I felt so alone.
Our Mission:

Child Advocates of SW Connecticut transforms the lives of vulnerable children and youth by providing trained and supervised one-on-one volunteer advocates in the community, classroom and courthouse.

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.

This past year has been difficult, and at-risk children have suffered more than most. In Connecticut, clinicians report significant increases in anxiety and depression. We are here to help.

"I am the oldest of three kids and was often responsible for my sister and brother - sometimes taking care of them and missing school. Our mom was struggling with mental illness and dad was not in our lives. We moved in with Grandma Evie and were safe, but Grandma was very tired. Then Joan came along - Joan was our CAC volunteer advocate. I was thinking, how can she help me and my siblings? Why would she take time for me when she could be doing things for herself?

Before I met Joan, I was failing three of my classes and did not expect to graduate. Joan immediately started to help. She spoke to my school to figure out what I needed to graduate on time. She would come to visit us often, listen to me, and even help with homework. She would organize appointments with everyone in my life: my therapist, school guidance counselor, doctors, and driver's ed. She made sure I got driving lessons and now I have my license!

Joan was the first person to say that I was working so hard that I deserved to have fun and participate in my senior activities. She convinced me to go to the prom and even helped me search for a dress. It was so special for me that she was by my side. I picked a magenta dress that had diamonds around the top and a fluffy bottom. I still have memories about that prom thanks to her. If I had not gone to the prom, I know I would have regretted it.

Children's names and images have been changed to protect confidentiality.
Dear Friend,

In 2021, CAC has been busier than ever! Life has been difficult for so many, but vulnerable children have suffered disproportionately.

CAC has experienced a 50% increase in the number of children served and has matched a volunteer to every child. We are proud that our incredible volunteers have responded with patience, dedication and heart to take on the increased caseload. Volunteers report that children are experiencing increased mental health challenges and have greater educational needs. The Department of Children and Families has seen a spike in reports of parental educational neglect. In response, CAC volunteers continue to advocate in the classroom, courtroom and community to ensure children’s needs are met.

Most importantly, vulnerable children know, in big ways and small ways, they have a reliable, caring volunteer in their life.

Now, more than ever, CAC needs your help.

Sincerely,

Michael Friedland
Board President
Stacey Sobel, Esq.
Executive Director

This year CAC volunteer advocates contributed over 2,500 hours of advocacy on behalf of their children

This year CAC volunteers advocated in court nearly 80 times for the best interests of their children

In spite of many challenges, this year, a CAC volunteer advocate:

✔ Ensured that a 7-year-old boy continued to safely see his siblings who were living with different family members, several towns away
✔ Spent the night in the hospital with a 9-year-old boy in foster care who had had surgery, while another volunteer spent the day in the Emergency Room with a 16-year-old girl as she was being evaluated
✔ Obtained a passport for a 17-year-old, new to the US from Africa, whose family does not speak English
✔ Applied for and received a scholarship so that a 10-year-old girl could attend a sleep-away camp for the first time
✔ Collaborated with school staff and a 15-year-old boy to create a safe and manageable plan for the boy to re-enter his specialized school after learning remotely for a year and a half
✔ Helped a high school student apply for a community grant to get a donated laptop because the school-issued computer was unreliable and a barrier to completing school assignments
✔ Helped an 18-year-old youth schedule her own doctor appointment and met her there for moral support

“Science shows that children who do well despite serious hardship have had at least one stable and committed relationship with a supportive adult.”

- Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University

www.ctchildadvocates.org
CAC expanded our program to meet an increased need, and our volunteer advocates are now helping 50% more vulnerable children and youth in the community, classroom and courtroom.
From the mother of a 13 year-old, to her daughter’s CAC Volunteer Advocate:

“\[quote\]
I really appreciate how honest and sincere you have been throughout this whole process. You stepped in to help my babies and our entire family when we needed help the most. I trust you with my daughter and that really means a lot to me. She is so happy to spend time with you. Thank you!
\[quote\]

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

“\[quote\]
This organization is truly a jewel that has helped hundreds of kids.
\[quote\]

Joette Katz, Esq., Former Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Children and Families
Thank for your efforts and work with marginalized and at-risk children and families. The interfacing and intentional collaboration between Child Advocates of CT and the Department of Children and Families is making a positive impact with the children and families we serve.

- Department of Children and Families Social Worker

Our Volunteers


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

Jennifer Barnard  Jo Briggs  Rachel Diehl  Dena Fayad  Debbie Finkel  Eileen Gress  Gloria Hollace-Vargas  Robert Kipness  Doug Michelman  Caron Palder  Bud Prenevost  Craig Schiavone  Katherine Skinner  Megan Weiss  Barbara Zerzan

In Loving Memory

In Loving Memory of our volunteer Joan Weinstein, who advocated for CAC children from 2011-2017

This spring CAC honored all of our incredible volunteers for their work during this difficult year in transforming the lives of vulnerable children.

Inspiring Compassion. Transforming Lives.

www.ctchildadvocates.org
What a difference a CAC volunteer advocate can make!

Moving around, switching homes is no one’s ideal situation. Allison has advocated for me through every situation.

Regardless of where I will be in this world, I know she is there for me.

- Garth, age 18, in foster care since age 12

Watch video about Garth’s Story:
https://www.ctchildadvocates.org

Financial Report
Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2021

Expense Total - $382,002

- Fundraising 10% - $39,381
- Management & General 13% - $49,206
- Program Services 77% - $293,415

Revenue Total - $300,533

- Individual, Business Contributions $106,381
- Grants $90,000
- Government Grants $62,624
- State of CT Contract Income $41,528

www.ctchildadvocates.org