

*"I AM NOT USED TO HAVING ANYONE CARE ABOUT ME. "*  
Youth living in a shelter



**CHILDREN  
IN  
PLACEMENT**



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“ As a judge frequently assigned to Juvenile Matters, my experience with Children in Placement and its volunteers has been very favorable. Regrettably, there are not enough volunteers. The cases in our juvenile courts are increasing. At the same time, there are fewer lawyers available to act as guardians ad litem for these children. Therefore, we must look to community volunteers to assist us with increasing caseloads. The children in our community need individual, unbiased, and enthusiastic advocates whose job it is to represent to the court a position exclusively in the interest of the child. Those volunteers should also work to ensure that the children in their charge get the services and resources they often desperately need. Only caring and compassionate persons who wish to make a positive difference in the life of a child need apply. ”

*Honorable Francis J. Foley III,  
Superior Court Justice*

“ I enthusiastically support the Connecticut Youth Alliance program. I endorse the efforts of Children In Placement in our community and I look forward to seeing CYA grow in popularity and influence with the youth of Bridgeport. ”

*Bill Finch, Mayor of Bridgeport, Connecticut*



“ There is a tremendous pay-off when you see the judges look to us (volunteers) as a main information source when making decisions in these kids' lives. 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 ! ”

*Dan Donohue,  
CIP volunteer advocate*

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**Court locations statewide**

**Learn how you can make a  
difference in a child's life at  
[www.childreninplacement.org](http://www.childreninplacement.org)**



**fostering a  
better way  
for  
Connecticut's  
children**



Children in Placement is an affiliate of National CASA  
and the only CASA program in Connecticut.

**CASA**  
Court Appointed Special Advocates  
FOR CHILDREN  
An affiliate of National CASA

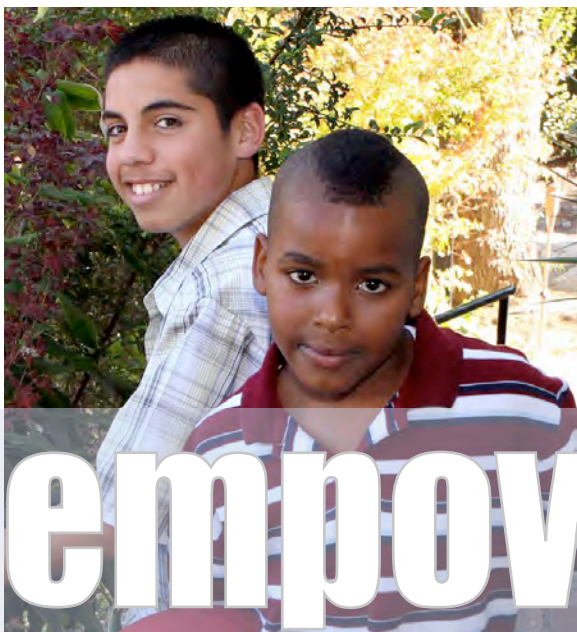


THE GOAL OF CHILDREN IN PLACEMENT, A STATEWIDE CHILD ADVOCACY AND YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM, IS TO SEE EVERY CHILD IN CONNECTICUT IN A SAFE AND PERMANENT HOME PREPARING FOR LIFE OUTSIDE OF A STATE SYSTEM.

#### ADVOCACY PROGRAM

The advocacy program trains community members as CASA volunteers. CASA stands for Court Appointed Special Advocates. CASA volunteers represent the best interests of abused and neglected children in Connecticut court cases where their custody is being decided. Hundreds of volunteers are specifically trained to handle the most difficult and complicated cases and are typically assigned one case at a time to give individual attention to each child's needs. They look for long-term solutions and provide continuity by staying close to the child until a safe home is found. Research shows that children are placed in safe permanent homes sooner when assisted by CASA volunteers.

*"As a young black man, everyone's waiting for me to trip up."  
From CYA youth's digital story*



*"You say you can't afford to go to school and I'm saying you can't afford NOT to."*

*Lily, former foster youth, CYA participant, and Yale University undergraduate*



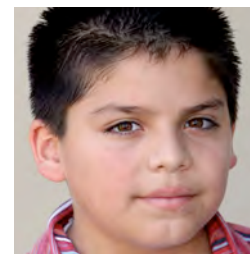
*"... they didn't walk away when I was legally an adult. They kept in touch while I was in school and always gave me moral support. I have been blessed by being affiliated with Children In Placement."*

*Kadia, former foster youth, and Duke University Divinity School graduate*

# advocacy

*"They are volunteers, and therefore not paid, but their work is priceless."*

*Honorable Judge F. Paul Kurmay and former Connecticut Probate Court Administrator*



*"I wish you were around 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."*

*Letter in response to a New London Day article on Children In Placement*

#### EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

The youth empowerment program, Connecticut Youth Alliance (CYA), grew from a belief that the children from out-of-home placements were the best to advocate for changes in the system that controls their lives. The goal of Connecticut Youth Alliance is to empower youth to advocate for themselves and prepare them for life outside of a state system. This program is guided, focused and driven by current and former foster youth.

Connecticut Youth Alliance furthers the mission of Children In Placement as it serves the best interest of the child throughout the placement process and beyond.

*"Foster children should be seen AND heard."*

*A featured slogan in a National CASA campaign from a CYA youth*

[www.childreninplacement.org](http://www.childreninplacement.org)

# empowerment