

On The Frontlines, Fighting For The Legal Rights Of Connecticut's Most Vulnerable Children



Prince is so excited to celebrate at his preschool Prom! CCA helped Prince get the support he needed in school so that he could finish off preschool in style!

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Center for
Children's Advocacy

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



Children from the Hartford Youth Chorus performing at Spring for Kids 2025

The Center for Children's Advocacy (CCA) is the largest children's legal rights organization in New England. CCA has offices in Hartford, New Haven, and Bridgeport; projects in Waterbury, Hamden, New Britain and Stamford; and satellite offices at Yale New Haven Hospital, Connecticut Children's Medical Center, Yale Child Study Center, and Yale Pediatric Gender Program. CCA provides legal representation, training, and advocacy for system reforms.

Our Mission

To protect and promote the legal rights of Connecticut's most vulnerable children and youth so they have equitable opportunities for good health, a quality education, and a successful transition to adulthood.

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"...I have found that our system works best when children and their rights are zealously represented by talented and committed advocates ...CCA is the prime example of people working to be those trusted adults who help children overcome the obstacles in their path."

Connecticut Supreme Court Chief Justice Raheem L. Mullins,
at CCA's 2025 Black History Month breakfast

Thank You!

Dear Friend:

It was a year like no other and the Center for Children's Advocacy (CCA) has been working harder than ever for vulnerable young people in Connecticut. Our work has always focused on children with the greatest needs, and over the past year, crisis has reached more and more children and families in our state and beyond. For CCA, this challenging moment in history magnified the urgent need to act with purpose and passion.

Our response was robust: we engaged new allies, developed new partnerships, and found new ways to improve the lives of our individual clients and strengthen and protect the supports they are entitled to. Our work was in the courts, in the schools, in the neighborhoods; it was in community center meeting rooms, on the op-ed pages, and in the halls of the Legislature. Wherever children's rights and wellbeing were being compromised, CCA was there, working to make urgent and enduring improvements in the lives of young people. We sought change through partnership, negotiation, public advocacy, and where necessary, through systemic legal action.

We did not let up. We did not back down. We were fortunate to have a dedicated, determined staff to build on our decades-long foundation of advocacy and action. Federal actions that reduced basic needs support and eliminated civil rights oversight have accelerated and amplified the harms that vulnerable children faced, necessitating urgent and strategic responses from CCA attorneys and staff.

Our statewide team of lawyers and professionals expanded legal representation for children, forged new pro bono partnerships with attorneys around the state, and strengthened partnerships with children's healthcare, service providers, and families. CCA's Board of Directors provided steadfast support and leadership and our supporters and friends made this work possible. Over the past year together we have:

- Engaged in successful systemic litigation to ensure equal access to education
- Diverted more children and youth away from unnecessary involvement with the juvenile justice system and toward more appropriate support systems and services
- Protected the right of adolescents to confidential reproductive care
- Secured two new laws that strengthened state oversight of programs and placements for children and youth with disabilities

We are tremendously grateful for the partners and supporters who joined us on the frontlines, each in their own way, as we intensified our efforts to fight for Connecticut's children and youth.

Although the venues and the methods varied, we entered the arena, in each and every instance, steadfast in our commitment and devoted to realizing the better future that is the absolute right of all of Connecticut's children.



Sarah Eagan, JD
Executive Director



Kate Boucher, JD
Board Co-Chair



Ginny Kim, JD
Board Co-Chair



Nieka Thompson, JD, Director, Racial Justice Project, testifying in support of juvenile justice reforms.

Answering the Call for CT's Vulnerable Children

The Center for Children's Advocacy is on the frontlines, each day, making a difference in the lives of Connecticut's vulnerable children. CCA fights for children's legal rights to:

- stable, nurturing homes
- safe housing and adequate healthcare
- equal access to appropriate education
- be free from unlawful discrimination based on race/ethnicity, disability, immigration, or LGBTQ+ status
- receive appropriate support services to avoid unnecessary involvement with the juvenile justice system, and be safe and supported in juvenile justice facilities and programs

CCA's advocacy addresses the way systems contribute to racial and ethnic inequities and limit opportunities for children of color: 85% of the children who receive its legal services are Black, Latino or Asian. CCA's systemic advocacy pushes for data-based reforms that increase racial and ethnic equity.



Kathryn Scheinberg Meyer, JD, Director, Yale Child Study Center Medical-Legal Partnership Project, testifying to reduce suspension of young children.



Stacey Violante Cote, Deputy Director, and Sarah Eagan, Executive Director,
at the press launch of **Young People First** – a report and roadmap for youth success from the
CT Conference of Municipalities.

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CCA Advocated for Children's Legal Right to Stable, Nurturing Homes

CCA expanded its legal services for abused and neglected children, representing more than 70 children who were involved with the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and 94 children and youth who had been abandoned or abused and were at risk of deportation. CCA lawyers worked to ensure children were safe and that their families got the services they needed. When cuts in federal funding forced some legal services organizations to reduce their staff, they turned to CCA to help with their cases. CCA mobilized its staff and pro-bono partners to expand the number of undocumented children served by CCA.



Individual Impact: Stories From Our Communities

Six-year-old "David" was removed from his home due to concerns of abuse and neglect. This was David's second removal from his mother's care and he was in real need of consistency and support. Because of his specialized needs and exposure to trauma, the state struggled to find a stable placement for him. CCA advocated for David to be placed in a therapeutic foster home with enhanced mental health supports and training for the foster parent. David was placed with a loving and supportive caregiver who is committed to him long term. CCA also advocated for David's mother to get the services and supports she needs to bring him home and keep him safe.

"George" was brought to the U.S. by his parents when he was just a toddler. He persisted through tremendous adversity, surviving cancer as a young child, the death of his mom and abuse by his father. When George was a teenager, experiencing homelessness and struggling to find a way to survive after escaping his father's abusive home, he connected with CCA. George helped identify a safe and nurturing adult he could live with and CCA successfully completed a Special Immigrant Juvenile Status petition to help George stay in this country, the only home he has ever known, with a safe family. George now has a driver's license and a work permit, a job and healthcare! He generously gives back to the community, volunteering his time to help advocate for other immigrant children to find safety and permanency.

CCA Advocated for Children's Legal Right to Stable, Nurturing Homes



The Director of CCA's Immigrant Children's Justice Project, Attorney Sabrina Tavi, held a full-day training for attorneys with Connecticut Institute for Refugees and Immigrants (CIRI) and Building One Community (BIC) on Connecticut Probate Court practice for guardianship and Special Immigrant Juvenile Status cases.

Training and Strategic Partnership

CCA developed new curriculum and training for lawyers statewide on the legal rights of children and on delivering high quality representation for abused and neglected children involved with DCF. CCA also provided training for health care partners, school employees, and others on the rights of immigrant children to safety and essential services.

CCA taught a clinic on children's rights at UConn Law School, orienting law students to the urgent needs of children and how to address those needs through vigorous individual and systemic advocacy.

Systemic Reform Advocacy

- As part of a class-action settlement (*West v. Manson*), CCA is representing the children of incarcerated women at York Correctional Institution, ensuring that their legal right to safe and developmentally appropriate visitation with their mothers is enforced. As a result of the settlement, the state re-opened a halfway house for incarcerated mothers and their children to help families reunite with safety and support in the community.
- In response to concerns of abuse and neglect of individuals, including adolescents, with intellectual and other developmental disabilities in state licensed group homes, CCA helped draft and advocate for the successful passage of legislation, Public Act 25-89, that will strengthen oversight and accountability for delivering safe and appropriate care to these vulnerable youth and adults.

CCA Advocated For Children's Legal Right To Safe Housing And Adequate Healthcare

All children deserve to have safe and stable housing, which is a foundation of health and security. Through CCA's partnerships with community-based hospitals and provider agencies, including Connecticut Children's Medical Center (CCMC), Yale New Haven Hospital (YNHH), Yale Child Study Center (YCSC), as well as municipalities, CCA represented children and families who were experiencing or were at risk of homelessness, were living in unsafe housing conditions or were on the brink of losing heat and electricity.

Children also deserve to be able to see a doctor or get medicine when needed. CCA represented children who could not access appropriate medical or behavioral health care.

Individual Impact: Stories From Our Communities

"Michael" had been removed from his parents and grew up in the child welfare system. After he turned 18, DCF began to discharge him from DCF care, which would have immediately cut him off from support to help him transition to independent living and to any mental health support. Michael had persevered through adolescence, but still had mental health needs. In a panic, he reached out to a homeless services provider, who referred him to CCA. CCA immediately intervened and advocated with DCF for his legal rights. DCF agreed to not move ahead with the discharge, and Michael was able to remain in DCF care while he waits to be connected to the young adult mental health system for services and a safe place to stay.

"Tina" was raising her two-year old daughter by herself. Despite careful budgeting, she did not have enough income to pay her electric bill. The utility company shut off her electricity and told Tina she had to pay \$130 before they would turn her service on. That night, her daughter fell in the dark apartment and they spent the night in the emergency room. CCA represented Tina with the utility company to get her electricity restored, helped her make the \$130 payment through CCA's client fund, and made sure she was enrolled in an affordable payment plan so that she and her toddler would not be left in the dark again.

A family came to CCA because their landlord was refusing to fix terrible conditions in their apartment that were making the children sick - the apartment was infested with mice and bugs and was too cold because there was no insulation. CCA represented the family in their battle against the landlord and helped the family win a cash settlement that they are saving to use as a downpayment on their own home. After the victory, the family texted their CCA attorney: ***"We just want to thank you sooooo much for taking the time out for our family. We could not have done this without you. Now we can move to live the way we are supposed to."***

CCA Advocated For Children's Legal Right To Safe Housing And Adequate Healthcare

Training and Strategic Partnership

CCA provided training and legal consultation for healthcare providers, community service agencies, and municipalities across the state regarding children's rights to essential services and housing. The legal consultations helped providers advocate for specific children and help them get the services and supports they were entitled to.

I am just giving you a positive update... [The doctor] and I were trying feverishly to get this young man into [a behavioral health program]. Well he is there and thriving. I can't thank you enough for your support in giving me instruction at that time when it was crucial to pivot and turn up the heat. He is now getting the services and consistency needed to have a more productive life.

Primary Clinical Care Coordinator, Connecticut Children's Medical Center;
reporting on the outcome of a legal consultation with CCA

Systemic Reform Advocacy

- CCA successfully advocated on behalf of non-English speaking people in New Haven who sought a language line so that they could report deplorable housing conditions. CCA brought the issue to coalition partners and spearheaded an advocacy effort that led to the City of New Haven establishing an accessible language line for families.
- CCA successfully advocated on behalf of low-income families with the state's Public Utilities Regulatory Authority so that the families could continue to access a discount rate to help them pay utility bills. CCA also worked with legislative partners to ward off a late effort in the legislature to limit eligibility for protection from utility shutoff.
- CCA collaborated with the Connecticut Association of School Based Health Centers and Planned Parenthood to successfully advocate for bipartisan passage of Public Act 25-28 that strengthens youths' right to confidential reproductive healthcare.



A student who was getting no services at school when she came to CCA now proudly attends her stepping up ceremony.

CCA Advocated For Children's Equal Access To Appropriate Education

CCA provided legal services to help children and youth access appropriate educational services, protect the rights of students with disabilities, address bullying, and prevent restraint and seclusion of children. CCA worked to ensure uniquely vulnerable children such as justice-involved youth, youth experiencing homelessness, and youth who were hospitalized or homebound because of a disability or injury, continued to receive the educational services they are entitled to.



CCA attorneys and mothers of two CCA clients provided testimonies urging the State Board of Education to address the systemic issues in the Bridgeport public school system.

Individual Impact: Stories From Our Communities

"Charley" is a young student with autism who was not getting the school services she was eligible for and was afraid to go to school. Her mother, "Grace," contacted CCA and worked with her CCA attorney to uncover problems with her daughter's education: Charley's classroom did not have a certified special education teacher for almost the entire school year; the classroom aides had never received training to support children with autism; and, on two different occasions, Charley had been left to hit her head against a wall more than 250 times without anyone intervening. CCA successfully advocated for Charley to be moved to a more appropriate educational environment with trained staff to support her. Because of Grace's steadfast advocacy and CCA's legal services, Charley is safe in school and able to learn.

CCA met "Kai" when he was a senior in high school. Despite having an Individual Education Plan, Kai was not making progress towards graduation requirements. The school refused to do a transition evaluation to assess whether he needed additional services and was attempting to push him through to graduation without addressing the fact that he had not made progress. CCA requested an Independent Educational Evaluation and had Kai evaluated by a transition specialist, and the district agreed to pay for a transition program so that he can continue developing independent living skills.

CCA Advocated For Children's Equal Access To Appropriate Education

Training and Strategic Partnership

CCA provided trainings on children's educational rights to community providers across the state, including with CCA's partners at Connecticut Children's Medical Center, Yale New Haven Hospital, Yale Child Study Center and the Village for Families and Children.

Systemic Reform Advocacy

- After state auditors repeatedly found certain publicly funded private special education programs failed to meet state requirements for safety, staffing, or accountable educational service delivery, CCA worked with Disability Rights Connecticut and the Office of the Child Advocate to strengthen state legal protections for children with disabilities. The resulting new state law, Public Act 25-67, requires the State Department of Education



to regularly inspect and audit these programs, conduct unannounced site visits, review restraint and seclusion of children, and compel corrective action in response to identified concerns. The new law also requires that the state publish the inspection reports and corresponding corrective action so parents can make informed decisions about programs for their children.

- CCA represented multiple middle school and high school youth in New Haven who could not go to school because of a disability or injury and who were denied their right to education. CCA filed a legal complaint with state education officials, and after investigation, the State not only ordered the district to immediately meet the needs of CCA's clients, but also directed the district to undertake comprehensive, monitored, corrective action to ensure it delivered appropriate educational services to all homebound and hospitalized students.
- In the wake of the federal government's sharp reduction in resources for civil rights enforcement, CCA lawyers worked to strengthen state oversight of children's educational access. CCA filed a demand letter about the State Department of Education's failure to resolve families' complaints in a timely manner. In response, state officials audited the internal complaint resolution process, substantiated CCA's concerns about delays in the State's response to complaints, and addressed deficiencies to ensure student concerns are timely resolved.



CCA Advocated for Children's Legal Right To Be Free From Unlawful Discrimination

CCA provided individual legal services for low-income children who were being denied services or otherwise discriminated against because of their race, disability, or LGBTQ+ status.

Individual Impact: Stories From Our Communities

CCA was contacted because a service provider was refusing to give basic medication to 3-year-old "Sammy," a child who had epilepsy, despite written doctor's orders. CCA educated the program's attorney about the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the program agreed to administer Sammy's medication. This case improved care for Sammy and impacted additional children, as the program now has a better understanding of their responsibilities to accommodate children with disabilities.

"Aaliyah" was being bullied in school because of her race and had been assaulted on multiple occasions by a group of other students. She felt unsafe in school and the school was not providing her with the special education services she was eligible for. Aaliyah's mom reached out to CCA for help and CCA worked with her to advocate for Aaliyah's rights and help her transfer to a safe and supportive school. Aaliyah now feels safe and part of her school community and her educational needs are being met.

CCA Advocated for Children's Legal Right To Be Free From Unlawful Discrimination

Training and Strategic Partnership

CCA's LGBTQ+ Youth Advocacy Project partnered with Anchor Health to host information and legal workshops for trans youth at the New Haven Pride Center.

CCA presented a legal rights training on trans healthcare in April 2025 to graduate healthcare students at Quinnipiac University's Interprofessional Healthcare Education annual training.

Systemic Reform Advocacy

- CCA developed legal information materials for CCMC's Chronic Pain Advocacy Group, which works to support families of children with chronic pain disorders, the majority of whom were children of color, to reduce disparities in access to medical care and school accommodations.
- CCA co-chaired Racial and Ethnic Disparities Reduction Committees in Bridgeport, Hamden, Hartford, New Haven, and Waterbury and served on the State Legislature's Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee, where CCA advocated for system reforms to reduce disparities in and unnecessary involvement with the juvenile justice system. This advocacy helped lead to systemic changes that will divert youth from the juvenile justice system and increase their access to the services they need to stay on positive education and behavior trajectories.
- CCA continued to represent the plaintiffs in the Sheff v O'Neill educational equity lawsuit and last year there was increased funding of and enrollment in magnet schools.





Hartford Juvenile Residential Center Restorative Justice Training with Dr. John Duckworth, CCA's Restorative Justice Director.

CCA Advocated for Children Who Were Involved or At-Risk of Involvement in the Juvenile Justice System

CCA represented children who were living in state-licensed institutions and shelters, or were detained and incarcerated. CCA worked to ensure that these children were safe in their environments and that they received the education, services, and family support to meet their needs and help them safely re-enter their communities. CCA also worked to divert children from unnecessary involvement with the justice system and connect them to community services.

Individual Impact: Story From Our Communities

"Tanya" was struggling with grief and anger after her grandmother died. She began to have behavior problems in school and eventually got into a fight with other children. When the school planned to expel her CCA intervened and represented Tanya, successfully advocating for her to remain in school and receive mental health support and additional accommodations to help her navigate her grief and sadness. Tanya was happy to be able to stay in her school, where she loves participating in the school's vocational program.

CCA Advocated for Children Who Were Involved or At-Risk of Involvement in the Juvenile Justice System

CCA lawyers facilitated a series of “Know Your Rights” trainings for boys at a youth prison. They let the youth know that the CCA lawyers were available for individual consultation, and one of the boys asked for a one-on-one session. He said he was having a hard time keeping up in school and wanted help so he could be successful and better prepared to return to his community school. CCA represented this youth to help him access the special education supports and services in the facility school that he needs to be successful in school and in the community upon reentry.

Training and Strategic Partnership

CCA lawyers and staff met with dozens of youth incarcerated in state facilities over the last year to talk to them about their concerns and hopes for re-entry, and educate them about their legal rights to an education and opportunity in the community.

Systemic Reform Advocacy

CCA's Restorative Justice Project worked to bring research-based youth engagement practices into more than 15 facilities where some of the state's most vulnerable children are residing or confined. CCA worked directly with youth and staff in state-licensed youth shelters and detention centers across the state, and CCA met regularly with leaders from the state's child welfare and court systems to strengthen restorative practices and address racial disparities in child welfare practices.

The Superintendent of Hartford Juvenile Residential Center

provided positive feedback on CCA's restorative justice project:

“I just wanted to take some time out to acknowledge the transformational work you did with our Delta unit's staff these last two months. . . . Across many levels of management in the facility, we see the difference, and continue to keep on this trajectory, as I am sure it will only mean more positive outcomes for our youth. Again, I just wanted to give KUDOS where they were due. Thank you again!”

Empowerment Personified: Speak Up!

Youth empowerment is a foundational aspect of the work of CCA, the thread running through all of its advocacy initiatives and an essential building block for the future of youth and society.

CCA's core Speak Up! youth group met regularly to learn about problems contributing to juvenile justice involvement and engage in advocacy for systemic change. CCA also started a new Speak Up! group inside a juvenile detention facility to hear directly from impacted youth and inspire action from them and on their behalf.



Youth from CCA's Speak Up! Project participated in the Youth Day event at the State Legislative Office Building for the February JJPOC where they spoke about the importance of teen advocacy, resources in the community, and mentorship. Speak Up! Youth were leaders in creating the topics discussed and gathering data about the needs of CT teens.

Youth from Speak Up! participated in meetings of the State Legislature's Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee (JJPOC), bringing their perspectives to the JJPOC's policy reform work. The youth presented their recommendations on the challenges Connecticut youth face at a special JJPOC session in a unique format as youth from around the state and those incarcerated at Manson Youth Institution shared their poignant and inspiring perspectives.

One of CCA's Speak Up! youth was a keynote speaker at the Judicial Branch's Court Support Services Division's annual training for probation officers.

Group Impact: Showing Up at a Time of Need

Speak Up! youth conducted field research and resource mapping in a Hartford neighborhood that had higher rates of youth arrests. They identified a need for repairs to a basketball court in a neighborhood Park to increase neighborhood youths' use of the park and engagement in positive recreational activities. The youth successfully applied for a Love Your Block grant from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, with support from the City of Hartford, to support the costs of the basketball court restoration and began working with the City on the basketball court repair.



Janet Ortiz accepting her award along with Stacey Violante Cote and CCA Attorney Ilana Ofgang.



CCA Attorney Nate Fox and Christopher Scott, Sun Scholars Executive Director.

Recognition Earned: National, State, And Local

Speaking Engagements: National

CCA Attorney and Director of CCA's Yale New Haven Hospital Medical-Legal Partnership, Sarah Mervine, presented at the 2024 American Academy of Pediatrics National Conference & Exhibition in Orlando, Florida. Attorney Mervine's presentation, "Understanding and Advocating for the Disability Rights of Immigrant Children," covered recognizing the rights of all children with disabilities regardless of immigration status, and how medical professionals can spot issues and enforce children's rights and incorporate these advocacy strategies into their daily practice.

CCA Executive Director Sarah Eagan was invited to speak at the New England Children's Behavioral Health Network Symposium in February, where she shared recommendations for addressing the children's behavioral health crisis and reducing reliance on hospital Emergency Departments to deliver care to families in need.

Community Agency of the Year Award and Speaking Engagement: State

At their 5th anniversary celebration in June, Sun Scholars Inc. honored CCA with the Community Agency of the Year award. Sun Scholars Inc. is dedicated to improving college and career outcomes for foster and adopted youth. CCA extends its gratitude to the Sun Scholars Inc. team for this recognition.

CCA Deputy Director Stacey Violante Cote spoke at a statewide conference for Youth Service Bureaus in October with partners providing homeless services, sharing data-informed expertise about Working With Minors Experiencing Housing Instability & Homelessness and explaining the legal rights of minors.

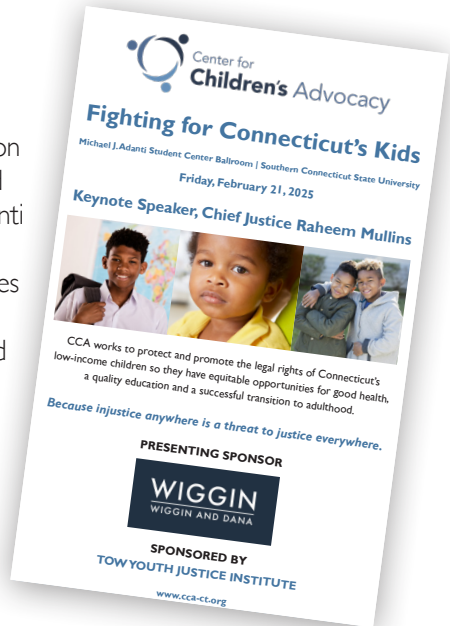
Community Leadership Vision Award: Local

In February, Bridgeport Office Manager Janet Ortiz was honored at Fairfield University as the well-deserved recipient of the 2025 Martin Luther King Community Leadership Vision Award for her work with Urban Impact, the Center for Children's Advocacy, and the Bridgeport Juvenile Detention Center.

Community Connections: Events Across Connecticut

CCA in New Haven County: Fighting for Connecticut's Kids- February 2025

In February, CCA's Black History Month celebration breakfast, Fighting for Connecticut's Kids, was hosted by Southern Connecticut State University in its Adanti Student Center. Welcoming 100+ guests, this event aimed to raise awareness of the needs and challenges facing CT's most vulnerable youth, to inspire action through the personal reflections and wisdom shared by State Supreme Court Chief Justice Raheem Mullins, and to share the incredible voices of CCA's Speak Up! program. This year Nazir, a Speak Up! participant, shared his personal testimony on the power of fighting for CT's kids. Nazir graduated from high school this year and completed his Capstone presentation on Juvenile Justice Reform and his work with CCA's Speak Up Project!



Speak Up! Youth member, Nazir, with Representative Jahana Hayes at CCA's Black History Month breakfast, hosted at SCSU in February.

"Though I'm doing well right now, life for me has not always been easy. ... I feel like it's bad out here and every kid like me – or worse – needs adults, mentors and advocates and family in their lives... because when every adult does their job as far as support, it helps a lot ... they've changed my life."

Nazir, Speak Up! Youth member who spoke at Fighting for Connecticut's Kids.



Ms. Asia Johnson and her children celebrating with their Attorney Ilana Ofgang at Giving Children A Voice.

Community Connections: Events Across Connecticut

CCA in Fairfield County: Giving Children a Voice: In Challenging Times – May 2025

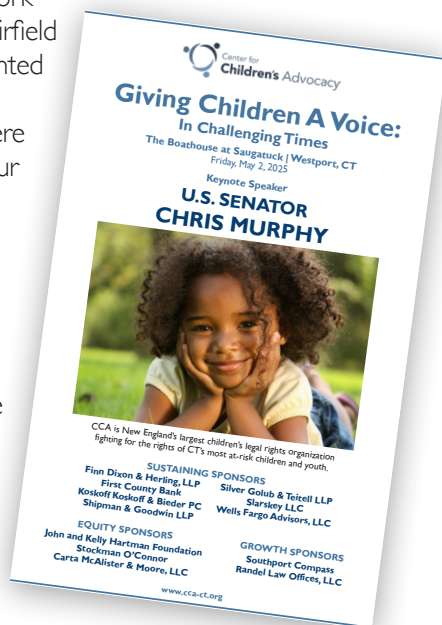
On Friday, May 2nd, CCA held its second Giving Children a Voice event, which elevated



Senator Chris Murphy speaking at Giving Children A Voice.

CCA's in-community work and its impact across Fairfield County. We were delighted to welcome 90+ guests on this occasion and were honored to welcome our Keynote Speaker, U.S. Senator Chris Murphy, who championed the power of community and community action during these challenging times. We were likewise honored to share an important family voice

from Ms. Asia Johnson on behalf of her children and their experience working with CCA's Educational Success Project and their Attorney, Ilana Ofgang.



Community Connections: Events Across Connecticut

CCA in Hartford County: Spring for Kids (SFK) – June 2025

CCA's flagship fundraising event, Spring for Kids 2025, held on June 3rd, was our biggest event yet! CCA welcomed over 230 distinguished guests and supporters, including our 2025 Champions of Children: Barbara Dalio and Dalio Education; Krystal Rich, Erin Williamson and Yvette Young; all of whom are members of the state's Human Anti-trafficking Response Team (HART); and our 2025 Sustainability Award honoree, the Herbert and Nell Singer Foundation; CCA's Board Directors, current and former Board and staff members, our event and journal sponsors and community partners, and the many children, youth, families, and members of CCA's own Speak Up! youth group.

"The work that all CCA employees and staff do is sustainable. That doesn't mean it's never gonna go away, but that means that the smiles on the faces of the kids that you help is going to be there forever. It goes without saying that the work is impactful and transformative. This organization just stands out and makes us smile."

Jay Sandak, on behalf of the Herbert & Nell Singer Foundation,
CCA's 2025 Sustainability Award Honoree



Spring for Kids 2025: Champion of Children Awards



Estefani speaks to her lived experience alongside Josh Michtom JD, CCA's Child Welfare Project Director, at Spring for Kids 2025.

CCA's Impact: The Numbers

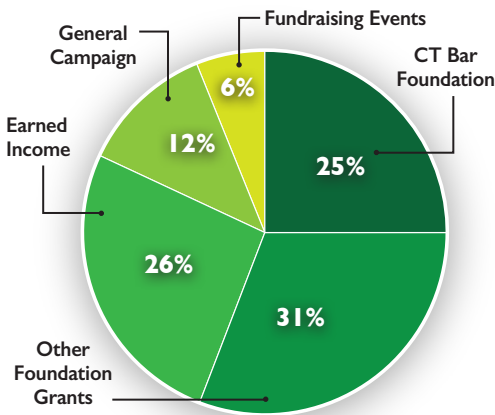
As the state's largest legal rights organization focused exclusively on children, CCA placed the lived experience of children and families at the center of CCA's work to transform support systems and create opportunities for low-income children. CCA carried their voices into its individual legal representation; policy advocacy; strategic community partnership and empowerment; and systemic litigation and administrative reform. CCA worked to ensure that children's and families' experiences drive the demand for progress in the legislature, state agencies, and the courts.

And we achieved results. CCA lawyers and staff worked throughout the state last year, helping children and communities across **98** cities and towns, and working to enact new reforms and laws that protect the rights of children.

- **Provided 942** children and youth with legal consultation or representation.
- **Advocated for 421** school-age children to address educational barriers resulting in 99% of children remaining in school or graduating.
- **Led more than 50** children's rights and legal advocacy trainings across CT for over **1,000** health care, social services, and education providers to empower them as advocates for the children they serve.
- **Provided more than 150** families with direct advocacy to prevent utility shut-offs, access safe housing, and ensure their most basic needs were met.
- **Helped 64** children access the medical and behavioral health services they needed.
- **Represented 94** children through CCA's Immigrant Children Justice Project and CCA's statewide team of Pro Bono lawyers.

Essential Finances

We are proud to have maintained our charitable accountability and transparency Four-Star Rating from Charity Navigator, and Transparency with Candid.



Revenue*

CT Bar Foundation Grants: \$874,773
Other Foundation Grants: \$1,070,233
Earned Income: \$904,347
General Campaign: \$431,147
Fundraising Events: \$217,060
Total: \$3,497,560

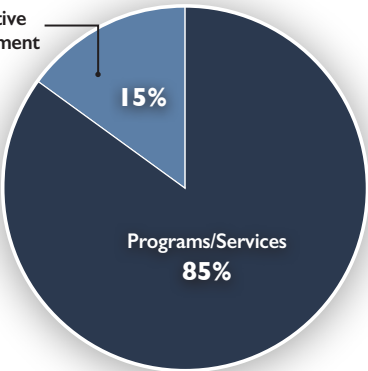
Additional, In-Kind Revenue*

Spring for Kids/Bid for Kids 2025 Auction: \$23,495.00
All other In-Kind donations: \$2,868.27
Pro Bono Attorneys' Time: \$112,000
Total: \$138,363.27

Expenses*

Programs/Services: \$2,672,966
Administrative and Development: \$496,208
Capital Expenditures: \$51,434
Reserves Allocation: \$275,000
Total: \$3,495,608

Administrative and Development



Net Profit/Loss: \$1,952

*unaudited

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Preston Tisdale
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Stephen Wizner

CCA gratefully acknowledges the many years of dedicated service provided by Valencia Goodridge, Meghan Naughton and Stuart Warner, who retired from the Board in 2025.



Center for Children's Advocacy

Staff

Sarah Eagan, JD, Executive Director

Stacey Violante Cote, JD, MSW, Deputy Director;
Director: Homeless Youth Advocacy Project

Martha Stone, JD, Founder and Special Counsel

Nallely Acosta, Paralegal, Immigrant Children's
Justice Project

Carol Beebe-Mestel, Finance Director &
Operations Manager

Eileen Brennan, Development and Special Events
Manager

Dominique Cime, HR Manager

Dr. John Ducksworth, Director, Restorative Justice
Project

Sharika Forde, Hartford Office Manager

Nate Fox, JD, MSW, Staff Attorney, Immigrant
Children's Justice Project

Alanna Herskowitz, Paralegal, Racial Justice Project
& Educational Success Project & Legal Files Manager

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