



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. ”

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



CAC Staff, left to right, Jackie Grundel, 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

Front row: Kate Osman, Terri Knight, Elaine Harris, Kathrine Stein
Back row: Bradley Purcell, Nancy Rebold, Scott Hazard, Jonathan Liebergall, John Peyton
Not included in photo: Michael Friedland



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

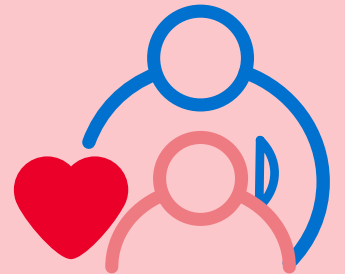
Elaine Harris
President
Scott Hazard
Treasurer
Nancy Rebold
Secretary
Michael Friedland
Terri Knight
Jonathan Liebergall
Kate Osman
John Peyton
Bradley Purcell
Kathrine Stein, Esq.

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Paule Couture, MD
Honorable Gerald Fox III
Georgiana Platt
John Shaban

STAFF

Stacey G. Sobel, Esq.
Executive Director
Jackie Grundel, Esq.
Program Director
Kate Martin, Esq.
Program Director
Becky LeGette
Program Manager



Designed by Seth Johnson
www.thedesignfish.com



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

“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.

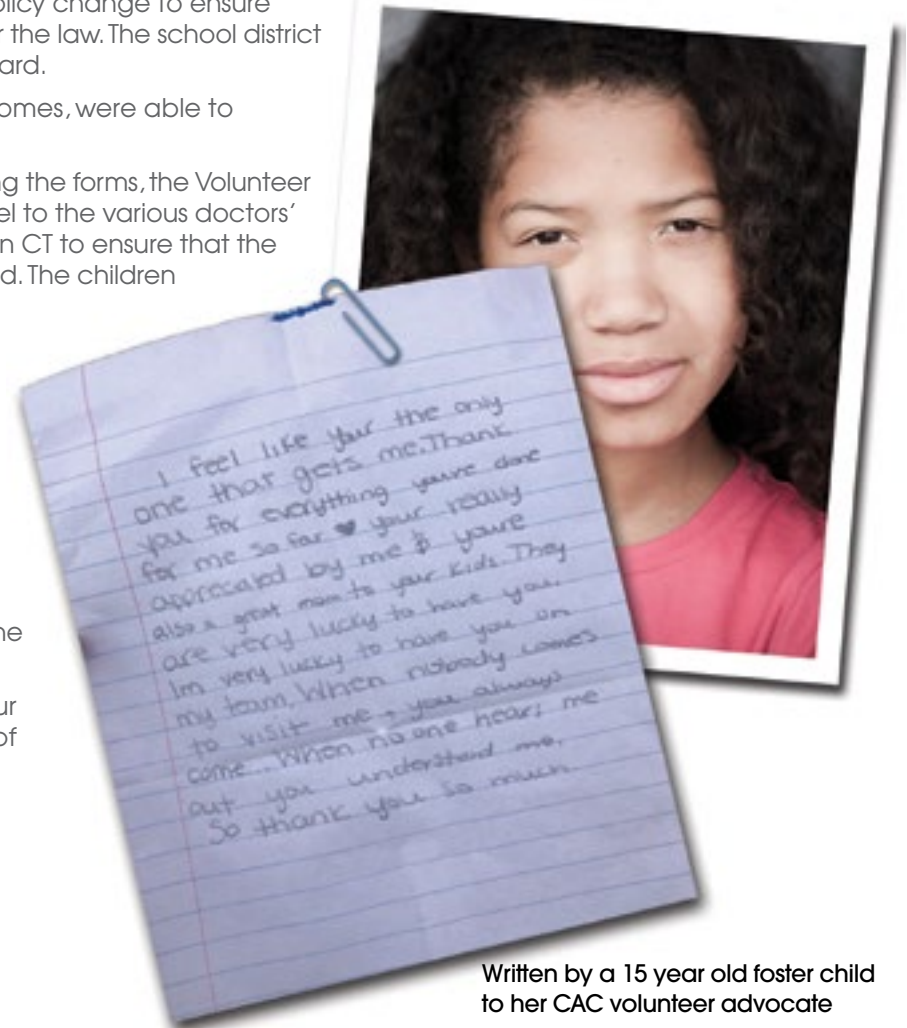
Assisted a middle schooler in completing his application for a private high school that will better meet his specialized needs. Ultimately, he was accepted to the school and the volunteer helped secure scholarships and donations to pay for the school's tuition.

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.



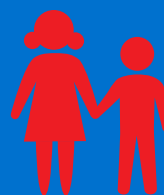
Sincerely,
Elaine Harris
President,
Board of Directors
Stacey Sobel, Esq.
Executive Director



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

**3,500**

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

**200**

This year CAC volunteers advocated in court over 200 times for the best interests of their children

Our Donors

July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017

\$50,000+

Cindy and Evan Goldberg

\$25,000+

Crane Fund for Widows and Children
Bernard and Patricia Goldstein Family Foundation

\$15,000-\$24,999

William T Morris Foundation

\$10,000-\$14,999

Ioanna Donohue
Elaine and Charles Harris
Rick Kleeman
Anne and Jon Liebergall
Near and Far Aid
New Canaan Community Foundation
Kate and Bart Osman
Allison and John Peyton
Jane and Brad Purcell
Nancy and Matt Rebold
The Winston Foundation

\$2,000-\$9,999

Bankwell Financial Group, Inc.
Collin Comey Guardian Angel Fund
Michelle and Christopher DeLong
Susan and Robert Feitler
Jennifer and Brad Gerla
Lucy and Scott Hazard
HealthCor Foundation Trust
HomeServe USA Corp
Terri and Kevin Knight
Patricia and Paul Kuehner
Erin and Bob Noonan
Georgiana and Ira Platt
Sherry Ramsay
The Shack Sackler Family
Kathrine Stein
Jody Truwit
Westport Woman's Club

\$1,000-\$1,999

Susan and Jon Beyman
Lorin and Mark Blitzer

Eilene and Jonathan Brostoff
ClearBridge Investments
Devan Auto Group
Jeffrey Elliott
The Exchange Club of New Canaan Foundation
Allison and Jack Feuer
Arlyn and Edward Gardner
Shelley Goldsmith
Moira Hints
Marie-France and Renee Kern
Evelyn and David Lynch
Jennifer Millones
Kristen O'Connor
Harley Osman
Lindsay Purcell
Erika Hoke and Stephen Sander
Rich Sobel
Amy Starobin and Eric Kamisher
Michelle and David Titebaum
Andi Wolf

\$500-\$999

Lindy Camel
Andrea and Nicholas Chermayeff
Sarah Christensen
Christine DiModica O'Halloran
Kirsten Dzialga
Nancy N. Feldman
Joan and Bob Fields
Edythe Gladstein
Alexandra Gladstone
Carol Glassmeyer
Susan and Adam Harris
Kristy Harteveldt
Nicole Heath
Mary Jeffery
Mary Johnston
Alysa and Jim Kabakow
Joanne and Shelly Kahan
Betsey Keely
David and Liz Martin
Patti and Alan Masarek
Elizabeth and Michael Mayers
Catherine and John McNear
Jodie Mysel
Mara and Dan O'Brien
Laura Parker
Tracey and Al Peura

Nancy Risan
Carrie and Richard Silverstein
Anne-lie Sparks
Karen Speller
Pam Stone
Lisa and David Tuttle
Lizzy Walsh
Carlotta Willkie
Mary-Jane Wood

\$250-\$499

Anonymous
Barbara Arenz
Mara and David Arzi
Pam and Mark Beaudoin
Amy Benedict
Deborah Bernstein
Laura Casellas
Connie Casey
Michele Cavoli
Christine J. Chao and James O. Shaver
Claudia Cohen
Gail and Eric Cohen
Miriamne DeMarrais and Mariana Servin
Julie DesChamps
Marie and Patrick Dolan
Christy Duggan
Jessie Elsas
Susan Fahey
Bill Fieber
Laura Fishman
Mari and James Flicker
Ilene and Alan Frost
Susan and Steve Gersh
Rachelle Glick
Amy and Gary Goldberg
Jennifer and Steven Goldstein
Antoinette Griffith
Nora Grose
Nelson and Lou Heumann
Elisa Hirschberg
Chrissey Hunt
Claire Hurley Hertan
Sue and Robert Jacobs
Libby Schreiber and Andrew Kaplan
Marjorie and Rich Kaplowitz
Amy and Neil Katz

Jennifer Kennedy
Annie Lodge
Laura Maged
Mary Malone
Lexy Mayers and David Lesser
Wendy and Andrew Melnick
Laura More
Sharon Morris
Allison Moses
Stephanie O'Malley
Rhonda Payne
Laurie and Jeff Platte
Jane and David Preiser
Dana and Gregory Rogers
Jeanne Savitt
Susan and Doug Shankman
Kristen Shapiro
Carrie Silverstein
Meryl Silver
Karen and Robert Sobel
Donna Steinberg
Susan and Warren Stern
Justine Stewart
Maureen and Bob Tartaglia
Gina Vivenzio
Allison and Michael Walmark
Jen Weil
Seth and Gayle Weinstein
Christy Whittlemore
Jennifer Zonis
Cindy Zuckerbrod

Up to \$249

Jen Aaron
Julie Abelson
Stephen Agnew
Stephanie Ahl
Nancy Alchek
Tammy Allen
Alejandra Amalfitano
Nancy Anderson
Michael Anderson
Anonymous
Michelle Apkon
Adele and Albert Aquila
Paula and Mark Argosh
Maureen and Dan Aron
Kathy Arrix
Maureen and William Auer
Kate and Jeff Babushkin

Michael Backus
Leslie and Buck Balkind
Jeannie Ballentine
Marjorie Golden and Russell Baris
Carolyn Barlow
Jason Barnes
Rena and Danny Barsanti
Stacy Bass
Karen Becker
Eric Beihl
Marci Gordon and Rick Beispel
Liz Benedict
Donna and Norman Beretta
Nancy Better
Kathryn Biehl
Candace Blackwood
Craig Blake
Jennifer and Eric Blankfein
Isobel Bonar
Serena Bowman
Helen Boyian
Jessica Bram
Kristin Burbank
Hannah Burge
Lynn Burke
Lauren Burkhardt
Brian Butler
Nina and Michael Cahill
Kara Callahan
Nancy Cambareri
Lori Capace
Corradina Carpano
Lisa Casaliggi
Jessica Casper
Choice Water
Stephen Chung
Kelsey Ciccarella
Luisa Cobb
Cathy and Robert Colgan
Jenny Collins
Lyndsay Coppola
Chris Coretti
Jill Coyle
Julie Coyne
Laura Crimmins
Jeanne Critzman
Lee Crystal
Melissa Cutler
Christopher D'Arrigo

Lisa Dale
Pamela Dale
Karen Daugherty
Catherine and Elwood Davis
Andrea Davitt
Michael DeCarlo
Derek Dicso
Rob DiPietro
Evan Doblin
Kristina Domurad
Elizabeth Dornblaser
Efrim Dragovic
Debra Dulsky
Kristin Edwards
Robin Eisenman
Bill Eller
Ninette Enrique
Mike Fahey
Bryan Farrell
Claire Fennessey
Meredith Feurtado
Jill and Richard Fitzburg
Steven Flaig
Barbara A. Long and Donald E. Foley
Beth and Bjorn Forfang
Georgina E. Franco
Janet Freedman
Julie and David Genovese
Rorie Gerschwer
Shieva Ghofrany
Rhoda and James Gladstone
Hilary Glassman
Debra Wise Goldberg
Danielle Goldstein
Marci Gordon and Rick Beispel
Brianna Govoni
William Graham
Joan Gray
Diane and Henry Green
Elizabeth Greenbaum
Rene Greenlee
Heather Grisgraber
Amy and Michael Gross
Tracy Grossman
Ellen Gurman
Noelle Hallahan
Jill and David Halper
Barbara Hanson
Donna Heller

“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



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 Hilinski
Mary and Daniel Hoffman
Lori Holtz
Melanie Howat
Shannon Iafellece
Christine Jaskiewicz
Tahir Javed
Bryanna Kallman
Amy B. Katz
Mike Kieley
Andrea Kline

Deb Koenig
Alexandra Konspore
Kurt Korinko
Shari Korn
Jennifer Krane
Kari Krumpelbeck
Karen Krupnik
Sally Kruteck
Pagna Ky
Deborah and Jon LaBerge
Elliott Landon
Amy Lee
Laura Leeds

Holden LeGette
Myriam 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 Mally
Kathy Manto
Sarah Marchesi
Catherine Marcus
John Marmanides
Jeannette Marrero
Michelle Martinez
AnnMarie and Matt Massie
Catie Matheny
Anna and Walter Mattera
Michelle Mauboussin
Patricia McCormick
Lindsay McGuckin
Barbie McKelvey
Kate McKenzie and
Craig Crews
Amy McNamara
Lynn Meaney
Myles Meehan
Janet Mendell
Robert Meston
Hillary Miller
Katalin Mitchell
Janet and Denis Mittleman
Angela Mosconi
Linda Moslow
Diana and David Muller
Robert Murphy
Brian J Nell
Meg Noah
Elizabeth Nusca
Annamarie Oddo
Linda Ogden

Judy H. Onthank
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
Rosa Ramirez
Joshua Rauh
Michael Rauscher
Ronna Reich-Schwartz
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 Sakellis
Diane Sammons
Jennifer Samuel
Graeme Sandford
Dale Sandilands
Philip Sandler
Christina Ann Sanzo
Cindy and Zane Saul
Candice Savin
Ruth Schreiber
Betsey Selkowitz
Helen Seplowitz
Lisa Shanahan
Carla and Ed Sheehan
Ashley Shiwarski
Daniel Signor
Arvind Singh
Jeffrey Siskind
Tanya Smith

John P. Smith
Annmarie Smith
Esmee Snyder
Stacey Sobel
Patricia Squires
Marguerite Stadler
Ricki Stern
Nadja Streiter
Christa Struk
Susie Swirbul
Debbie and Peter Sydney
Michael Szarpa
Eve Taben
Kathryn Tabner
Lynne and Rick Taikowski
Katherine Tarrant
Nancy Tartaglia
Michael Tchir
Andrew Topkins
Sonia Torcello
Michael Twardowski
Michael Van Schaick
Ann Vance
Chris Varian
Aditi Verma
Tara Vessels
Dawn Viana
Nathalie Vibien
Amanda Victor
Vicki Volper
Nancy von Euler
Ann Von Stade
Russell Wagner
Cathy Wappler
Sheri Warshaw
Hollie Dora Watman and
Robert Futterman
Stephanie Watson-Branch
Amy and Michael Watt
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 Zalfini
Lauren Zinzi
Lauren and Jon Zirn

Gifts in Kind

Kathy Arrix
Austin-Rolfe Salon
Baywater Properties
Beautycounter
John Berman
Beviam of Napa Valley - Honig
Winery & Shibumi Knoll Winery
Blue Ribbon Restaurants
Senator Richard Blumenthal
Camilla Dietz Bergeron, Ltd
Sarah Christensen - Happy
Fit Food
Corroon
Four Forks
Gansevoort Park NYC
Jennifer Gerla
Green & Tonic
Greenwich Orchids
Late Night with Seth Meyers
LERA Jewels by Ronit Tarshis
Jesup Hall
JL Rocks
Julia Marchesi
kpeArts by Kristin Edwards
McArdle's Florist and
Garden Center
Milford Photo
New Beauty Wellness
Orthopaedic Foundation
Richards of Greenwich,
Mitchells of Westport
Patricia Russo and the
Women's Campaign School
at Yale University
Tulah Jem by Sally
Kruteck-Siegel
XV Beacon Hotel

thank
you

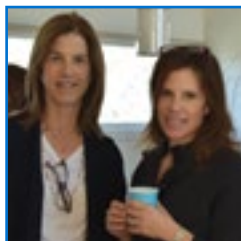
“I tried to open her eyes to a wider world of possibilities, helped her set realistic goals, and made sure that she was able to consistently call on me no matter the challenge.”

- Janet, CAC Volunteer Advocate

OUR VOLUNTEERS

Georgia Adams
Kim Ambrose
Susan Amlung
Nancy Anderson
Adele Aquila
Mara Arzi
Wendy Baker
Jeannie Ballentine
Diane Barston
Marcella Bianco
Kathy Biehl
Lesley Bowman
Eilene Brostoff
Lindy Camel
Lisa Cannon
Julie Chandler
Gail Cohen
Rosemary Contreras
Michele Corrow
Catherine Davis
Trish DePhillips
Nicole Dodge
Ronni Eisenberg
Allison Feuer
Mari Flicker
Lisa Friedland
Amy Goldberg
Pam Graber
Hank Green
Ellen Gross
Carissa Gulyas
Adele Handlers
Judy Hart
Lucy Hazard
Tina Healey
Laura Heneghan
Rachel Horan
Irene Judge
Elliott Landon
Lauri Levitt
Anne Liebergall

Annie Lodge
Evie Lynch
Kate Madigan
Barbie McKelvey
Wendy Melnick
Laura More
Steven Mueller
Bob Nalewajek
Bob Noonan
Kate Osman
Pouli Otton
Allison Peyton
Nancy Rebold
Nancy Roberts
Janet Rubel
Lisa Shanahan
Patti Spindel
Patricia Squires
Patti Stack
Jodie Stanley
Kathrine Stein
Donna Steinberg
Susan Stern
Ricki Stern
Ruthie Strother
Lenore Sturm
Susie Swirbul
Kathy Thompson
Michelle Titlebaum
Jody Truitt
Julie Walsh
Sheri Warshaw
Joan Weinstein
Kelly Weldon
Sharon Wessan
Elizabeth West
Andi Wolf
Gail Wolff
Mary-Jane Wood
Lauren Zirn
Cindy Zuckerbrod



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



New CAC Volunteer Training Class

“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

Celebrate & Support



Vincent Espino, Ashleigh Banfield, Chris Andujar, Brina Rodriguez



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 Eilene Brostoff and Community Leaders Cindy and Evan Goldberg.



Honorees
Evan and Cindy Goldberg



Event Co-Chairs
Kathrine Stein, Jody Truitt and Kate Osman

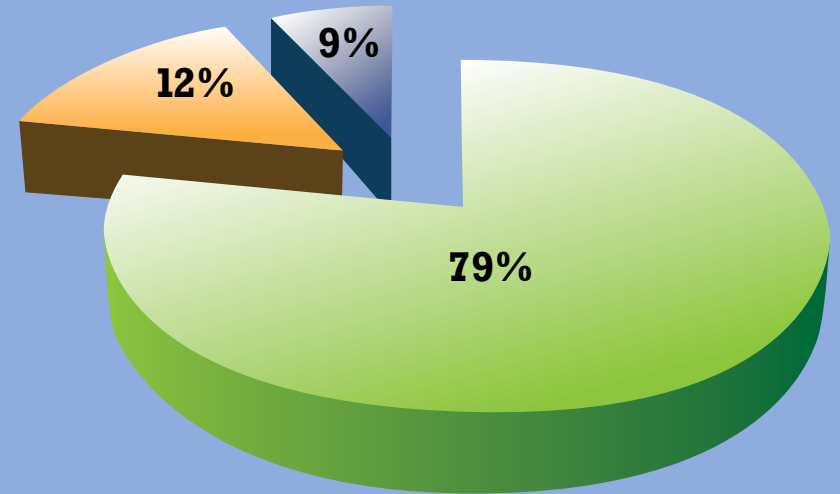


Honoree Eilene Brostoff and
Past Honoree Sheri Warshaw



Financial Report

Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2017



Expense Total - \$330,723

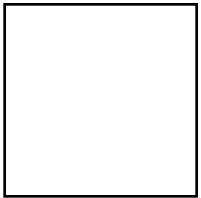
- Fundraising 9% - \$31,819
- Management & General 12% - \$38,171
- Program Services 79% - \$260,733

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



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

Thank you 