Will you be by my side?
Thanks to you, he has found a home.

Lucas was removed from his mother at age four. She had physically and emotionally abused him, and relinquished her own parental rights.

Lucas moved from foster home to foster home for almost ten years, acting out and running away until he found himself in a psychiatric facility for children with serious emotional disturbances with few options for his future.

That’s when volunteer Connie was assigned to Lucas’s case. Lucas was 14 by then; the facility was his 19th placement. The judge hoped that with a volunteer advocate, Lucas could find his voice and a way out of the foster care system.

Connie began visiting Lucas. He wouldn’t talk. Connie broke the silence by playing chess. They would play chess and Lucas wouldn’t talk much. But as Connie kept showing up, Lucas learned to trust her. Over the next several months, Lucas’s coping and communication skills improved. His behaviors improved and the social worker grew hopeful about his chance to be fostered again.

With Connie by his side, encouraging and reminding him of his worth and the importance of advocating for himself, Lucas left the facility and headed to a new foster family—his 20th placement. Things were different this time. From the beginning, Lucas communicated better and felt as if he fit in with his new parents and siblings. The family worked hard to help him adjust.

Connie and Lucas’s foster parents were beaming in the courtroom beside him when the goal of adoption by his new foster parents was approved. After over a decade in care, Lucas found a family. Due to confidentiality, names have been changed.

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

2019 was a year of growth for Child Advocates of SW Connecticut (CAC). CAC continues to provide volunteer advocates for vulnerable children and youth and also grew our CASA of SW Connecticut program.

CAC volunteers 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, CAC can do more. We are continuing to expand and bring our programs to more children in our community.

Thanks to YOU in 2019 a CAC Volunteer Advocate:

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.

Completed a camp scholarship application for a 10-year-old boy to attend his dream summer camp at the Discovery Museum. The boy received the scholarship, had an incredible summer, and through the camp won his first bicycle.

Accompanied a pregnant older youth to the WIC office to help her fill out the necessary paperwork so that she can receive formula and healthy food for her baby, and services for herself as she becomes a new mom.

Ensured that a foster youth who had spent the last three holidays without her family was able to spend the holiday at her home, surrounded by her loved ones.

Consistently travels to visit a 15-year-old transgender youth who is placed in a residential facility across the state from her family. The GAL reliably speaks with the youth by phone almost every day.

Guided a 19-year-old through the process of searching for her first job. The volunteer and youth worked together to create a resume, practiced for interviews and ultimately the volunteer helped prepare her for the first day of her new job.

Navigated the college application process for a high school senior who grew up in foster care and had no adult role models who attended college. The volunteer found a college consultant who voluntarily agreed to meet with the youth to discuss college options, helped complete college applications and financial aid and scholarship paperwork.

Advocated for a reading specialist for a third grader who fell behind in reading after being bounced around to different foster homes and schools when she was younger.

Ensured that two brothers continued to regularly visit with each other when they were placed in separate foster homes, several towns apart.

With your ongoing support we will speak up for more children in our backyard.

Sincerely,
Michael Friedland
President, Board of Directors
Stacey Sobel, Esq.
Executive Director

Written by a 14 year old foster child to her CAC volunteer advocate

www.ctchildadvocates.org
A child with a CASA volunteer finds a forever home 25% faster

CASA volunteer advocates help close about 100,000 cases every year

A child with a CASA advocate is much less likely to re-enter the foster-care system

Sources: 2015 Research and Consulting Study; 2017 National CASA Association Program Study

Our Donors
July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019

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Crane Fund for Widows and Children
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Near and Far Aid

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Stacie Allen
Dan Anderson
Lucy Antrim
Mara and David Arzi
Kim and Tom Athan
Stacy Bass
Sharon Bernad

Sources: 2015 Research and Consulting Study; 2017 National CASA Association Program Study
After working with 11-year-old Kyle for many months, it is clear that having an independent person focusing only on his best interest makes all the difference. Whether it’s just spending time together to show that another adult cares about him, or making sure he gets the right services at school and in his foster home, having someone on Kyle’s side guarantees that his needs are not slipping through the cracks so he can enjoy his childhood, the way every child should.

- Arthur, 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

Rena and Danny Barsanti
De’Lis’Ka Bates
Jennifer Bebon
Donna and Norman Beretta
Candace Blackwood
Doria Blank
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Gifts in Kind
James and Patrice Comey
JL Rocks
Kappa Alpha Theta Chapter at Sacred Heart University
NetSuite/Oracle
Personalized Tech Support
Together We Rise

www.ctchildadvocates.org
15-year-old Melodie grew up with a chaotic home life, living with daily trauma. Since she was removed from her home, she has been bounced around to several institutional programs and foster homes. Through all of her moves, I have been a consistent and reliable support for her. We talk on the phone, hang out together, or go on outings. I am available when she needs me, listening when she talks and providing encouragement as she transitions to new chapters of her life. I know she values our relationship when she calls, asks my advice, and wants me to visit. She knows I am here for her, always.

- April, CAC Volunteer Advocate

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

Sue Ballou
Bruce Berger
Millie Bezanson
Lindsay DelCampo
Junko Donovan
Amanda Doyle
Laura Hallett
Amy Harned
Heather Kirkpatrick
Lucia Maxwell
Megan Pryor
Constanze Scheidl

I trusted my CAC volunteer. She was the only face I recognized after every move.

- Ashley, former foster youth
Celebrate & Support

Our sixth annual Love Luncheon featured James Comey, former Connecticut foster parent, as our Guest Speaker.

CAC honored Nancy Rebold with the Distinguished Founder Award, Anne and Jon Liebergall with the Outstanding Service Award, and presented the Outstanding Volunteer Award to Jody Truwit.

Event Co-Chairs: Kathrine Stein, Carol Glasmeyer, and April Book

Jody Truwit, James Comey, Nancy Rebold, Anne Liebergall, Jon Liebergall

Financial Report
Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2019

Expense Total - $392,317
- Fundraising 11% - $40,699
- Management & General 13% - $52,124
- Program Services 76% - $299,494

Revenue Total - $445,264
- Special Events Net $249,589
- Grants $107,000
- Individual, Business Contributions $47,029
- State of CT Contract Income $41,528
- Interest & Misc $118

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

I was born to a mom whose entire life was filled with terrible pain, child abuse, and trauma. She was not ready to be a mother.

I went into the foster care system at two years old but was abused by my foster mom and her relative. I was adopted at six but it did not work out. Last year, I was removed from that home and went back into foster care. But I was appointed a CASA volunteer.

Because of my CASA, this time in foster care is different. My CASA visits me and listens. We make bracelets and talk. She goes to conferences at my school, and even comes to my soccer games. She responds when I text her. It is not easy and I still don't have a forever family, but I have my CASA. Because of her, I am not afraid.