi Verma
Tara Vessels
Dawn Viana
Nathalie Viben
Amanda Victor
Vicki Volper
Nancy von Euler
Ann Von Steade
Russell Wagner
Cathy Wappler
Sheryl Warshafsky
Holli Dora Watzman and Robert Futterman
Linda Ogden

Gifts in Kind

Kathy Arix
Austin-Rooff Salon
Baywater Properties
Beautycounter
John Berman
Beviam of Napal Valley - Honig Winery & Shibumi Knoll Winery
Blue Ribbon Restaurants
Senator Richard Blumenthal
Camilla Dietz Bergeron, ltd
Sarah Christensen - Happy Fit Food
Coronoon
Four Forks
Gansevoort Park NYC
Jennifer Geria
Green & Tonic
Greenwich Orchids
Late Night with Seth Meyers
LERA Jewels by Ronit Tarsis
Jesup Hall
JL Rocks
Julia Marchesi
kpeArts by Kristin Edwards
Mitchells of Westport
Orthopaedic Foundation
Patricia Russo and the Women’s Campaign School
Patricia Russo and the Mitchell’s of Westport
Paula Weinstein
Jill Weiss
Renata Weiss
Sharon Wessan
Eric West
The Honorable Lisa Wexler
Alexander Whittlesey
Linda Williams
Samantha Willis
Valerie Wilpon
Winokur Family Foundation
Gail and Steve Wolff
Helene Wurtzel
Mugs and Bill Zales
Emilie Zaffini
Lauren Zinzi
Lauren and Jon Zim

I am so incredibly inspired by your commitment to these children. Having been with DCF for 25 years, I know how important a CASA can be in the life of a child. They are so fortunate to have such a dedicated advocate. Thank you!

- Caseworker, Department of Children and Families
I'm working with a 14 year old who has suffered severe trauma. I knew I was making a difference when she said 'I miss you when I don't see you' and that she looks forward to our visits. Recently, I witnessed her showing empathy for another child, and it filled me with hope.

- Cindy, CAC Volunteer Advocate

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

April Book
Tanya Clemons
Lynda Crowell
Heidi Hammer
Claire Hurley
Amy Levantin
Sarah Lewis
Mary Pat Maretz
Arthur Mintzer
Suzan Murphy
Maureen
Owens-Tartaglia
Charmaine Panikar
Karina Passos
Maureen Roach
Our fourth annual Love Luncheon featured a powerful panel discussion moderated by CNN Journalist Ashleigh Banfield, former foster youth Vincent Espino, foster parent Brina Rodriguez, and Department of Children and Families Social Worker Christopher Andujar. CAC honored Outstanding Volunteer Eliene Brostoff and Community Leaders Cindy and Evan Goldberg.

**Expense** Total - $330,723
- Fundraising 9% - $31,819
- Management & General 12% - $38,171
- Program Services 79% - $260,733

**Revenue** Total - $429,074
- Special Events Net $158,533
- Individual, Business Contributions $139,663
- Grants $84,000
- State of CT Contract Income $46,760
- Interest & Misc $118

www.ctchildadvocates.org
Thanks to you, he will be OK.

Josh and his younger siblings were born into a stable family, but things went wrong. His dad suffered from mental illness and lost his job. His mom was unable to cope and became addicted to opioids. Josh and his two siblings were often left alone for long periods of time and frequently went hungry. The children were frightened by violent outbursts and suffered from physical abuse.

A school social worker intervened and, with no family able to take care of the children, they were placed in foster care. Josh was separated from his siblings and missed them terribly.

When Josh first met his CASA volunteer he slammed the door. But as the CASA continued to show up, Josh slowly opened up. The CASA played catch with Josh, helped with his homework, attended school meetings, spoke with doctors and therapists. Since his parents could not be there, the CASA cheered for Josh at Little League games. The CASA helped ensure the siblings saw each other regularly and advocated for Josh’s best interests in the courtroom.

After years of separation and hard work, the family is now in the process of reunifying. The CASA remains a constant by Josh’s side.