



Because every child matters



CHILD
ADVOCATES
of SW Connecticut

| 2014 ANNUAL REPORT



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.



CAC Staff, left to right, Stacey G. Sobel, Esq., Kate Martin, Esq., Becky LeGette and Jackie Grundei, Esq.



CAC Board of Directors with First Lady of CT Cathy Malloy at Love Luncheon 2014, left to right, Nancy Rebold, Bradley Purcell, Kate Freeman, Terri Knight, First Lady Cathy Malloy, Elaine Harris, Scott Hazard, Marie Dolan (past board member), Georgiana Platt. Not pictured: Jonathan Liebergall



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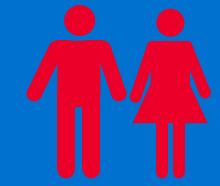
Pro Bono Attorney
Marisa F. Schafer, Esq.,
Schafer & Schafer, LLP

Designed by Seth Johnson
www.thedesignfish.com



2 days

In CT, a child dies before his or her first birthday **every 2 days**



10,000

In CT, over **10,000 children** a year are victims of abuse or neglect

Mark's story

When CAC was first assigned to his case in January 2011, Mark* was a 10 year old boy who had been neglected by his mother and had been sexually abused. He was placed in an out-of-state facility for boys and young men (9-22) with difficult behavioral problems, emotional disturbances, sexual abuse issues, and/or learning disabilities. Once a month, the CAC volunteer appointed to advocate for him would drive two hours each way to visit Mark. Sometimes when she arrived Mark would tell her that he did not want to see her. She would say that was fine and that she would be back next month. At first, Mark was surprised when she would arrive the next month as she had said that she would. Mark eventually realized that no matter what he said or did, he could count on her to be there for him.

After two years at this facility, Mark's highly disruptive behavior was not improving. The decision was made to bring Mark back to Connecticut. He spent time at two different residential facilities in Connecticut. His CAC volunteer continued to visit with him regularly and to work with his therapists, DCF, other professionals, and his family to determine how to best help Mark. She worked hard to maintain open lines of communication among all the providers and family. Slowly but surely, Mark made great strides.

In the meantime, Mark's mother worked very hard to improve herself. She became clean and sober, obtained and maintained a job, and attended parenting classes and family therapy.

This summer, everyone agreed that it was time for Mark to return to his mother's care. Mark's mother was ready and able to parent him with outside support as needed and Mark was healthy and ready to return to the community. When the Judge ordered that Mark's commitment to DCF be revoked, there were tears and hugs in the courtroom. It was a good day for everyone.

*The name has been changed.



Thank You

Dear Friend,

2013-2014 has been an exciting year for Child Advocates of SW Connecticut (CAC)!

CAC has now helped over 176 children and has trained over 100 volunteers. CAC welcomed a new Program Director, continued to expand services into additional Probate Courts, trained new volunteers, attended the National CASA Conference as a member of the National CASA Organization, and honored First Lady of Connecticut Cathy Malloy at CAC's first Love Luncheon which was attended by over 250 supporters.

But most importantly, CAC continues to fulfill our fundamental obligation to make sure that a qualified, compassionate adult will fight for and protect a child's right to be safe, to be treated with dignity and respect, and to learn and grow in the security of a loving family.

Thank you to all our volunteers and supporters who make this possible.

Sincerely,



Elaine Harris
President,
Board of Directors

Stacey Sobel, Esq.
Executive Director



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FX 866-881-1041
www.ctchildadvocates.org

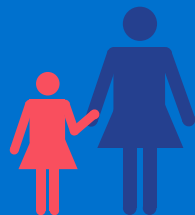
Superior Court for
Juvenile Matters
71 Main Street
Danbury, CT 06810

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



52 seconds

In CT, a child is abused or neglected every **52 seconds**



4,400

In CT, there are over **4,400** children in foster care

Our Donors

July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014

\$25,000+

Crane Fund for Widows and Children
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Melissa Kane

Up to \$249

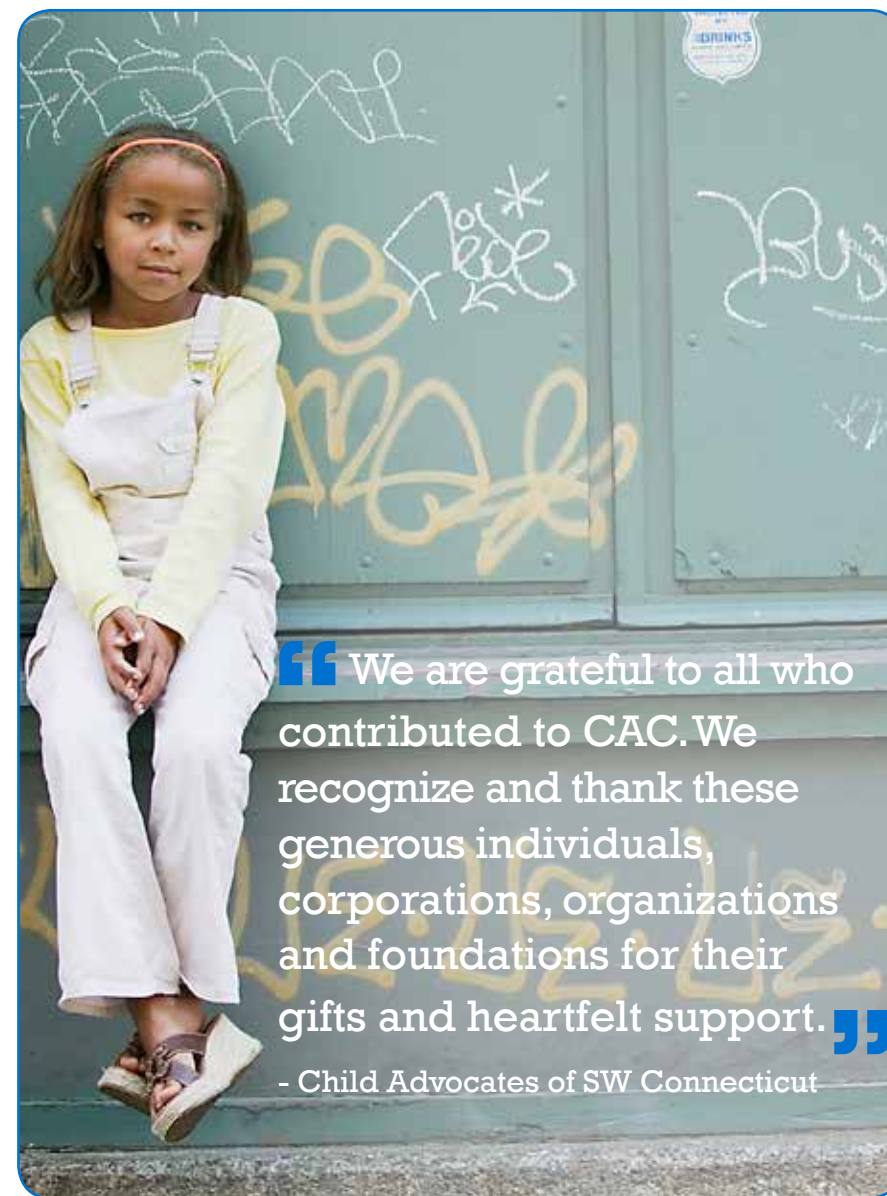
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Cynthia Blumenthal
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Kerri Ann Hofer
Mary and Daniel Jay Hoffman
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Shira Honigstein
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Michael Perry
Lynn and Howard Peyton
Kyla Philbrook
Judy and Al Platt
Helen and Jason Poliner
Rona and Ken Preli
Marie Pronesti

“The most gratifying volunteer experience was securing successful housing and a smile. I had been working for a while with a young lady who didn't smile often ... so being able to make her smile was a big deal.”

- Gail Wolff, CAC Volunteer



“We are grateful to all who contributed to CAC. We recognize and thank these generous individuals, corporations, organizations and foundations for their gifts and heartfelt support.”

- Child Advocates of SW Connecticut

Gifts in Kind

Jennie Reul
Kelly and Glen Reznikoff
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Kate Flicker
Jack Friedman
Christopher Gephart
John Gephart
Maggie Gross
Brogan Heneghan
Kylie Heneghan
Cameron Isaacs
Sydney Kaplan
Alexandra Manoni
Jennifer Martin
Daniel Messulam
Caroline Peyton
Ryan Pohle
Tess Rebold

OUR VOLUNTEERS

VOLUNTEERS

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
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| Adele Aquila | Anne Liebergall |
| Mara Arzi | Richard Liebman |
| Diane Barston | Kate Madigan |
| Marcella Bianco | Barbara Mandell |
| Lesley Bowman | Barbie McKelvey |
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| John Fenton | Susan Stern |
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| Lisa George | Kathy Thompson |
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| Ellen Gross | Joan Weinstein |
| Carissa Gulyas | Charlene Wendell |
| Adele Handlers | Sharon Wessan |
| Judy Hart | Elizabeth West |
| Lucy Hazard | Gail Wolff |
| Tina Healey | Lauren Zirn |
| Laura Heneghan | |



Court Swearing-in of CAC Volunteers



“ I think about the life that she’s had, my heart aches for her. No child should be bounced around. Every child deserves to be loved and have a family. Her strength and her ability to keep going has had such a positive impact on the people around her, which is amazing to me because I don’t think I’d be able to do that ... Providers may change, case workers may change, but hopefully I can be the constant in her life. ”

- Mari Flicker, CAC Volunteer

CAC VOLUNTEER CLASS OF 2014

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

- | | | |
|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| Susan Amlung | Henry Green | Patricia Spindel |
| Kathryn Biehl | Rachel Horan | Kathrine Stein |
| Nicole Dodge | Robert Noonan | Jody Truwit |
| Terry Gould | Kate Osman | Cindy Zuckerbrod |



“ There are an awful lot of children out there that need help, a lot more than I realized. The hardest part of this work is seeing all the children, and they are hurting and it’s not their fault ... ”

- Irene Judge, CAC Volunteer

Celebrate & Support



The
LOVE
Luncheon

Our first Love Luncheon, May 1, 2014, honored First Lady Cathy Malloy, Volunteer Kate Madigan, past Board Member John Peyton and past Volunteer Allison Peyton, Young Leaders Liza Rebold and Jeremy Platt

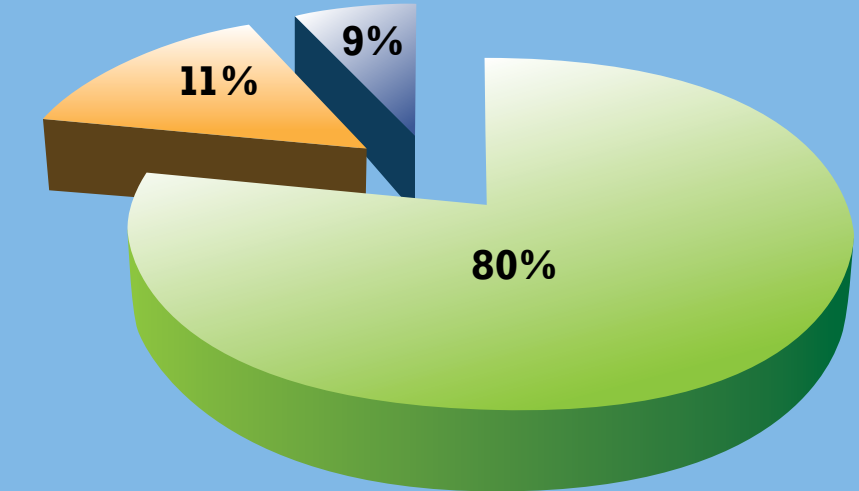


“ I can’t tell you how important the work is that this organization is undertaking... ”

- Governor Dannel Malloy,
May 1, 2014, at CAC Love Luncheon

Financial Report

Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2014



Expense Total - \$291,434

- Fundraising 9% - \$25,171
- Management & General 11% - \$33,365
- Program Services 80% - \$232,898

Revenue Total - \$315,802

| | |
|------------------------------------|----------|
| Individual, Business contributions | \$99,892 |
| Special Events | \$98,272 |
| Grants | \$67,500 |
| State of CT Contract Income | \$50,000 |
| Interest & Misc | \$138 |



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Awareness. Compassion. Care.
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“ To give a child a volunteer advocate is to give them a voice. To give them a voice is to give them hope, and to give them hope is to give them the world. ”

- Pamela, former foster child