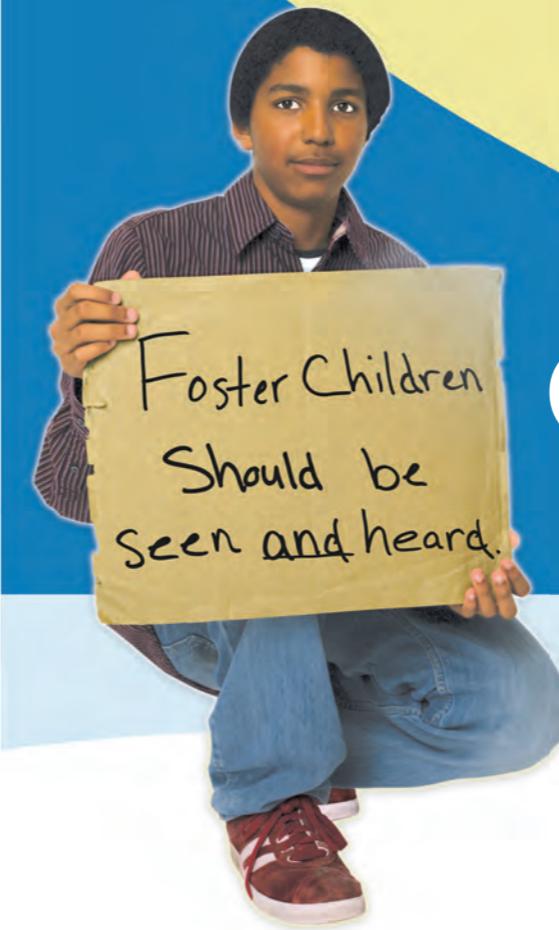




Children In Placement
300 Whalley Avenue
New Haven, CT 06511
www.childreninplacement.org
203-784-0344

This newsletter is sponsored in part by funding from
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CHILDREN IN PLACEMENT

Everyday Heroes

A newsletter of the volunteers, staff
and youth of Children In Placement

December 2008
Issue No: 1

Kadia's story



Kadia was a victim of abuse at the hand of her mother when she was removed from her home at the age of 14 and assigned a Children In Placement (CIP) guardian ad litem. Carmen Effron, the picture of upper class culture and of Italian heritage, was assigned to Kadia. As a Jamaican youth, Kadia wasn't sure she could relate. In their ten years together and far beyond their court-appointed relationship, Carmen has since become the mother figure and advocate that Kadia always wanted. Even though they're long distance now, they talk on the phone almost every day. Carmen traveled to Washington, D.C. to attend Kadia's graduation from Howard University and most recently to North Carolina to celebrate Kadia's graduation with a master of divinity degree from Duke University. Kadia is working toward ordination and plans to apply her experience and skills in the foster care system helping others who are in the same situation she faced earlier in life.

Kadia beat the odds. Many teenagers who remain in foster care until they reach 18 experience major problems after they leave the child welfare system, namely unemployment, early pregnancies, incarceration, welfare dependence and even homelessness.

What Kadia most appreciates about CIP is that "they didn't walk away after I was legally an adult. They kept in touch while I was in school and always gave me moral support. I have been blessed by being affiliated with Children In Placement." We, too, feel blessed by Kadia's tremendous example of fortitude.

Letter from New London

The letter started... "I read your article called 'Together we can end pain of child abuse' in the New London Day." Volunteer Coordinator Joellen Tryban had placed an editorial letter in the paper about Children In Placement in an effort to recruit volunteers for the Waterford court. She shared the letter with other coordinators in a recent staff meeting.

The letter's author tells her story of abuse and her experience in the foster care system. "I wish you were around (and your volunteers) in 1971 to help me. I probably might have turned out different. In court, I really wanted to be adopted. Thank you for helping the children now." A hush filled the entire room. It was a tremendous reminder of the importance of our mission, even for those who carry it out every day.

Future issues will highlight multiple stories of volunteers who go above and beyond the call of duty for the youth they represent. There is no real reason to limit ourselves when there is so much good to share!

Receive the Everyday Heroes newsletter electronically. Send us your request by e-mail at cipnh.org.

Volunteer Spotlight

Dan Donohue decided to make a complete change when he retired from corporate life. He spent too much time in corporate meetings indoors and too distant from the real nitty-gritty of life so he decided to devote his volunteer efforts to direct service with children – "out in the real world." We're pleased to report that he found Children In Placement in his new world.

Children In Placement asks its volunteers to commit 12-18 months once they are assigned as the Guardian Ad Litem (GAL) on a case. Dan is now in his fourth year with one case that started with a boy of thirteen who ran away from various Residential Treatment Centers and Group Homes in Connecticut and Massachusetts. With the high turnover in assigned social workers and therapists, Dan was the only constant in his life and, at times, was the only one pushing the juvenile court system to be more responsive to the boy's needs. With heavy caseloads throughout the child welfare system, the amount of time that can be devoted to any one child is quite limited so having volunteers like Dan closely monitoring and providing unbiased recommendations to the court is critical. While his situation is changing daily, this boy knows Dan will be "in his corner" making sure his best interests are being met.

Dan Donohue's work garners respect throughout the Hartford juvenile court system. Attorneys, social workers and judges depend on his investigations and reports. The judge even requested him by name recently to an especially difficult case. "There is a tremendous pay-off when you see that the judges look to us (volunteer GALs) as a main information source when making decisions in these kids' lives," says Donohue. "They rely on us more and more. The work does not require a heavy time commitment, it's flexible, it involves a real variety of people and there is an emotional payoff!"

Supporting the Work of Children In Placement

Cut out this coupon and mail it to the address provided below. Your support is greatly appreciated.

- I might like to volunteer. Please send me your volunteer information package.
- My contribution is enclosed.
(Does your employer match gifts? Don't forget to include the company's form!)
- I'd like to purchase art cards at \$10 per pack of 8. My payment is enclosed.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

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When foster children are bounced around, they can end up feeling homeless. Having their lives repeatedly uprooted leaves these children feeling alone and unwanted. As a CASA volunteer, you can help ensure they'll have a safe, permanent home where they can thrive. Help now at ChildrenInPlacement.org, (203) 784-0344.





Message from Joan and Carol



When we were growing up the adults often said “children should be seen, but NOT heard.” Now that we are adults (and have been for many years...) we loudly protest that thought. We believe that if you are going to talk about children in out-of-home care – indeed, if you are going to decide their fate, in many ways – you must invite them to the table for the discussion.

That’s exactly what happened this winter as the National CASA organization conducted focus groups of children going through “the system” in four or five locations throughout the country. Connecticut foster youth were included thanks to Children In Placement. One of our youth spoke up in the focus group and said “foster children should be seen AND heard.” His comment became a featured slogan when National CASA kicked off its Forgotten Children campaign in May with a dramatic display of 4,250 life size cutouts of children placed in the shadows of The Washington Monument, representing each child who entered the foster care system in that week alone. Every day, 850 children enter America’s foster care system because they cannot live safely at home. The campaign will continue throughout the year, helping to raise awareness on a local level for CASA programs across the nation.

Children In Placement is the Connecticut CASA affiliate and our mission is to recruit, train and supervise volunteers to help foster children find safe, permanent homes where they can thrive. CASA volunteers also help to alleviate the constant upheaval faced by foster children. Research shows that children with a CASA volunteer are substantially less likely to be in long-term foster care, defined as three years or longer. When a CASA volunteer is involved, a child is less likely to move from home to home, and they are 95% less likely to re-enter the foster care system.

We are proud of the efforts we make on behalf of vulnerable children and we are pleased to share our stories in a new effort toward greater visibility. Let us hear your thoughts and share your e-mail address with us so that we can reach you electronically with our newsletters in the future. Contact us by e-mail at cipnh.org. Then you, too, can be seen AND heard.

Sincerely,


Joan Jenkins
Executive Director


Carol Anastasio
President



Children In Placement – CT, Inc.

State Headquarters at:
300 Whalley Avenue
New Haven, CT 06511
203-784-0344
www.childreninplacement.org

Court Locations:

Bridgeport
Danbury
Hartford
Middletown
New Britain
New Haven
Norwalk
Rockville
Stamford
Torrington
Waterbury
Waterford
Willimantic

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Children In Placement – CT is the statewide affiliate of National CASA or Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children.



Getting Personally Involved

CASA is the only volunteer organization that empowers everyday citizens as federally recognized officers of the court. In an overburdened social welfare system, abused and neglected children often slip through the cracks among hundreds of current cases. CASA volunteers change that.

If you are at least 21 years old and you have a sincere desire to help children, you can apply to be a trained CASA guardian ad litem (GAL). You’ll represent the best interest of the child in court and between court appearances, you’ll check that services are put into place and are being utilized, or you’ll quickly inform the parties when problems are hindering progress.

Our volunteers include retirees, doctors, teachers, lawyers, homemakers and represent all walks of life. They are specially trained to conduct interviews with children, parents, educators, health care providers and others who impact the life of the child and they are often able to provide the court with many of the facts that are not otherwise provided. The five day training includes topics such as Roles & Responsibilities, Dynamics of Abuse & Neglect, Cultural Awareness, Court Process & Procedure, Investigative & Advocacy Skills and Court Report Writing.

Children In Placement is the only CASA program in Connecticut. If you would like more information about volunteering in this way, call your local coordinator or Genese Calloway in the central office at 203-784-0344 ext. 203.

Court	Phone	Coordinator
Bridgeport	203-576-3945 203-330-4834	Dulce Nieves Carol Quinlan
Danbury	203-778-3001	Leanne McEvoy
Hartford	860-244-7900 ext. 3026	Judy Moyer
Middletown	860-344-2986 ext. 314	Karen Hardy-Massaro
New Britain	860-515-5148	Karen Hardy-Massaro
New Haven	203-784-0344 ext. 203	Genese Calloway
Norwalk	203-866-9275 ext. 331	Cindy Epstein
Rockville	860-872-7143 ext. 328	Mary Ann Privitera
Stamford	203-353-8640	Jill Bicks
Torrington	860-489-0201 ext. 309	Cassie Roach
Waterbury	203-596-4202 ext. 3052	Cathy Ciresi
Waterford	860-440-5880 ext. 3017	Joellen Tryban
Willimantic	860-456-5700 ext. 4041	Joellen Tryban

Upcoming Trainings

Waterbury – December
New Haven – February
Willimantic – date to come

watch our web site for updates
www.childreninplacement.org

Ways You Can Help

You can help further the CIP mission and add color to your life with our children’s artwork note cards. Each pack contains 3 x 5” blank note cards and envelopes wrapped in twine. Buy them by the pack (\$10) or in bulk quantities for gift shops or other retail outlets.



Remember Children In Placement through your United Way contributions. Most United Ways allow you to name a charity of your choice, even if it is not featured or listed as a local campaign participant.

Include Children In Placement in your will or estate plans. We can provide you with proof of our 501(c)(3) status and language for proper identification of the agency.

For more information, call Lynn Curless at 203-784-0344 ext. 204.

A Note of Thanks

Kappa Alpha Theta sorority
Yale undergraduate chapter
Sorority members at fundraising fashion show



Mischa Campbell - *for help preparing the mail appeal.*
Kappa Alpha Theta at Quinnipiac
Theta Epsilon Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha, Inc.
The Grad Club
Breiner Whole Body Health Center - *radio public service announcements*

FOUNDATION & CORPORATE SUPPORT

NewAlliance Foundation
New Haven County Bar Foundation
Stephan W. Marcucio Charitable Foundation for Battered Children
City Missionary Association of New Haven
Perrin Family Foundation
‘R Kids Family Center
Tzedakah House, LLC
The Volunteer Center
A T & T Foundation
Empower New Haven
Community Foundation of the Tri-County Area
Hospital of Saint Raphael – *One for All Fund*

What’s Cookin’?

If you miss the elegant dining experience offered through our Cooking for CASA, we have good news. Cooking for CASA 2009 will be worth the wait as we combine this premiere event with a celebration of our 30th Anniversary and plans to raise at least \$30,000 for Connecticut’s children.

If you would like to volunteer or contribute in some way to the event, call Lynn Curless at 203-784-0344 ext. 204.