



*Who will
speak for me?®*

**ANNUAL
REPORT**
2021



**FIGHTING FOR THE LEGAL RIGHTS OF
CONNECTICUT’S MOST VULNERABLE CHILDREN.**

OUR MISSION: every child deserves justice, equity and access. The Center’s lawyers protect and promote the legal rights of the poorest and most vulnerable children.

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We can't thank you enough.

This was a hard year for Connecticut children. Low-income children in particular were besieged by multiple crises, landing at the same time. The COVID-19 pandemic, economic disruption and job loss, explosion of interpersonal violence, surge in children's mental health conditions, vanishing community supports, and unpredictable school days placed tremendous burdens on vulnerable children and youth.

Young people did their best to adapt, to grow and learn in the face of overwhelming adversity. At the Center for Children's Advocacy, we did our best to support them. We worked to remove structural inequities and reform oppressive systems so that determined and resilient children could realize their potential.

We modified our engagement strategies to reach children and youth who needed lawyers. Our attorneys checked in frequently with their young clients, met with children and youth outside, helped troubleshoot technology and telephone problems so youth could attend virtual meetings, and provided gift cards to help families meet basic needs.

We updated our strategic plan with an intentional focus on advocacy to advance equity for Black and Latinx children and other children of color.

We strengthened our advocacy for children with behavioral health challenges by opening a new Medical-Legal Partnership office at the Yale Child Study Center.

We secured a special grant from the Connecticut Bar Foundation to scale up and expand statewide our pro bono program that provides undocumented children with representation to help them secure Special Immigrant Juvenile Status and remain in the U.S.

Our legal services and systemic reform advocacy improved conditions for thousands of children and youth across the state.

None of this would have been possible without the steady support of our donors. Thank you for being there for Connecticut's vulnerable children.



Martha Stone, JD
Executive Director



Claude Mayo
Board Chair

ADVANCING RACIAL JUSTICE

Advocacy for racial justice runs through all of CCA's work. Pervasive racial and ethnic inequities impact the economic, environmental, and social conditions in which children and youth live. CCA analyzes systemic problems with a racial justice lens, and leads advocacy efforts directly targeting racial injustice.

SHEFF V. O'NEILL EDUCATIONAL EQUITY LAWSUIT

Once again, CCA's Executive Director Martha Stone, lead counsel in the major civil rights case, *Sheff v. O'Neill*, began negotiations with the State to develop a long range court settlement which would greatly expand the number of seats available to ensure that any Hartford student who wants to attend a quality integrated magnet school or suburban school through the Open Choice program has that opportunity.

JUVENILE JUSTICE RACIAL AND ETHNIC DISPARITIES (RED) REDUCTION COMMITTEES

CCA continued its wide-ranging and multi-layered advocacy to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in school discipline and juvenile justice. Working in six communities – Bridgeport, Hamden, Hartford, New Haven, Norwalk and Waterbury – CCA co-led RED Reduction Committees that met regularly to analyze school discipline and juvenile justice data to identify points of RED and implement reforms to reduce RED.

CHILD WELFARE RED REDUCTION COMMITTEE

CCA expanded its data-based, locally driven RED Reduction model from the juvenile justice system to the child welfare system. CCA established a Child Welfare RED Reduction Committee and began meeting regularly with leaders from the Judicial Branch, Office of the State Attorney General and Office of the Public Defender to review court data and identify RED in decisions in child welfare cases and develop reforms to reduce disparities. This child welfare group is analyzing court data by race and ethnicity at every point in the child protection system from the time a case is filed in court, to identify points of decision-making where there is RED and develop reforms to reduce RED at those points. CCA also established a Subcommittee of this group that is working to specifically address court culture issues affecting racial disparity in the courts.



ADVANCING HEALTH EQUITY

CCA's medical-legal attorneys partnered with health care providers to reduce social, economic and environmental conditions that were harming children's health. The attorneys provided legal services through health care sites in New Haven, New Britain and Hartford, and provided legal training to health care providers statewide.

EMILIA'S STORY

Five-year-old Emilia (pseudonym) loved to play outside, but because of her autism, she often would run away from her caregivers, not understanding that she needed to stay close to them. Her family was spending a lot of time indoors in their apartment to protect the family from exposure to COVID-19, and Emilia's parents were concerned that limiting her opportunities to play outside would harm her development. To provide her with outside time, they put up a fence around the backyard of their apartment so she could go outside during the pandemic. The complex's property manager told the family they had to take the fence down. Emilia's parents contacted her pediatrician, who called CCA, and our medical-legal attorney worked with Emilia's parents and her pediatrician to successfully advocate with the housing complex for a reasonable modification. The family was able to keep their fence and Emilia was able to joyfully and safely return to outside play.



ADVOCACY LED TO SYSTEMIC REFORMS

CCA engaged in rigorous multifaceted advocacy with the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) to protect low-income children from utility shutoffs when families were unable to pay utility bills. PURA extended a moratorium against utility terminations, expanded protections for families struggling to meet monthly bills and fined United Illuminating and Eversource for violating PURA orders to provide information to families about protection from utility shutoffs for low-income clients. CCA developed informational materials for families and health care providers about protection from utility shutoff, and responded to calls from pediatric providers asking for guidance about helping patients' families avoid losing utility service.

CCA continued to co-direct the Tax Haven program at Yale New Haven Hospital with Dr. Leslie Sude, a Yale pediatrician. Tax Haven is a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program embedded in a medical setting, developed by StreetCred, that supports low-income families in filing their income tax returns and maximizing their incomes. This program was particularly important in the last year, as Tax Haven assisted families with applying for and receiving their Economic Impact Payments and worked with families to ensure they began to receive the new monthly Child Tax Credit.

REDUCING YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

CCA provided legal services to homeless youth to enforce their rights to housing, education, and other essential services, and advocated for systemic reforms to reduce youth homelessness.

DYSHELLE'S STORY

18 year-old Dyshelle was “couch surfing” and pregnant, but was managing to work full time and was trying to save enough money to get an apartment before her baby was born to provide a stable home for her child. When she got sick at work and had to go to the hospital, her obstetrician told her she had to reduce some of her physical activity at work if she wanted to have a healthy pregnancy. When Dyshelle tried to return to work, however, her employer ignored her requests for pregnancy accommodations and Dyshelle was forced to quit, leaving her with no income and a fast-approaching due date. Dyshelle didn’t give up, and reached out to CCA for help. She worked closely with her CCA attorney, who represented Dyshelle in a CHRO complaint against her employer, and succeeded in getting the opportunity to return to her job and a monetary settlement that allowed her to set up a stable home for her baby.



ADVOCACY LED TO SYSTEMIC REFORMS

CCA co-led advocacy work through the statewide Reaching Home Campaign to generate systemic reforms that increase services and access to housing for youth and young adults experiencing homelessness. In this leadership role, CCA also collaborated with the National Coalition for Juvenile Justice and with partners in Fairfield County to develop a pilot “Minor Homelessness Hub” in Stamford that stabilizes youths’ housing and provides services.

The Mobile Legal Office is a safe and confidential place for teens to get free advice from an attorney and find out about services and support they can get.



PROMOTING EDUCATIONAL EQUITY

CCA attorneys partnered with agencies in some of Connecticut's most vulnerable communities to reach families whose children were not receiving the educational services they were legally entitled to. Learning from the families' experiences and from the input of community-based providers, CCA advocated for systemic reforms to improve educational opportunity.

TYRICE'S STORY

Born at 2 pounds, seven-year-old Tyrice (pseudonym) had some physical disabilities and learning challenges. Tyrice loved to socialize and had learned to read. His mom was a strong advocate and had made sure that he had received the special educational services he needed in order to learn. When school moved to remote learning early in the pandemic, his mom tried everything she could think of to help Tyrice continue his progress in school, but his learning issues made remote learning almost impossible. When in-person school resumed in the fall of 2020, because in-person classroom learning posed too many medical risks for Tyrice, the school was only offering a special education remote program with 90 other students. Tyrice's mom reached out to a CCA attorney, who worked with Tyrice's mom to advocate for an appropriate education plan for Tyrice. The school agreed to have him learn in a separate classroom in the school with his para-professional and nurse by his side, and regularly check on his progress and success. His school day was gradually extended until Tyrice was able to participate in a school day that was the same length as every other child.



ADVOCACY LED TO SYSTEMIC REFORMS

CCA continued its advocacy to enforce the provisions of the Settlement Agreement in *Alicia B. v. Malloy*, where CCA addressed failures to provide an adequate education to K – 12th grade students who have been expelled from school. Expulsions were used disproportionately in response to behavior by Black students, and in response to CCA's advocacy, the State Department of Education unveiled a system to flag school districts with high disproportionality in discipline and develop interventions to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in school discipline. Forty school districts were identified for interventions.

CCA heard multiple stories from youth and parents about youth who wanted to attend a technical high school but were discouraged from applying or outright rejected due to a disability that could easily have been provided for. CCA initiated, advocated for and secured passage of a portion of Public Act 21-144 that revamps the technical school admissions process for students with disabilities so they have a fair opportunity to attend a technical school.

STRENGTHENING CHILD WELFARE

CCA provided holistic legal advocacy for children involved with DCF, enforcing the children's legal rights in all areas of their lives impacted by their traumatic experiences – education, physical and mental health care and access to family. CCA's KidsCounsel attorney trainings and technical assistance helped other attorneys also provide outstanding legal representation to children in DCF care, while CCA's legal clinic and internships for law students helped prepare new lawyers to be strong advocates for children.

JAVARI'S STORY

Six-year-old Javari (pseudonym) was removed from his mother's care because she could not provide him with a safe home, and placed in foster care. When he met his CCA attorney, Javari spoke up for himself, saying he would like to live with his dad, even though he had only seen his father a few times in his life and they had no relationship at the time. CCA pushed hard for DCF to establish regular visitation for Javari with his father, with the goal of helping Javari achieve his dream of living with his dad one day. Javari's father quickly began to develop a relationship with Javari and, motivated to have Javari with him full time, completed all of the requirements DCF had established. Because of his father's hard work and consistent visitation, Javari was able to move to his father's apartment as a permanent home. Javari's father is a strong advocate for Javari, and has created stability for him by enrolling him in a magnet school and staying in close contact with the school. Javari and his dad are both happy and thriving.



ADVOCACY LED TO SYSTEMIC REFORMS

In a groundbreaking ruling by the Connecticut Supreme Court, CCA secured the right to request visitation between birth parents and children after parental rights have been terminated. In response to CCA's advocacy, the Court held that a trial judge has the authority to order post-adoption contact between children and their birth parents, assuming such contact is shown at trial to be in the best interests of the child. Previously, in order to ensure visitation with their children after the child had been adopted, birth parents had to give up their right to a trial and sign an open adoption agreement; these agreements were largely dictated by the interests of the state and the foster parents. Research has found that maintaining contact with the birth family is beneficial for many adopted children and youth.

REDUCING JUVENILE AND CRIMINAL INVOLVEMENT

Youth confined by the justice system face incredibly tough odds upon release. CCA's unique reentry legal services reached out to incarcerated youth to intervene early to prevent reentry problems, and represented youth throughout their reentry to remove barriers to success and reduce recidivism.

JOSÉ'S STORY

17-year-old José (pseudonym) and his mother had been let down by his school system. Although José had learning disabilities and difficulties focusing and behaving in school, the school system responded to his needs simply by having him repeat a grade in elementary school, and did not provide any special education or support services. His mother fought heroically over the years to keep José engaged with school, but as he entered high school he began being chronically absent from school and his school disengagement and acting out behavior increased until he was arrested and placed in a locked youth facility. When COVID-19 came to Connecticut, the facility limited school to packets of work delivered to José's cell every two weeks. CCA successfully advocated with the facility to increase his access to teachers, conduct educational testing to identify his educational needs, and develop an appropriate educational reentry plan for when José returned home.



ADVOCACY FOR SYSTEMIC REFORMS

CCA partnered with the National Center for Youth Law and the Juvenile Law Center, national organizations with expertise in rights of young people in facilities, to address the Department of Corrections' practice of placing youth who require COVID-19 medical quarantine into solitary confinement and providing limited access to education and mental health services during the pandemic. CCA and its partners entered into a Settlement Agreement with the State wherein the State agreed to reduce its use of solitary confinement of youth who require COVID-19 medical quarantine, and increase access to appropriate education and mental health services.

CCA attorneys and youth advocates served on the Connecticut Legislature's Juvenile Justice and Policy Oversight Committee (JJPOC) and its five Subcommittees, advocating through the JJPOC for reforms to the juvenile justice system. These systemic reforms, recommended by the JJPOC and passed into law by the Connecticut Legislature, included measures improving educational services, requiring the Judicial Branch to provide record erasure information to youth and parents, and transferring responsibility for securely housing all under-18-year-olds from the Department of Corrections to the Judicial Branch.

PROTECTING IMMIGRANT CHILDREN AND YOUTH

CCA provided holistic advocacy for immigrant children and their families, and continued to be Connecticut's primary source of free legal representation in matters regarding Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, which allows undocumented children and youth who have been abandoned or abused to remain safely in the U.S.

LILY'S STORY

18-year-old Lilian (a pseudonym) was born in a country in Central America. Lily's mother worked hard amidst brutal poverty to provide for her children, but there were no resources in her country to protect herself and her children from relentless domestic violence by Lily's father, who was extremely abusive. When Lily was 16, her father attempted to attack the family with a large knife, threatening to kill Lily, her younger sister and her mother, and her mother made the difficult decision to protect her children by fleeing to the U.S. to seek refuge with a relative. After arriving in the U.S., Lily gave birth to a healthy baby boy. Lily and her son were bonded and Lily was a doting mother, but because she was undocumented, she was at risk of being deported to Central America, where she had no safe place to live and no support. Lily's mother reached out to CCA, and CCA represented Lily, securing a court order with the necessary findings to support her application for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status.



EMPOWERING PARENTS AS ADVOCATES

CCA partnered with Make the Road Connecticut to provide “Know Your Rights” trainings to parents of children and youth who were learning English as a second language. The trainings provided information about bilingual education rights, helping parents understand their legal rights regarding schools’ actions that interfere with children’s educational achievement and integration into communities. The trainings also taught parents advocacy actions they could use to advocate for their children with the school system to enforce their rights. The final training, via Facebook Live, was viewed more than 300 times.

“Thanks for continuing to empower local parents and the providers who serve them! This training was filled with immensely useful information. I’m looking forward to sustaining our wonderful partnership and connecting parents with CCA’s exceptional resources.”

**Renee J. Wright, MBA
FAVOR, Inc.**

PRO BONO ATTORNEY SPOTLIGHT

CCA's Special Immigrant Juvenile Status Project trains and works closely with pro bono counsel and volunteer translators to represent children and youth in special immigrant juvenile status cases in state court. CCA's legal advocacy for immigrant children could not be sustained without the work of pro bono attorneys and volunteers like Steve Reynolds and Alina Marquez Reynolds.

Steve Reynolds, Chief Ethics Officer & Senior Managing Counsel at Cigna, has graciously offered his time and expertise, as part of the Cigna Legal Volunteer Program, to represent two young brothers from Honduras through CCA's Special Immigrant Juvenile Status Project. Steve's diligence and dedication has helped his clients overcome numerous obstacles in their journey to escape danger and abuse in Honduras and build a new life in Connecticut. It's a family effort - Steve's wife, Alina Marquez Reynolds, General Counsel and Justice Initiative Deputy Director at the Grace Farms Foundation, has generously dedicated her time to the representation too, translating all interviews and conversations for Steve and his clients. Reflecting on his pro bono experience, Steve says that "The courage and resilience of these children and their guardian is remarkable. It is very rewarding to have the opportunity to help children who have experienced tremendous hardship and be a part of their search for a better life." After a recent court proceeding, the children's guardian thanked Steve, Alina and the CCA for their assistance, stating "I am very grateful to you. You have supported me a lot and have devoted your time to my case. You and your organization made me feel very safe. You are angels for us. Thank you very much."



STEVE REYNOLDS

Chief Ethics Officer &
Senior Managing Counsel
at Cigna

ALINA MARQUEZ REYNOLDS

General Counsel and Justice
Initiative Deputy Director
at the Grace Farms Foundation



SIJS PRO BONO ATTORNEYS AND VOLUNTEERS

Marissa Abramowitz-Ganz
Susan Adams
Laurann Asklof
Troy Bailey
Megan Baroni
Ann Brickley
Catherine Butcher
Mark Carta
Vikki Cooper
Raymond DeMeo
Dianne Evans
Vaughan Finn
Ruth Fortune
Stephanie Gomes-Ganhao
Jessica Hamilton
Alexis Harrison

Sheila N. Hayre &
Quinnipiac School of
Law's Civil Justice Clinic
students:
Ashley Khorassani
Nora McNeil
Elijah MacDonald
Laura Heneghan
Eva Jacobson
Dana Johnson
Emily Kagan
Shelby Leek
Elizabeth Lehnerd-Reilly
Anna Martinelli-Parker
Soledad Matteozzi
Natalia Sieira Millan
Hugh Murray
Nilda Negron
Kyle Odin

Piper Paul
Andrea Regan
Alina Reynolds
Stephen Reynolds
Nicole Riel
Peggy Rivage-Saul
Stephani Roman
Gabriela Sandoval
Althea Seaborn
Karen Sherman
Jessica Signor
Jonathan Small
Deborah Vilcheck
Yale Interpretation
Network
Yale Undergraduate
Legal Aid
Association

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY FOR GROUNDBREAKING SYSTEMIC REFORM

CCA secured passage of legislation that put Connecticut at the vanguard of progressive systemic change in children's health and juvenile justice and provided models of reform for other states.

HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR LOW-INCOME CHILDREN REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS

CCA's multiyear advocacy to expand state-funded Medicaid (HUSKY) to provide health insurance to undocumented children and youth led to passage of Public Act 21-176, which provides HUSKY coverage to undocumented children eight years old and younger beginning in 2023. The new legislation also directs the State to study the feasibility of extending HUSKY coverage to undocumented children aged nine to 18. CCA collaborated with a coalition of healthcare providers, immigration advocates, patient advocacy groups, civil rights organizations and healthcare advocates to successfully advocate for passage of this legislation. In the coming year CCA will continue to work with partners to advocate for the further expansion of HUSKY to cover undocumented children and youth aged 9 through 18.



FAMILY CONNECTIONS FOR YOUTH IN SECURE FACILITIES



CCA initiated and successfully advocated for passage of Public Act 21-54, which makes phone calls to family from youth incarcerated at Manson Youth Institution free for the youth. This advocacy rose from CCA's structured interviews with justice-involved youth about their experiences reentering from confinement. The youth noted that relationships with family were important for reentry, but the prohibitive cost of phone calls from Department of Corrections facilities prevented them from maintaining regular contact with family. CCA's framing this issue as important for better reentry planning and reduced recidivism also helped move the entire conversation forward and expand the population that benefited from CCA's advocacy, as the legislation that was passed provides free phone calls to family from incarcerated adults as well as youth.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP IN SYSTEMIC REFORM

The fight for justice must be led by the youth harmed by injustice. CCA supported youth organizing for systemic change.

“It is not easy to be homeless and it’s more difficult when we don’t have the proper documentation required to get benefits like medical insurance, food stamps, jobs, housing, and even education.... A birth certificate is a primary document you need for almost everything. If you don’t have a birth certificate you can’t get a State ID, which you need for a job.”

Reyna, in testimony to the Public Health Committee, March 29, 2021



YOUTH SPEAKS

Youth SPEAKS, CCA’s group of youth organizers, advocated for systemic reforms in juvenile justice and housing. Youth SPEAKS was forced to meet virtually this year because of the pandemic. CCA staff spent time doing remote troubleshooting of internet connectivity problems in the youths’ homes, and purchased webcams and cell phone minutes to enable youth to participate in meetings remotely. The youth hosted a presentation for CCA staff, organization-wide, where the youth highlighted systemic problems that had been exacerbated by the pandemic, and provided input into the direction of and priorities for CCA’s systemic reform advocacy.

In Youth SPEAKS’s campaign to increase access to housing, the youth used information they had collected through research and meetings with attorneys to identify seven barriers to youth and young adults’ obtaining stable housing. In March, five of the youth organizers – Jacqueline, Matthew, Nathaniel, Tania and Reyna - who had personal experience with homelessness advocated for a legislative change to address one of the barriers: the lack of identification documents. CCA initiated and helped draft a legislative change increasing access to identification documents, and the youth provided compelling testimony to the State Legislature that helped push the proposed law through to passage. The relevant provision of Public Act 21-121 ensures that youth experiencing homelessness, including youth who are doubled up and couch surfing, have access to free state I.D.s and birth certificates.

OUR STAFF: ENGAGED AND PRODUCTIVE



JULY 2020

CCA initiated meetings with the superintendent of Bridgeport Public Schools on critical service deficits for English Language Learners.

CCA continued publication of weekly COVID updates for statewide distribution to pediatric and family medicine providers.

SEPTEMBER 2020

CCA attorney Bonnie Roswig successfully represented a medically fragile child with multiple disabilities. The school had insisted on remote attendance but CCA's legal advocacy secured on-site, supported access.

The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) granted CCA's motion requesting extension of the moratorium against utility terminations.

NOVEMBER 2020

CCA attorneys worked with the Court Support Services Division to update policies for children in REGIONS programs to focus on community reentry.

CCA's Medical-Legal Partnership opened a collaboration with Yale Child Study Center and attorney Kathryn Meyer became the first CCA MLP attorney working exclusively with a behavioral health academic center.

AUGUST 2020

As part of Connecticut's Reaching Home Youth and Young Adult Homelessness Task group, CCA spear headed a statewide conference on the impact of COVID on youth homelessness, and implications for the work ahead.

The Connecticut Supreme Court ruled on a case argued at trial and on appeal by CCA attorney Stacy Schleif. In re Ava W. secured the right to request visitation between parents and children after parental rights have been terminated.

OCTOBER 2020

As a result of CCA's advocacy, the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority expanded protections for families struggling to meet monthly bills. This included lower monthly bills and simplified access to available low-cost programs.

CCA and the Public Defender's Office held a statewide webinar on the status of Domestic Violence during COVID.

DECEMBER 2020

CCA forcefully presented at meetings with the State Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education and the Board of Education to address deficiencies regarding remote access for students.

CCA attorneys Stacey Violante Cote and Adam Yagaloff trained providers on the legal rights of minors experiencing homelessness.



JANUARY 2021

CCA convened the annual Statewide Medical-Legal Partnership meeting and presented on multiple critical issues.

CCA executive director Martha Stone and attorneys Adam Yagaloff and Stacy Schleif met with Chief Administrator Judge Bernadette Conway to advocate for proposed changes addressing juvenile court culture and COVID safety protocols.

MARCH 2021

CCA's Youth Advocacy Groups testified at the state legislature to support proposed bills affecting youth experiencing homelessness.

As a result of CCA attorney Marisa Halm's systemic advocacy on the Alicia B. Settlement Agreement, the State Department of Education unveiled a system to flag districts with high disproportionality in discipline. Forty districts were identified for interventions.

MAY 2021

CCA's Immigrant Children's Justice Project partnered with Make the Road Connecticut to host a Know Your Rights training for parents of English Language Learners.

As a result of CCA attorney Bonnie Roswig's legal advocacy, United Illuminating and Eversource were each fined for violating PURA orders that directed them to provide information about protections for low income families.

FEBRUARY 2021

CCA's Youth Advocacy Groups talked to CCA staff about critical issues that affect their lives and efforts to effect positive systemic change.

CCA attorney Bonnie Roswig won a favorable decision based on a Complaint filed with the Justice Department against 4H of New London for discrimination against a child with diabetes.

APRIL 2021

CCA's Pro-Bono Director Sabrina Tavi held a two-day training for 25 attorneys who volunteered to provide representation for undocumented youth in probate court.

CCA Executive Director Martha Stone initiated a Child Welfare Court Welfare Racial Justice Group with the Judicial Department and DCF to focus on racial and ethnic disparities.

JUNE 2021

CCA attorney Stacey Violante Cote was awarded the Reaching Home Campaign's Reverend Richard Schuster Advocacy Award for her work to improve the lives of Connecticut youth who are homeless.

CCA attorney Marisa Halm was instrumental in securing a Settlement Agreement with the Department of Corrections to improve conditions for young people incarcerated at Manson Youth Institute during the ongoing pandemic.

SPRING FOR KIDS 2021

Spring for Kids was a tremendous success and together we raised over \$100,000! Friends and colleagues gathered to enjoy a beautiful day at the Riverfront Boathouse in Hartford.

It was an honor to recognize our Champions of Children Awardees:



Enid Rey
CEO and President
BRAVE Consulting
Solutions



**State Senator
Gary Winfield**
Chief Deputy Majority
Leader; Chair, Judiciary
Committee



Hector Rivera
Chief Executive Officer
Our Piece of the Pie (OPP)

We were inspired by the memorable stories of resilience shared by our youth speakers.



With tremendous gratitude we thank our sponsors!

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CCA SHOUT OUTS!



A happy birthday party for CCA client Kiandra! When Kiandra was having a tough time at school because of bullying, CCA Attorney Bonnie Roswig worked with her, her family, and her local school district to produce an education plan to help Kiandra learn effectively while feeling safe at school.



"Just as ripples spread out when a single pebble is dropped into water, the actions of individuals can have far reaching effects." –Dalai Lama.

When one friend of CCA attorney, Stacy Schleif reached out to her after receiving one of our mailings, asking what she and her neighbors could do to help out this holiday season, we had no idea it would amount to this! With permission from one of her clients, Stacy shared his story... he had just been moved to a new foster home and virtually none of his belongings moved with him. Less than a week later, the neighborhood had come together to provide what will surely be a most memorable holiday for Stacy's client, his foster father, and his three foster brothers. When all was said and done, this one single street – historically known for its generosity and sense of community – had donated enough to purchase two (TWO!) carloads full of food, clothes, books, gift cards, blankets, countless hand-me-downs, and even a new phone for her client (including months of prepaid service) – something that is always a huge hurdle for the youth we work with, and so essential for being able to keep in touch. The group of neighbors was as thrilled to be able to help out, as the boys were to receive.



CCA's attorneys do whatever they can to help their clients. Sometimes, this means assisting them in matters outside legal cases – such as getting vaccinated. W.C. is a long-time CCA client; CCA attorneys started representing him and his brother in 2016, and attorney Jay Sicklick took over his case a few years later. W.C. was hesitant to get the COVID-19 vaccine, but after talking about it with Jay, the Director of CCA's Medical-Legal Partnership Project, he decided to get vaccinated.

For W.C., a lack of reliable transportation was one of the major barriers to getting vaccinated. When Jay heard about this, he drove W.C. to a local pharmacy to get his vaccine. Congratulations, W.C.!



Thank you to our friend Maya Palanki, the founder of Hope for Human Rights, who created a fundraiser with eight schools around CT to raise money for four non-profits! We were so grateful to have been chosen as a recipient and appreciate your very generous donation!

CCA Attorney Sabrina Tavi with client James and his mother Ingrid (names changed) in front of Danbury Probate Court after securing a Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) probate order, an important milestone in helping James apply for SIJS and on his path to citizenship.



THIS YEAR IN REVIEW

Provided **1,011** children and youth with legal information and legal services.

Served children from **65** different Connecticut towns, in all eight counties in Connecticut.

Provided more than **250** legal consultations to healthcare, education and social service providers about specific cases.

Trained more than **800** health care, social service and other professionals to improve their ability to advocate for the children they serve.

Provided children's education rights trainings to more than **150** parent participants.

Provided training on representing immigrant children to **25** pro bono attorneys who will provide no-cost representation to immigrant children eligible for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status.

Provided **28** youth advocates with advocacy training and youth organizing groups.

Provided consultation on implementing a restorative justice program to **9** youth facilities housing juvenile justice-involved youth. A Department of Corrections (DOC) survey of correctional officers reported that **62%** of youth incarcerated in the DOC facility had improved behavior after the facility implemented restorative justice practices.

FINANCIAL REPORT

92% of every dollar raised goes directly to services for the poorest and most vulnerable children and youth. Center for Children's Advocacy has a GOLD rating on GuideStar.

INCOME

Grants/Contributions	1,650,349
Fees/Contracts	563,356
Other	329,867
Total	2,543,572



EXPENSES

Programs/Services	2,191,402
Other/Administrative	190,557
Total	2,381,959



Net Profit/Loss	161,613
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THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR WORK!

\$50,000+

1848 Foundation
Connecticut Bar Foundation
Connecticut Children's (Medical Center)
Connecticut Health Foundation
Connecticut Judicial Branch Court
Support Services Division
Hartford Foundation for Public Giving
Herbert & Neil Singer Foundation
Melville Charitable Trust
Office of the Child Public Defender
The Tow Foundation
Yale New Haven Hospital

\$10,000 - \$49,999

American Savings Foundation
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& Education
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Landon Charitable Foundation
Near & Far Aid
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Tow Youth Justice Institute
UCONN Law School
The Village for Families & Children
Yale Child Study Center

\$5,000 - \$9,999

American Academy of Matrimonial
Lawyers - CT Chapter
MaryBeth & Doug Colosky
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County
CVS Health
Department of Children & Families
The Ellen Jeanne Goldfarb Memorial
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