

**Our world
has changed.**



**Will you still be
there for me?**



“ I have been in foster care since middle school. In three years, I have been in three different foster homes. My mom struggles with drugs and my dad is incarcerated.

But Meg is here to help. Meg is our CAC volunteer advocate. She is funny and cares. Every time I switched homes, Meg stuck with me.

When COVID struck I was relieved that I was placed with my younger brother. But there were many problems. We had one laptop for four kids in the foster home. Meg went to my brother’s school every week and picked up his schoolwork to bring to him. She got me a Chromebook from my school. Each week, Meg comes to our backyard wearing a mask and helps my brother with his homework. Meg jokes that she is learning middle school math!

I got very sad and lonely because we could not see our younger sisters, our mom, or visit our dad. As soon as DCF started to allow visits, Meg made sure our visits could happen. Meg knows I love to draw and she got me into an after-school arts program. She even made sure I could get there. I still hope to go home with my mom and siblings one day.

But until then, Meg is here for me. ”

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 and the courtroom.

We are a volunteer-powered organization



CAC Staff, left to right, Jackie Grundei, 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

L-R: Kathrine Stein, Scott Hazard, Terri Knight, Michael Friedland, Kate Osman
Not included in photo: Wendy Nadel, John Peyton



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CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

Designed by Seth Johnson
www.thedesignfish.com

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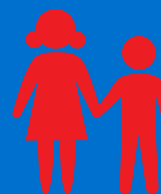
55 Greens Farms Rd., Suite 200-6
Westport, CT 06880
PH 203-557-5548
FX 866-881-1041
www.ctchildadvocates.org

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



2,600

This year CAC volunteer advocates contributed over 2,600 hours of advocacy on behalf of their children



100

This year CAC volunteers advocated in court nearly 100 times for the best interests of their children

Dear Friend,

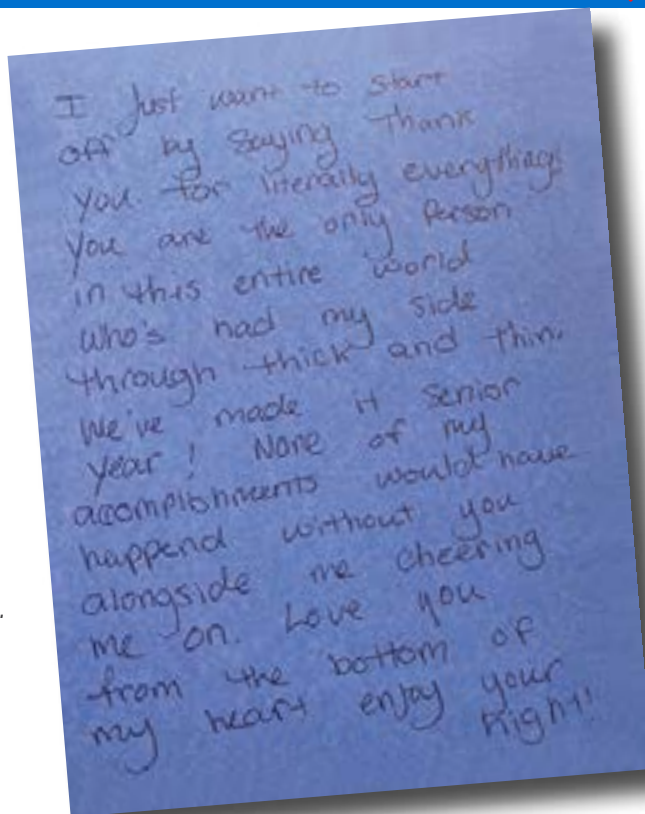
In 2020 everything changed – we stayed home, it became more difficult to see children, courts closed, visitations ended. But CAC continued to put children first.

Our incredible volunteers found creative ways to “see” our children. We dropped off a favorite food, remotely read bedtime stories, tutored, delivered school computers and materials, spoke to teachers and therapists. We did lots of FaceTime and we called, called, called. As courts have begun to re-open, we continue to submit written reports, and advocate to judges in virtual hearings for our children’s best interests. We’re committed to serving children with heart and dedication.

Sincerely,

Michael Friedland
Board President

Stacey Sobel, Esq.
Executive Director



Birthday card written by 17-year-old foster youth to his CAC volunteer advocate

“It’s going to take more than a global pandemic to keep me from supporting and advocating for my child. He needs us now more than ever.”

- CAC Volunteer Advocate

Thanks to YOU in 2020 **a CAC Volunteer:**

- **Worked with a youth for five years to overcome tremendous obstacles.** The youth has lived in eight foster homes, three group homes, slept on couches of too many friends to count, three shelters and has been homeless and on the streets several times. The youth is now 18 and is working full time and plans to go back to school to earn her GED in January. The CAC volunteer helped the youth with an application to rent her first apartment. The youth cried tears of joy when she was approved for her own apartment.
- **Advocated tirelessly to ensure a child’s significant educational deficits were being addressed** through appropriate interventions and services. Ultimately, with the help of a reading specialist, the child was able to return to her grade level.
- **Ensured that three siblings, placed in three different foster homes, had consistent visits** with each other, even though now they live several towns away.
- **Was the only familiar face** a ten-year-old girl saw when she was abruptly placed in a psychiatric hospital for a week.
- **Kept a close connection alive to a former foster family** after the child moved to a new foster home. The child had a strong connection with his previous foster family and now spends time with them on the weekends.
- **Convinced a therapist to continue working with a child** after the therapist went into private practice. The ongoing therapeutic relationship has blossomed and the therapist continues to see the child.
- **Negotiated with a utility company to keep the electricity on** for an older youth who was living by herself for her first time and needed help understanding how to pay her bills on time.

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

National IMPACT



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

Our Donors July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020

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



\$30,000+

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The Winston Foundation

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Cindy and Alan Zuckerbrod

“ I began working with a bright, resilient young girl five years ago. She had already been in two foster homes, had been assigned numerous social workers and had a very unstable relationship with her biological family. Today that young girl is 18 years old, has graduated from high school, and is moving on to the next stage of her life. As an advocate I have been a constant support and she is secure in knowing that I will always be there for her, and that she will always be a part of my life. ”

- Lauri, CAC Volunteer Advocate

\$250-\$499

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Mari and James Flicker
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Rhoda and James Gladstone
Heather Kirkpatrick
Martha and Arthur Mintzer
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Up to \$249

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Kappa Alpha Theta Chapter
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One Simple Wish
Together We Rise



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

“ This organization is truly a jewel that has helped hundreds of kids. ”

Joette Katz, Esq., Former Commissioner of the
Connecticut Department of Children and Families



“ 10-year-old Ari and 9-year-old Jayson have moved six times, attended five schools, and had multiple DCF workers and therapists. Both children struggle with anger and building relationships. Having been their volunteer advocate for the past five years, Ari and Jayson know I’ll always show up for school conferences, birthday celebrations, and to pack up their belongings for another move. On some days, I know I can speak up for the children by campaigning for academic resources or pressing for a permanent home. On other days they simply need me to sit with them in the school office after an emotional breakdown, or quietly make a photo album together, as we build a trusting relationship and I witness and encourage their growth. ”

-Mary-Jane, CAC Volunteer Advocate

Our Volunteers

Nancy Anderson
Wendy Baker
Jeannie Ballentine
Susan Ballou
Bruce Berger
Millie Bezanson
Marcella Bianco
Kathryn Biehl
April Book
Eilene Brostoff
Lindy Camel
Lisa Cannon
Tanya Clemons
Lynda Crowell
Catherine Davis
Lindsay DelCampo
Trish DePhillips
Junko Donovan
Amanda Doyle
Ronni Eisenberg
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Hank Green
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Laura Heneghan
Rachel Horan
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Angela Lodge
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Lucia Maxwell
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Wendy Melnick
Arthur Mintzer
Laura More
Suzan Murphy
Bob Nalewajek
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Charmaine Panikar
Megan Pryor
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Maureen Roach
Nancy Roberts
Constanze Scheidl
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Patricia Squires
Jodie Stanley
Donna Steinberg
Ricki Stern
Ruthie Strother
Michelle Titlebaum
Jody Truwit
Sheri Warshaw
Kelleen Weldon
Andi Wolf
Gail Wolff
Mary-Jane Wood
Lauren Zirn
Cindy Zuckerbrod



Volunteer Training Class Sworn in by Judge Lisa Wexler

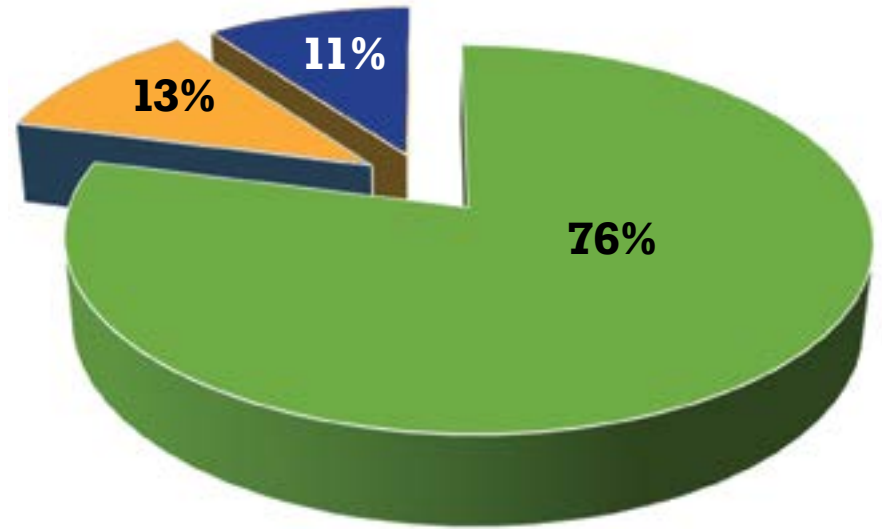
For a child in foster care, this doesn't look like a trash bag, it looks like moving day.



Credit: National CASA/GAL

Financial Report

Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2020



Expense Total - **\$373,138**

- Fundraising **11%** - **\$42,885**
- Management & General **13%** - **\$47,346**
- Program Services **76%** - **\$283,907**

Revenue Total - **\$273,174**

Special Events Net	\$16,800	
Grants	\$125,101	
Individual, Business Contributions	\$89,745	
State of CT Contract Income	\$41,528	
Interest & Misc	\$93	

www.ctchildadvocates.org