



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



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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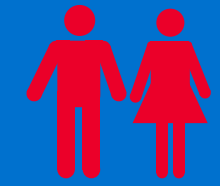
Pro Bono Attorney
Marisa F. Schafer, Esq.,
Schafer & Schafer, LLP

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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Norwalk, CT 06851
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FX 866-881-1041
www.ctchildadvocates.org

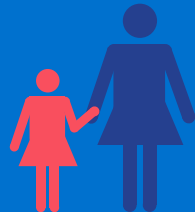
Superior Court for
Juvenile Matters
71 Main Street
Danbury, CT 06810

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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Callie Sullivan
Stacey Tagen
Lina and Ivano Togni
Cynthia van Eck
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Greg and Cathy Young

Up to \$249

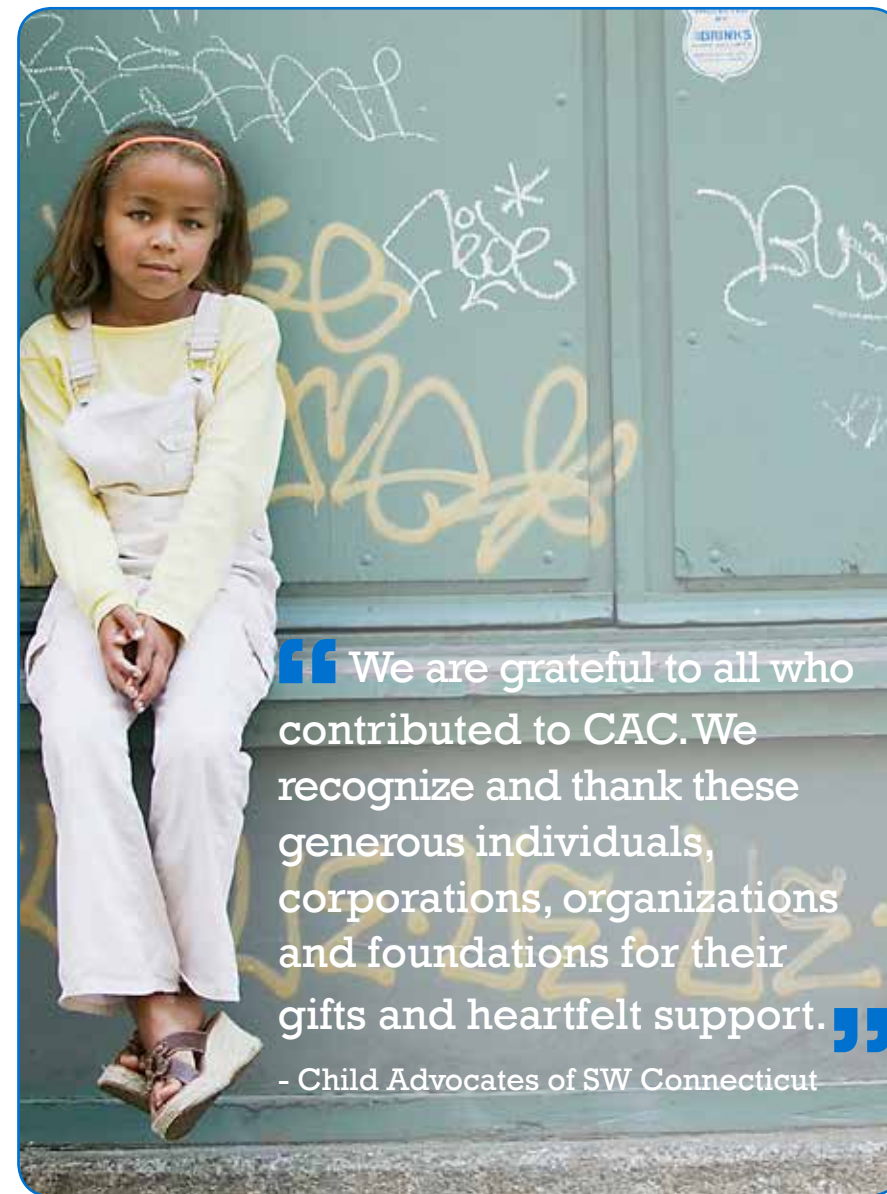
Carol and Richard Anderson
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Anonymous
Anonymous
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David Breindel
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Alva Carter-Hasan

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Isabel and Paul Dunay
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Marin Marcus
David and Liz Martin
Patti Masarek
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Heather and Anthony McNulty
Linda Mettel
Deirdre Moore
Ryan Moran and Joe Feinleib, Coastal Construction Group, LLC
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Lina Morielli
JoAnna Morris
Diana and David Muller
Elizabeth and John Novak
Randi and Doug Olin
Donna Carter and Julian Padowicz
Fran Pastore
Andrea and Bill Pecoriello
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

Jennie Reul
Kelly and Glen Reznikoff
Thomas Roberts
Pam Robey
Diane and Lary Rosenblatt
Jean Rozel
Felicia Rubinstein
Susan Saltzman
Lauren and John Saunders
Mary Schaffer
Ruth Schreiber
Mary and Stuart Schwartzman
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Bernadette Mosellie and Francis Serbaroli
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Lisa Shanahan
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Dana Welles
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Seth Johnson
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Nancy Landauer, PAINT by Nancy Landauer
LeFarm
Le Wine Shop
Susan MacFaddin
Eve Mothner
NetSuite
Christopher Noland, Christopher Noland Salon
Mary Pedersen
Brad Purcell
Tariq Qaddourah, Fast Fitness, LLC
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She la la
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Stacy Bass Photography
Emmy Stocker
The Whelk
W Hotels/Starwood Hotels and Resorts Worldwide, Inc.
Westport Country Playhouse



YOUNG LEADERSHIP COUNCIL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Miles Dominici
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

Georgia Adams	Myra Hess
Kim Ambrose	Susie Johnson
Nancy Anderson	Irene Judge
Adele Aquila	Anne Liebergall
Mara Arzi	Richard Liebman
Diane Barston	Kate Madigan
Marcella Bianco	Barbara Mandell
Lesley Bowman	Barbie McKelvey
DeEtta Breitwieser	Laura More
Eilene Brostoff	Steven Mueller
Lisa Cannon	Bob Nalewajek
Julie Chandler	Miriam Pacheco
Gail Cohen	Allison Peyton
Rosemary Contreras	Nancy Rebold
Patty Cope	Janet Rubel
Michele Corrow	Lisa Shanahan
Catherine Davis	Patti Stack
Trish DePhillips	Jodie Stanley
Barbara Epstein	Ricki Stern
John Fenton	Susan Stern
Mari Flicker	Ruthie Strother
Andrea Friedman	Lenore Sturm
Sue Frosch	Susie Swirbul
Lisa George	Kathy Thompson
Amy Goldberg	Julie Walsh
Pam Graber	Sheri Warshaw
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

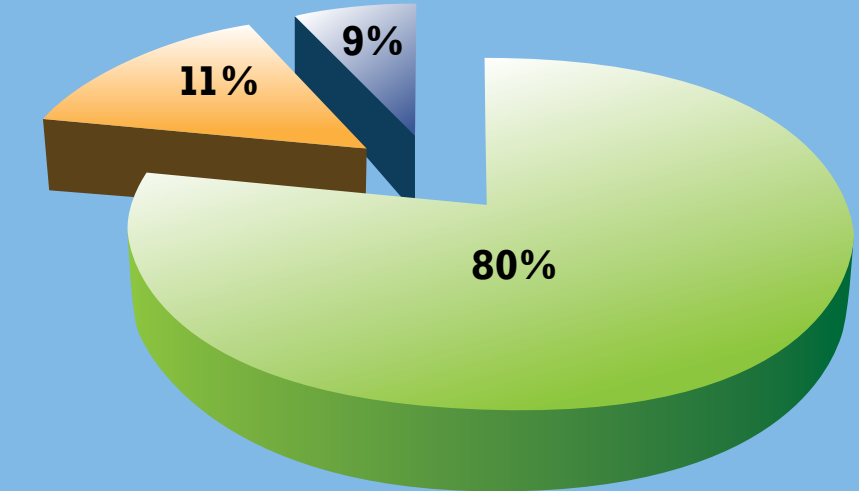


“ I can’t tell you how important the work is that this organization is undertaking... ”

- 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.
Guidance. Enrich. Advocate.
Support. Permanence. Results.
Advise. Protect. Continuity. Child.
Stability. Safety. Hope.



“ 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