

**Will you be
there for me?**

Thanks to you, I have come so far.

Savanna assumed the role of a parent at a very early age. Her mother — consumed by her addiction to alcohol and drugs — was seldom home to take care of Savanna and her four siblings.



When Savanna was 12 years old, the five children were taken into foster care and placed in different homes.

"I worried a lot about my brothers and sisters. I wasn't waking them up in the morning, wasn't tucking them in at night."

Savanna not only struggled with losing daily contact with her siblings — for whom she felt responsible — she still longed for her mother to return to them.

"I had a lot of hope in the beginning that my mother would change. I thought, maybe she'll stay clean, maybe she'll come visit us. It was hard for me to give up on her, to give up on that hope, and move on with my life."

Through treatment in two residential treatment facilities, what helped Savanna was the steady support of her CASA volunteer. Finally, Savanna was able to let go of her disappointment in her mother and move forward with her own life.

"Having someone there consistently for the last five years, telling me that everything was going to be OK, someone who was not going to give up on me like my mother had, made all the difference in my life."

Savanna is now a senior in high school, working toward her high school diploma. She recently participated in a Job Corps program, the first step toward pursuing her dream of becoming a police officer.

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

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



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

National CASA 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

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

Dear Friend,

When a child's future hangs in the balance, we are there.

We are ordinary people, trained volunteers, who step up to assist judges and serve vulnerable children as court appointed special advocates (CASAs).

Whatever their age, children who suffer abuse or neglect face a frightening unknown. We make sure they do not face it alone.

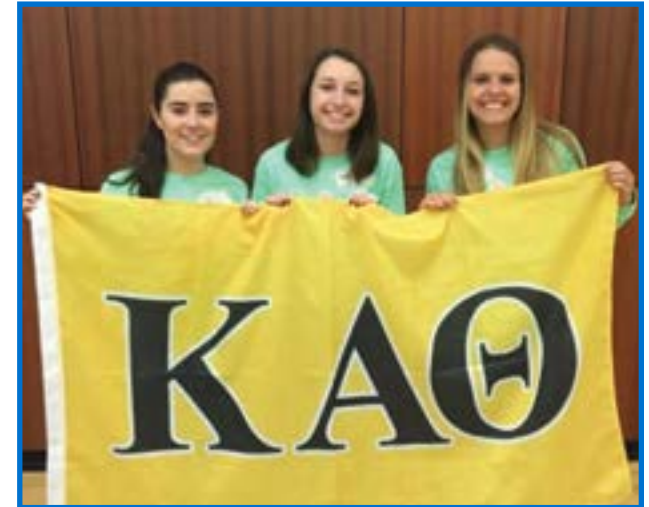
We stand by them. We are there whenever they need us, for as long as it takes to find a safe, permanent home. We are a consistent presence caring, listening and putting a child's best interests before all others. We help them heal and thrive.

We 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, we can do more. CAC is the first CASA program in Connecticut. CAC is working to expand and bring the CASA program to more children. With permission from the Judicial Branch and your support, we are ready and able to serve many more children in our community.

Thanks to YOU in 2018 a CAC Volunteer Advocate:

- Advocated tirelessly to ensure a child's significant educational deficits were being addressed through appropriate interventions and services
- Visited regularly and accompanied a lonely and suicidal 15-year-old to family night dinner at state psychiatric hospital
- Secured financial assistance to the YMCA so that a little girl could attend the gymnastics class that her guardian could not afford
- Helped prepare a 17-year-old to take her driver's permit test (twice)
- Ensured that a 4-year-old boy had consistent visits with his older brother who was placed in a separate foster home, several towns away
- Spoke daily with a child who was nervous about starting a new school
- Was the only familiar face seen by a 9-year-old child on the day that she had to abruptly move from one foster home to another
- Helped a 16-year-old girl draft her resume, complete a job application, and prepare for her first job interview
- Received a phone call from a former foster child who told her that he loved her and thanked her for always being there for him



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



Sincerely,

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

Thank you!

Members of Kappa Alpha Theta Sorority at Sacred Heart University donated dozens of books and created cuddly blankets and uplifting cards with messages of love and caring for CASAs to share with their children.



3,600

3,600

This year CAC volunteer advocates contributed over 3,600 hours of advocacy on behalf of their children



200

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

Our Donors

July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018

\$25,000 - \$100,000

Crane Fund for Widows and Children
Cindy and Evan Goldberg
The Winston Foundation

\$15,000 - \$24,999

Ioanna Donohue
Bernard and Patricia Goldstein Family Foundation
William T Morris Foundation

\$10,000 - \$14,999

Elaine and Charles Harris
Ali and Brian Kreiter
Near and Far Aid
Kate and Bart Osman
Allison and John Peyton
Jane and Brad Purcell
Nancy and Matt Rebold
Kathrine and Eric Stein

\$2,000 - \$9,999

The Bank Street Group LLC
April Book
Irwin Cohen
Collin Comey Guardian Angel Fund
Patrice and James Comey
Jennifer Crowell
Jill A. Dyal
Cheryl and Blair Effron
The Exchange Club of New Canaan Foundation
Lucy and Scott Hazard
HealthCor Foundation Trust
Rick Kleeman
Patricia and Paul Kuehner
Lauri Levitt and Michael Friedland
Anne and Jon Liebergall
New Canaan Community Foundation
Claire and Eddy Orenstein
The Shack Sackler Family
Lisa Stuart

Jody Truwit
Westport Sunrise Rotary 21st Century Foundation, Inc.
Westport Woman's Club
Cindy and Alan Zuckerbrod

\$1,000 - \$1,999

Advocate Capital, Inc.
Lucy Antrim
Kathy Arrix
Jamie Camche
Lindy and Mark Camel
ClearBridge Investments
Catherine and Elwood Davis
Jeffrey Elliott
Bill Fieber
Arlyn and Edward Gardner
Carol Glassmeyer
Heidi Hammer
Kristy and Robert Hartevelde
Erika Hoke and Stephen Sander
Mary Johnston
Barbara J Joseph
Terri and Kevin Knight
Patti and Alan Masarek
Catherine and John McNear
Suzan Murphy
Paul Muzzey
Harley Osman
Georgiana and Ira Platt
Sherry Ramsay
Susan Saunders
Carrie and Richard Silverstein
Pam Stone

\$500 - \$999

Sonia Alcantarilla
Kate Andrews
Juliet Bakker
Leslie and Buck Balkind
Baskets from Heaven
Barclay Bowen
Lynne Byrne
Dr. Tanya Clemons and Dr. Michael Hopkins
Claudia Cohen

Andrea Cross
Nina Dobbs and Doug Michelman
Bonnie Dudley
Nancy N. Feldman
Allison and Jack Feuer
Keryn and Bruce Geller
Julie and David Genovese
Jennifer and Brad Gerla
Edythe Gladstein
Antoinette Griffith
Jennifer Hyde
Sue and Robert Jacobs
Mary Jeffery
Alysa and Jim Kabakow
Jackie Keeshan
Sara and Jim Kempner
Amy and Josh Kuriloff
Ellen Lautenberg and Doug Hende
Evelyn and David Lynch
Martha and Arthur Mintzer
Laura More
Courtney O'Connor
Tracey and Al Peura
Rachel Rand
Jordan Rhodes
Dana and Gregory Rogers
Jeanne Savitt
Diane and Peter Schmidt-Fellner
Libby Schreiber and Andrew Kaplan
Tara Slone and Wayne Goldstein
Karen and Robert Sobel
Alexandra Stevens
Jean Strom
Ariel Sullivan
Laura Sullivan
Lauren Swenson
Kathryn Tabner
Lisa and David Tuttle
Jill Weiss
Kathleen and Laurence Whittemore

Carlotta Willkie
Andi Wolf
Mary-Jane Wood
Tammy and Richard Zelkowitz

\$250 - \$499

Stephanie Ahl
Paula and Mark Argosh
Lois Backon
Kate Baruch
Totney Benson
Blair Bijou
Eilene and Jonathan Brostoff
Linda and Iain Bruce
Michelle Callaghan
Lauren Capen
Sara and Jim Casellas
Michele Cavoli
Gail and Eric Cohen
Cathy and Robert Colgan
Lindsey Collin
Eleanor Davidson
Erica Davis
Kristen Davis
Nia and Gus Demopoulos
Trish DePhillips
Marie and Patrick Dolan
Jessie Elsas
Dick Ferguson
Meredith Feurtado
Lisa and Ed Friedland
Emily Garrett
Kay Garrett
Julia Genser
Alexandra Gladstone
Penelope Glassmeyer
Amy and Gary Goldberg
Shelley Goldsmith
Danielle Goldstein
Jennifer and Steven Goldstein
Elizabeth and Marc Greenberg
Nora Grose
Karen Hamilton
Kathleen Hay
Randi Henry
Mary and Daniel Jay Hoffman

Robert Hornung
Claire Hurley
Jill Isaacs
Priscilla Kandasamy
Lauren Kaplan
Amy and Neil Katz
Betsey Keely
Juliette Kleiman
Candace and Justin Kronholm
Nanette Laffan
Susan and Doug MacFaddin
Megan Malone
Catherine Marcus
Howard Margolis
Julia Massengill
Elizabeth and Michael Mayers
Katherine McGrath
Allison Moses
Melissa Nisenon
Kristine Packard
Nancy and James Pavlekovsky
Laurie and Jeff Platte
Amy Rebbechi
Jenny Robson
Patty Sacks
Janet Samuels
Ani Sandoval
Meghan Shain
Kristen Shapiro
Sharon Sharma-Patel
Anne-lie Sparks
Ossie and Douglas Spector
Donna Steinberg
Nancy Stephens
Susan and Warren Stern
Julia Swan
Synchrony Financial
Linda Murphy Tavliaris
Andrew Topkins
Tami Veikos
Laura Wack
Suzanne Zarrilli
The Zirn Family
Ruth Zuckerbrod

Up to \$249

Nancy Alchek
Ileana Alecu
Tammy Allen
Karen Amaru
AmazonSmile Foundation
Nancy Anderson
Anonymous
Adele and Albert Aquila
Jeannie Ballentine
Skippy and Alex Banker
Sarah Barringer
Wendy Batteau
Maggie Battista
Sharon and Doug Becker
Kathleen Bembenick
Amy Benedict
Liz Benedict
Donna and Norman Beretta
Nancy Better
Natalie Betteridge
Vani Birnbaum
Jennifer and Eric Blankfein
Cara Blatney
Ellen Bowen
Jessica Bram
Caitlin Brodie
Lindsey Carr
Christine J. Chao and James O. Shaver
Marjorie Cion
Leslie Smith Clark
Jenny Collins
Eva Cooper
Kelly Copeland and Scott Dorf
Sarah Craft
Elizabeth and Andrew Crossfield
Alice and Peter Czuczka
Lisa Dalinka
Joan and Barrie Damson
Karen Daugherty
Meagan Davis
Sarah Dawkins

“The 15-year-old transgender youth I work with has serious mental health diagnoses and has run away from three foster homes, lived on the streets, been hospitalized twice, and placed in a long-term residential facility. Through it all, I know I’ve made a difference when she calls, texts and seeks me out for visits and advice. She knows that I am always available to listen, and am only a phone call away.”

- Rachel, 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

Tracy Grossman
 Kimberlee Halperin
 Leslie and Todd Hammer
 Jamie Handwerker
 Barbara Hanson
 Jacqueline Hayes
 Nicole Heath
 The Hon. Donna Nelson Heller
 and Mr. Norman S. Heller
 Stacey Henske
 Myra Hess
 Pat and Fred Hill
 Fiona Hodgson
 Kerri Ann Hofer
 Suzanne Hogan
 Ellen and David Horing
 Sarah Huber
 Francoise and Richard Jaffe
 Juanita James
 Keely Jordan
 Lauren Jordan
 Bryanna Kallman
 Peggy Kamins
 Laura and Kevin Kane
 Jamie Berger Katz
 Lulu and Topher Kleinbeck
 Andrea Kline
 Deb Koenig
 Courtney Krediet
 Marilyn and Joseph Kreitz
 Karen Krupnik
 Charlotte Lamb
 Rosemary Lamie
 Elliott Landon
 Ashley Lauria
 Salina LeBris
 Barb and Kevin Lederer
 Kelsey Lee
 Marguerite Lee
 Susan and Robert Leffler
 Alison Leigh
 Lauren Lester
 Amy Levantin
 Melissa and Paul Levy
 Barbara Levy-Berliner
 Sarah Lewis
 Susan Loselle
 Lindsay Madden

Laura Maged
 Maura Maher
 Beverly Malone
 Randi Mamelok
 Marlene Marcus Bacher
 Yvonne Marks
 David and Liz Martin
 Eva Martino
 AnnMarie and Matt Massie
 Dana Matheis
 Fran Mauer
 Barbara May
 Anne and Hugh McCrory
 Kate McKenzie and
 Craig Crews
 Dian and Len Mecca
 Wendy and Andrew Melnick
 Adrienne Miller
 Janet and Denis Mittleman
 Julia Mombello
 Meghan and Glen Moore
 Susie and David Moore
 Amanda Morgan
 Robin Morrison
 Heather Mosley[®]
 Diana and David Muller
 Karen Nisenson
 Angela Nolan
 Erin and Bob Noonan
 The Novak Family
 Odyssey Reinsurance Company
 Pam Olson
 Stephanie O’Malley
 Sara Osberg
 Karen and Adam Phillips
 Allie Pontius
 Lynde Pontius
 Amanda Quinton
 Sherri Raifaisen
 Rosa Ramirez
 Ronna Reich-Schwartz
 Pamela Richter-Lenon
 John David Ross
 Amy Rudnick
 Meg Russell
 Candice Savin
 Betsey Selkowitz
 Helen Sepowitz

Lisa Shanahan
 Anne Sharpe
 Carla and Ed Sheehan
 Amanda Sheff
 Stacey Sobel
 Jules Spotts
 Patricia Squires
 Judith Stanley
 Tracey and Howard Steinberg
 Lauren Stephens
 Ricki Stern
 Stanley Stern
 Christie Stewart
 Megan Sullivan
 Stephanie Susnjara
 Alexis Sweet
 Debbie and Peter Sydney
 Eve Taben
 Lynne and Rick Taikowski
 Jane and Ron Tarsy
 Maureen and Bob Tartaglia
 Faith Taylor
 Gloria Tenofsky
 Alexandra Thompson
 Maureen Tracy
 Stephanie Trotta
 Patricia Vezendy
 Dawn Viana
 Lizzy Walsh
 Sheri Warshaw
 Lindsey Weinstein
 The Honorable Lisa Wexler
 Valerie Wilpon
 Amanda Wilson
 Gail and Steve Wolff
 Mugs and Bill Zales

Gifts in Kind

Kappa Alpha Theta Chapter
 at Sacred Heart University
 NetSuite/Oracle
 Nielsen’s Florist



“Over the past five years, Ryan has suffered through eight failed foster homes, ten psychiatric hospitalizations, five institutional placements, DCF case worker turnover, and is currently seeing his 16th therapist. But at each upheaval, Ryan has sought me out. Ryan knows I will consistently show up with a game to play and a listening ear, as I continue to advocate for his best interests.”

- Bob, CAC Volunteer Advocate

OUR VOLUNTEERS

Kim Ambrose
Nancy Anderson
Mara Arzi
Wendy Baker
Jeannie Ballentine
Marcella Bianco
Kathy Biehl
April Book
Eilene Brostoff
Lindy Camel
Lisa Cannon
Tanya Clemons
Lynda Crowell
Catherine Davis
Trish DePhillips
Nicole Dodge
Ronni Eisenberg
Allison Feuer
Mari Flicker
Lisa Friedland
Pam Graber
Hank Green
Carissa Gulyas
Heidi Hammer
Lucy Hazard
Laura Heneghan
Rachel Horan
Claire Hurley
Elliott Landon
Amy Levantin
Lauri Levitt
Sarah Lewis
Anne Liebergall
Annie Lodge
Evie Lynch
Mary Pat Maretz

Barbie McKelvey
Wendy Melnick
Arthur Mintzer
Laura More
Suzan Murphy
Bob Nalewajek
Bob Noonan
Kate Osman
Pouli Otton
Maureen Owens-Tartaglia
Charmaine Panikar
Karina Passos
Nancy Rebold
Maureen Roach
Nancy Roberts
Janet Rubel
Patti Spindel
Patricia Squires
Jodie Stanley
Kathrine Stein
Donna Steinberg
Ricki Stern
Susan Stern
Ruthie Strother
Lenore Sturm
Michelle Tittlebaum
Jody Truwit
Sheri Warshaw
Kelly Weldon
Sharon Wessan
Andi Wolf
Gail Wolff
Mary-Jane Wood
Lauren Zirn
Cindy Zuckerbrod



“The lawyers know the statutes, the social workers the regulations. But the CASA volunteer is assigned to know the child, one child at a time, to understand the boundaries of her life, to telephone her teachers, to consider her hopes and dreams, to try to come to some conclusion about what will be in her best interests. For children whose pasts have been chaotic and whose futures are uncertain, the CASA volunteer may be the most consistent, interested presence in their lives.”

- Anna Quindlen, Author and Columnist



CAC Volunteers at Training Class



In Loving Memory
of our volunteer advocate
Irene Judge who served
children from 2010-2018

Celebrate & Support



The Actor/Activists of The GoodCapp Arts All-Girl Theater Company



Our fifth annual Love Luncheon featured a powerful presentation of “A Day in the Life” stories of human trafficking among foster youth, plus the inspiring words of foster youth Kiana Campbell.

CAC honored Outstanding Volunteers Catherine Davis and Cindy Zuckerbrod.



Honorees Cindy Zuckerbrod and Catherine Davis



Event Co-Chairs: April Book, Kathrine Stein, Jennifer Crosswell, Jody Truwit and Honorary Chair Kate Osman

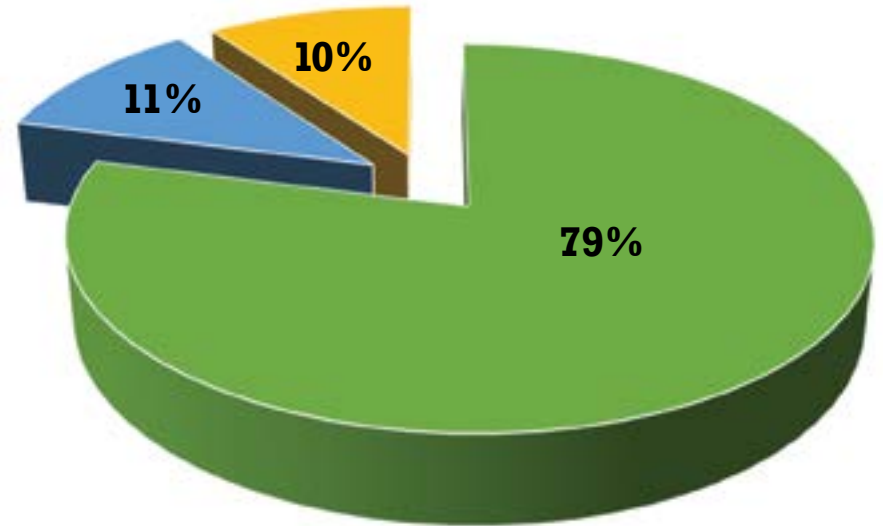


Foster Youth Leaders Kiana Campbell and Jay Write



Financial Report

Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2018

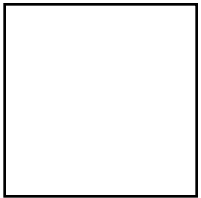


Expense Total - \$353,666

- Fundraising 10% - \$34,212
- Management & General 11% - \$39,909
- Program Services 79% - \$279,545

Revenue Total - \$475,751

Special Events Net	\$190,985
Individual, Business Contributions	\$146,573
Grants	\$96,000
State of CT Contract Income	\$42,084
Interest & Misc	\$109



Thanks to you, **we** will be there for her.

One day an ambulance took her mom away. She didn't come back.

“ My Mom was gone a lot. When she was home, she cried ALL THE TIME. I was always afraid. One day an ambulance took her away. She didn't come back. Some people came. They said I had to go with them. I started moving around a lot. There was always a new face. With all the people around, why was I still so afraid? Then Sue showed up. At first I thought she was just another face. But then she came around a lot. When I had to move again I thought I lost her. But she was already over there to make sure I was good. There are still some hard days, but Sue always has my back. She's been there a while now. I still don't know where I'm gonna end up.

But I haven't been afraid in a long time. ”

Thank you

