

Who will speak for me?®





You made it happen.

Your support created enormous accomplishments.

Shielded immigrant children from deportation.

Built a brigade of more than 100 attorneys to provide free representation for immigrant children.
Protected over 70 children from return to abuse and danger.

Passed new legislation to protect children and teens.

Protected children under 12 from felony charges for sexting.
Provided attorneys' immediate access to a child's records in abuse and neglect cases.
Allowed youth who are homeless and alone to access their own student records.

Helped thousands living in poverty.

Compelled the state to repair its non-emergency medical transport system.
Held utility clinics in major cities to help hundreds of families keep heat and electricity on.
Implemented a robust advocacy and poverty curriculum at Yale School of Medicine.

Worked with partner agencies to secure significant Federal funding

for the state of Connecticut to end youth homelessness.

Assured quality legal representation for abused and neglected children.

Trained all of Connecticut's new child protection attorneys.

Secured a Settlement Agreement from the Department of Housing and Urban Development

to compel a housing complex to comply with Federal Law and allow special education buses on the property.

Created a youth-led advocacy conference for LGBT Bridgeport students.

Established a school re-entry protocol for juvenile justice involved students.

Worked with DCF to improve data on pre-school enrollment and graduation rates

of youth in DCF care, and ensure that youth have a post-secondary education plan.

Filed a Complaint with the U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights

to protect disabled students discriminated against by Connecticut Technical School System enrollment.

Convened forums on topics of critical importance to Connecticut children.

Broadcast webinars on implicit bias, immigration and children, sexting and trauma.

Compelled district attention to underserved English Language Learners.

Partnered with parents and providers to improve ELL services for Bridgeport children.

Protected over 1000 individual children from falling through the cracks.

Provided legal representation that secured services and supports to keep children safe.

Abuse and Neglect

Isaiah got to go home.

Serena left DCF care when she turned 18 last year, but her housing fell through and she ended up homeless. Serena was devastated when she was forced to let her son, Isaiah, live with his father's family.

Serena is a high school graduate and wanted to continue her education. The Center set up a meeting for Serena with DCF, and we pressed DCF to take Serena back into care. She is reunited with Isaiah, living in a supervised apartment, and attending college.

Katie and Michael missed their mother.

Katie and Michael spent four years in foster care. Their mother was in treatment for drug use and worked very hard to get sober. She is back in the community, has a full time job, and has been drug-free for almost two years.

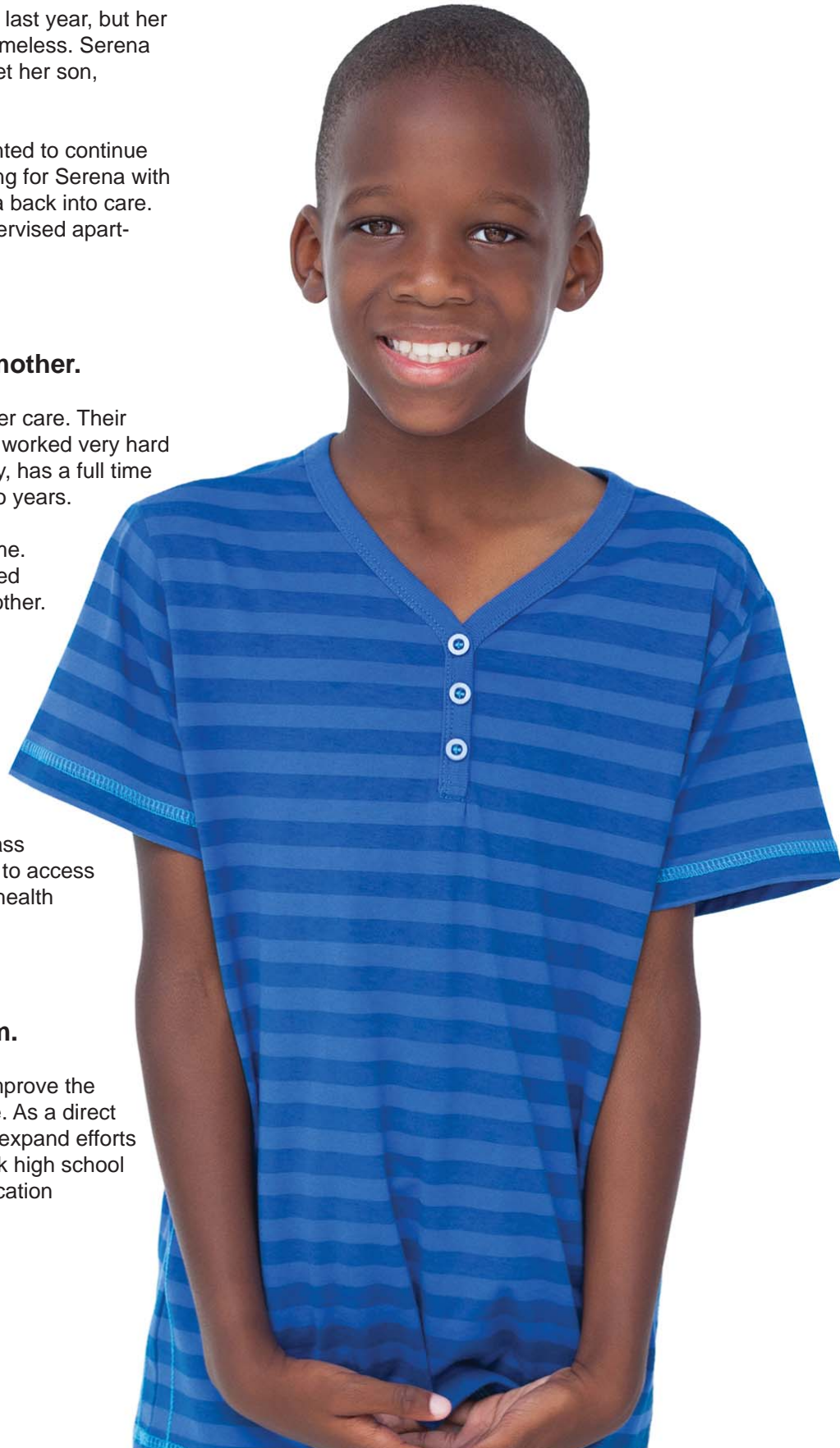
Katie and Michael really wanted to go home. The Center petitioned and the court granted return of guardianship to the children's mother. The family is happily reunited.

We fought to change the law.

To best represent children, it is imperative to understand their situation and needs. This year, the Center wrote and helped pass legislation that allows children's attorneys to access client's medical, educational, and mental health records as soon as they are appointed.

We pushed to change the system.

The Center worked closely with DCF to improve the education of children who are in their care. As a direct result of CCA's advocacy, DCF agreed to expand efforts to increase preschool enrollment and track high school graduation rates and post-secondary education opportunities.



Health

Ariel has limited mobility.

Five-year-old Ariel has received specialty care at Yale New Haven Hospital (YNHH) since she was born. Complex medical issues limit her mobility.

Ariel's mother is overwhelmed and struggles to keep up. She asked Ariel's pediatrician for help applying for Supplemental Security Income, and he called the Center's Medical-Legal Partnership at YNHH.

Ariel started Kindergarten this year. We advocated with the Board of Education to have Ariel placed in a school that could evaluate her needs and provide special education.

The Center helped the family secure SSI benefits, and the additional income helps with Ariel's special needs. We connected the family with energy assistance to assure heat and electricity.

Ariel's mother was invited to join New Haven Public Schools' Special Education Parent Advisory Board. Using the skills learned from her CCA attorney, she is helping other parents advocate for children with disabilities.

We fought to change the law.

Low-income families have struggled for years with badly organized, unreliable medical transportation. It has been a long and stressful effort, but the Center's determination resulted in legislation that directed the CT Department of Social Services to issue a Request for Proposals to replace the existing system. A new provider will be in place January 1, 2018.

We pushed to change the system.

We helped create a coalition of medical and community partners to address "stuck kids" - children with developmental disabilities who get stranded for weeks in hospital emergency rooms due to lack of state response for placement and care.

We worked with coalition partners to boost the state's legally required behavioral health screening for children up to age 21, and worked with our partners to increase services for children diagnosed with autism.



Education

Evan was angry and frightened.

Evan had been in foster care for five years. At age 7, Evan's behavior became very challenging. Evan's foster mother knew there was a problem at school, but the school was unresponsive and would not return her calls.

An attorney from the Center researched Evan's educational records and found that the school was not providing required special education services. Evan had regressed in all areas, including academics and social-emotional development. His classroom was chaotic and dangerous, and Evan often came home angry and frightened; he had also come home with bruises.

We pressed the school to schedule a meeting and attended Evan's PPT with his foster mother. We exposed the legal violations occurring at the school, and asked for remedies for Evan and for all students suffering from lack of services.

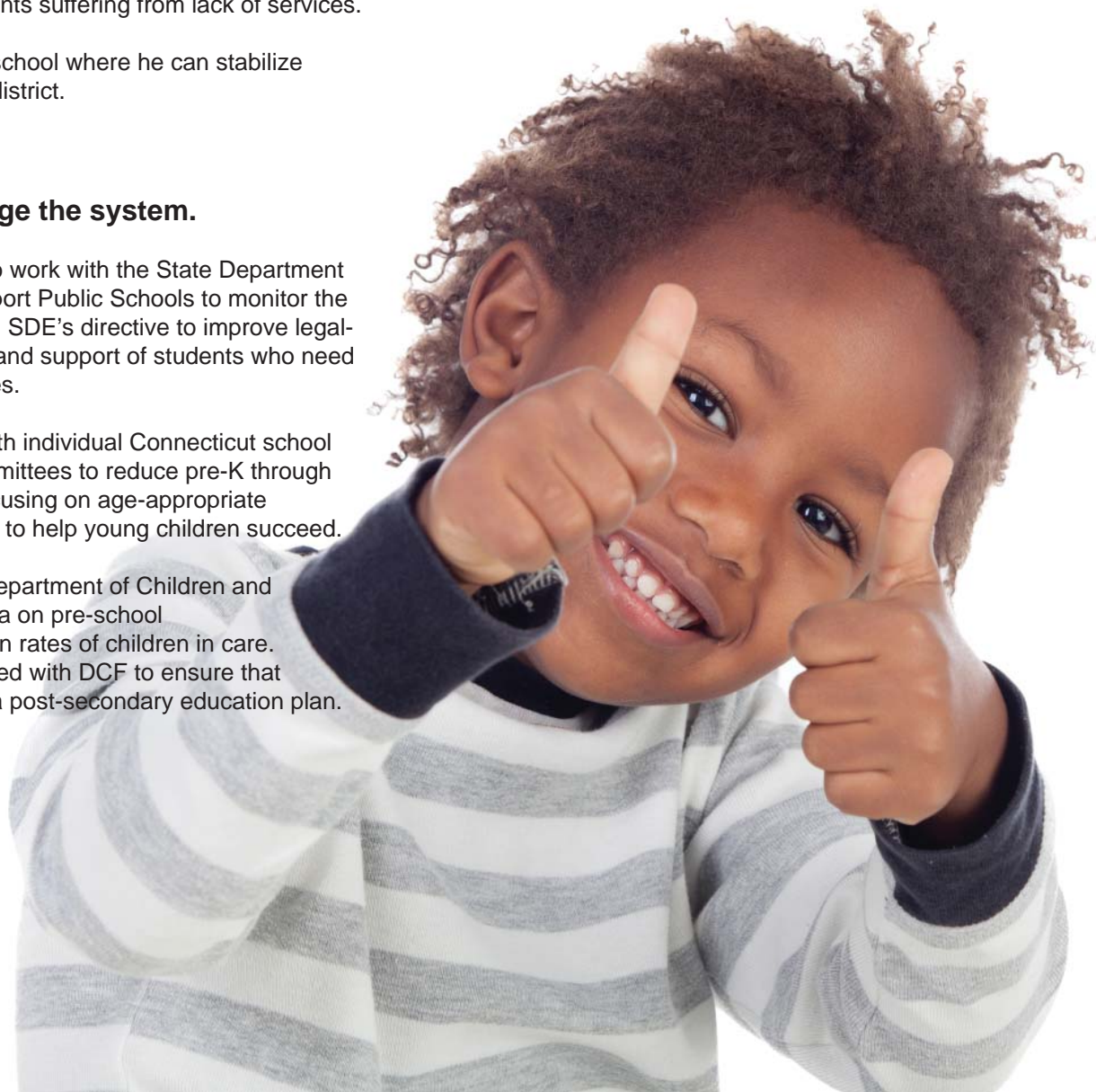
Evan is in a therapeutic school where he can stabilize before he returns to the district.

We pushed to change the system.

Our attorneys continue to work with the State Department of Education and Bridgeport Public Schools to monitor the District's compliance with SDE's directive to improve legally-required identification and support of students who need special education services.

The Center is working with individual Connecticut school districts to establish committees to reduce pre-K through grade 2 suspensions, focusing on age-appropriate social-emotional learning to help young children succeed.

Our advocacy with the Department of Children and Families is improving data on pre-school enrollment and graduation rates of children in care. We successfully advocated with DCF to ensure that youth in their care have a post-secondary education plan.



Racial Justice

Malik was arrested.

Malik was 17 and a senior in high school when he was arrested. The school wanted to expel him, which would have seriously impacted his ability to graduate.

An attorney from the Center represented Malik on both the criminal charges and the expulsion and educational issues.

Malik had a lengthy history of family trauma. His father was in jail and his mother deceased. Malik lives with a brother who is barely older than he is. With the Center's legal help, Malik's expulsion was suspended and criminal charges were reduced to ensure probation that allowed Malik to finish his senior year in an alternative education program.

Malik graduated from high school last June and has started at Gateway Community College.

We fought to change the law.

The Center wrote and helped pass legislation that protects children as young as 12 from felony charges for sexting.

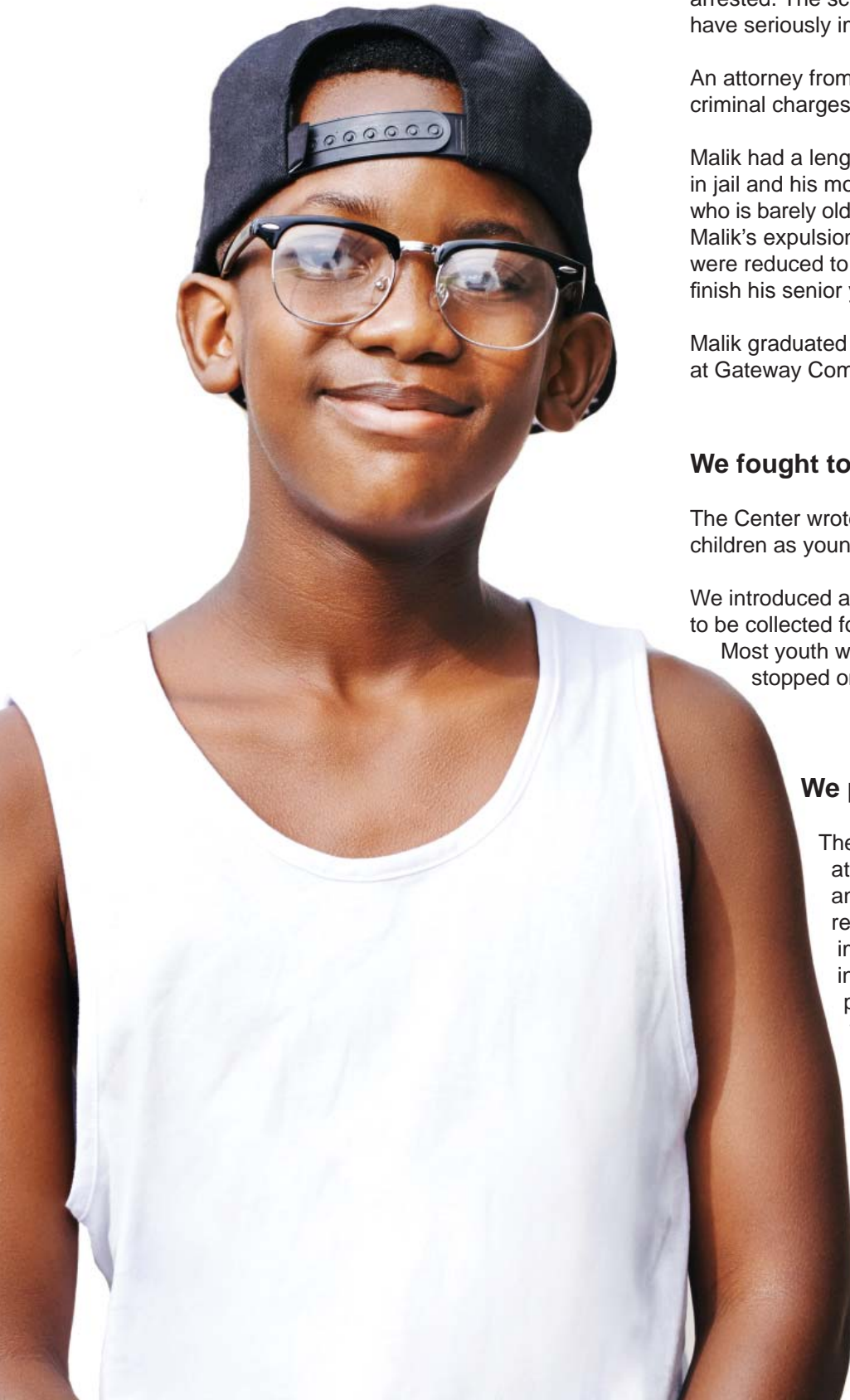
We introduced a bill to reduce racial profiling, requiring data to be collected for pedestrian stops as well as traffic stops.

Most youth who experience police interaction are stopped on the street as pedestrians.

We pushed to change the system.

The Center's Deep End Diversion program at Connecticut Juvenile Training School and Waterford Country School taught youth restorative justice skills that greatly improved relationships and reduced arrests in the facility. The success of the program prompted requests for expansion to facilities throughout the state.

CCA heads committees to reduce Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Connecticut's largest and poorest cities. Out of school suspensions and school-based arrests were greatly reduced in New Haven, Bridgeport and Waterbury. Restorative justice practices improved school climate.



Juvenile Justice

Kevin made a bad choice.

Kevin was within months of high school graduation when he was arrested. He had made a bad decision, joining an older friend for a car ride one night. When the “friend” robbed a convenience store, Kevin was arrested too, even though he never got out of the car.

An attorney from the Center worked with Kevin while he was in detention. We helped with educational supports so he could continue to earn credits. When Kevin was released, we helped him transition back to his community and worked with the school district to ensure his placement at a vocational high school.

On June 16th, Kevin put on his cap and gown and walked across the school stage, diploma in hand. He is fully employed and living independently.

We pushed to change the system.

With a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing, the Center has been working with the Housing Authority of the City of Hartford to help youth with a history of court involvement re-enter school and the community.

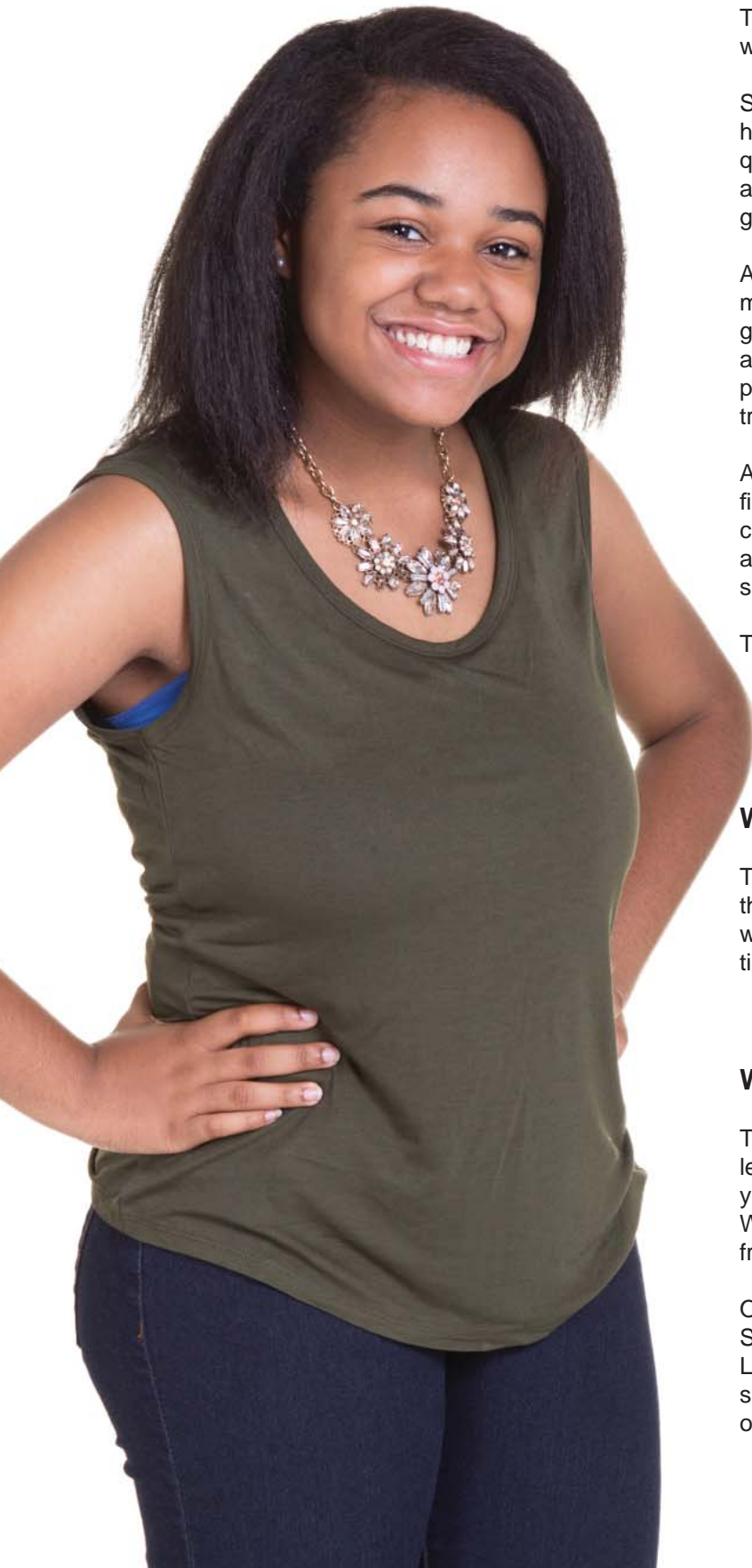
This year, the Center filed two complaints to protect students whose legal rights were being violated:

Alicia B. v. Malloy was brought on behalf of two black students for the state’s failure to provide sufficient education during their school expulsion period. Pending in federal court and moving toward settlement, the case helped highlight the rights of disproportionately-expelled students of color.

Working with colleagues at Greater Hartford Legal Aid, the Center filed a complaint against Hartford Public Schools on behalf of students with disabilities who were expelled. The State Department of Education directed Hartford Public Schools to provide appropriate compensatory education for students whose rights were violated and improve the New Visions alternative school program to accommodate students with special education needs.



Teen Rights



Tanya's home was violent.

Tanya was 16 when violence at home escalated to the point where she was unsafe.

She left and began couch-surfing, moving from one friend's house to another. Tanya had mental health needs that required counseling, but providers would not see her without a parent or guardian's permission. She thought she couldn't go to school because she had no permanent address.

An attorney from the Center met Tanya at one of our community Mobile Legal Office visits. We worked with DCF to get critical supports, educated the mental health provider about the law that allows minors to receive care without parental consent, and advocated with the school to secure transportation and services that Tanya is entitled to by law.

As a result of the Center's intervention, DCF helped Tanya find a stable home. The mental health agency began counseling, and the school system provided transportation, adjusted Tanya's schedule to accommodate her long trip to school, and arranged Special Education services.

Tanya is living in a stable and safe home and her school attendance has improved dramatically. She receives ongoing mental health care to deal with past trauma.

We fought to change the law.

The Center wrote and secured passage of new legislation that allows homeless youth to obtain their school records without a parent or guardian's consent, expediting applications and enrollment.

We pushed to change the system.

The Center chairs the state's Youth and Young Adult Homelessness Workgroup, working toward the goal of ending youth homelessness in Connecticut by the end of 2020. Working with partner organizations, we secured \$6.5 million from the federal government toward this goal.

Our Mobile Legal Office was selected as a Model Program Site by the American Bar Association Homeless Youth Legal Network. The Center is working with the ABA to share information about the program with legal services organizations across the country.

Immigration

Myrna and her brothers were all alone.

As children in Guatemala, Myrna and her brothers were homeless and hungry.

Myrna's mother left the children with their father and came to the U.S. to earn money for the family's food and shelter. When Myrna's father abandoned the family, Myrna took her brothers and fled.

At age 17, Myrna and her young brothers made the dangerous journey to the U.S. border. They were apprehended by U.S. Customs and Border Patrol and released to their mother's care in Connecticut while awaiting removal proceedings in immigration court.

With just five weeks before Myrna's 18th birthday, she asked the Center for legal help. We filed expedited motions to ensure that Myrna could access the court while she still qualified for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, available only before age 18. The Court made the requisite findings.

We fought to change the law.

Myrna's case highlights the Center's ongoing pursuit of legislative reform that would ensure that Connecticut law not foreclose SIJS protection that is available through age 21 under federal law.

We pushed to change the system.

CCA trained over a hundred attorneys to provide pro-bono legal representation for immigrant children. There are thousands of unaccompanied immigrant youth in Connecticut, and the numbers continue to grow.

We wrote a brief in support of the appeal of *In re Henry PB-P*, a case that deals with issues related to access to the courts by immigrant children on the cusp of turning 18. These children are at risk of losing protection under federal law and are at serious risk of harm. Oral arguments occurred this fall in the Connecticut Supreme Court.



You make great things happen.

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You were there!

2017 Play for Kids! Join us March 29, 2018 at Chelsea Piers, Stamford

Thank you to our very generous sponsors and to the wonderful teams who joined the fun to compete for the 2017 trophy!

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For event information, email ssstein@cca-ct.org



You were there!

2017 Spring for Kids! Join us May 8, 2018 in Hartford

2017 Center for Children's Advocacy Champion of Children Award winners:
CT Representative Robyn Porter and William Aselytne, JD, Yale New Haven Hospital/Health System

Thank you to our very generous sponsors and to all who came out to honor our 2017 Champions!

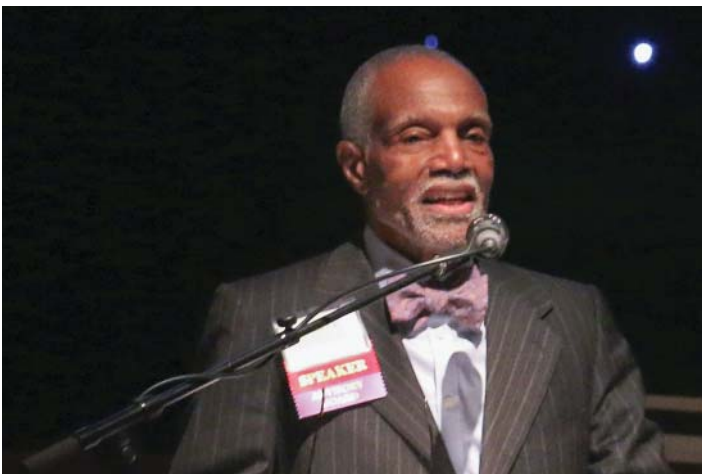
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Center for Children's Advocacy

With your support, our legal advocacy improved the lives of the children and youth we represent.

We provided legal support for 1041 children in Connecticut's largest and poorest cities, securing services for healthy development and educational achievement.

Keep the Power On utility clinics provided legal advocacy, budget counseling and payment arrangements to help **155 families maintain heat and electricity.**

More than **700 youth** expelled from school will receive alternative educational services to address social, emotional and behavioral needs.

The Center's Deep End Diversion Project reduced incidents and restraints at Connecticut Juvenile Training School and **arrests have fallen by 44 percent.**

In New Haven, our Racial and Ethnic Disparities (RED) work on school discipline and truancy decreased arrests by **25 percent.**

The Center's RED work decreased the number of youth sent to detention for a minor violation of a court order by more than **75 percent.**

In Waterbury, the Center's RED work led to a **30 percent** decrease in school-based arrests.

In Bridgeport, the Center's push for restorative justice practices resulted in **1400 fewer** out-of-school suspensions.

The Center's persistent advocacy assured that **306,000 low-income children** can access reliable, safe transportation to medical appointments.

Our attorneys provided **176 consultations** to help healthcare providers across the state resolve legal issues for their child clients.

47 percent of Hartford's minority students have the opportunity to attend 42 quality magnet schools.

We organized a coalition of advocates and developed a plan to address **placement for "stuck kids"** - children with developmental disabilities who get stuck in hospital emergency departments.

90 percent of the Center's teen clients who were homeless or at great risk of homelessness got help to stay in high school through graduation.

100 percent of Hartford youth who were involved with the juvenile justice system got increased educational support to help them stay in school.

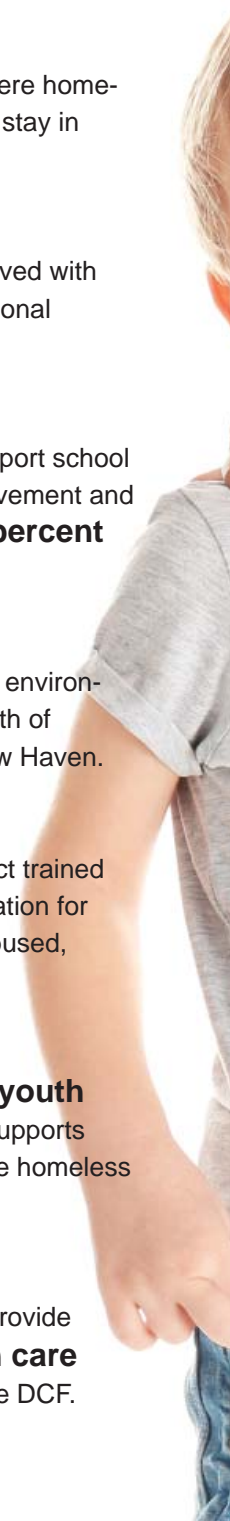
The Center provided legal support to 257 Bridgeport school children to improve issues that led to poor achievement and school dropout. We reduced these risks for **97 percent** of the children and youth we worked with.

Our Medical-Legal Partnership reduced adverse environmental and social conditions to improve the health of **386 children** in Hartford, New Britain and New Haven.

The Center's Immigrant Children's Justice Project trained **117 attorneys** to provide pro bono representation for unaccompanied immigrant children who were abused, abandoned or neglected.

Our Mobile Office provided legal services to **85 youth** throughout the Hartford region, helping secure supports that provide safety and stability for those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

We persuaded DCF to change their policy and provide **lawyers to all undocumented youth in care** to protect them from deportation when they leave DCF.





Center for Children's Advocacy
Audited Financial Information
July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017

Income

Grants/Contributions	1,769,226
Fees/Contracts	442,765
Other	79,274
Total	2,291,265



Expense

Programs/Services	1,913,877
Office/Administrative	168,421
Total	2,082,298



Ninety two percent of every dollar raised goes directly to legal services for the poorest and most vulnerable children and youth.

Juvenile Justice
 Homelessness
 Immigration
 Truancy and Absenteeism
 Implicit Bias
 Domestic and Dating Violence
 Racial Justice
 Youth Voice
 Bullying
 Suspension and Expulsion
 English Language Learners
 Alternative Schools
 LGBT Rights
 Foster Care
 Housing
 Healthcare
 Mental Health Care
 Child Abuse and Neglect
 Teen Legal Rights
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