



In the midst of a changing world with increased risk for our clients, *Child Advocates* staff and volunteers are working hard to support our clients and their families in many different aspects of their lives, and we are positioning our agency to continue effective advocacy for youth in a new landscape. Whether it be supporting a young client through a traumatic event, advocating for a teen's educational needs, or providing trainings on legal representation in a virtual world, *Child Advocates* work has continued and remains important as ever.

When Sasha was abused by her mother's boyfriend at age ten, *Child Advocates* worked with her mother to understand and navigate the criminal justice system. Sasha's team, made up of an experienced staff social worker and a dedicated volunteer attorney, helped support her as she testified via closed circuit TV and then assisted in crafting a Victim Impact Statement. Sasha had a chance to express her anger and grief in a safe way, and her perpetrator received a sentence of ten years. The *Child Advocates* team also ensured that proper therapeutic services were in place for Sasha to continue the healing process. Today, she is grateful for the support she received from her mom and thankful to put the past behind her and look to the future.

In 2019, James was sent to a residential treatment facility (RTF) for mental health concerns, and the RTF staff planned for him to attend the on-ground school. The *Child Advocates* team was greatly concerned about this placement because on-ground schools are not subject to the same licensing requirements as public schools. After multiple advocacy initiatives and our meeting with the general counsel of the public school that served the area where the RTF was located, James was permitted to commute to the neighborhood school where he excelled. This educational success helped pave the way to family reunification, enrollment in an appropriate and challenging school that served his family's neighborhood, and overall stability for James as his family navigated virtual schooling during 2020. These achievements were due to the hard work of James' mother, his dedication at school and good grades, and the educational advocacy efforts of his *Child Advocates* team and Project YES Attorney.

When COVID-19 restrictions temporarily stopped parent-child visitation, *Child Advocates'* Social Workers and Attorneys worked with key stakeholders to develop a protocol that can keep children connected with families and maintain the health and safety of all involved. The Center for Excellence in Advocacy (CEA) used its webinar platforms to train staff, volunteers, and other attorneys and professionals on the new protocol. These trainings were just two of the 34 webinars that CEA has held since March, providing training to over 1,437 professionals.



Happy Holidays

from all of us at the Support Center for Child Advocates

Child Advocates serves more than 1,000 children each year providing high-quality legal representation and seeking appropriate social services for boys and girls who have experienced abuse and neglect. Help us change the story and ensure safety, health, education, family permanency and access to justice for each of our clients.

Many thanks to our clients for providing the beautiful artwork featured here. Designed and printed by Creative Characters.

1617 JFK Boulevard, Suite 1200
Philadelphia, PA 19103

267-546-9200

www.SCCALaw.org

have a
Good Year



Board of Directors

Dorothy Arimond
Jeffrey Bagley
Susan Blumenfeld
John Burns
Gregory Capps
Deborah Cohen
Matthew Duncan
David Dzara
Shannon Farmer
Mark Gaeto
Alisa Gifford

Elizabeth Jobes
Sarah Keating
Robert Lenahan
John McCabe
Shabrei Parker
Benjamin Pierce
KaSandra Rogier
Carrie Rosen
Katie Adams Schaeffer
Gina Smith
Shelley Smith

Jeffrey Sotland
Megan Spitz
Derek Squire
Benjamin Stango
James Steigerwald
Marianne Styles
Kelley Tate
Michael Trudgeon
Jennifer Welding

Leadership Council

Hon. Lynne Abraham
Dr. Steven Altschuler
Leonard Bernstein
Sheldon Bonovitz
Christopher Dunne
Kenneth Frazier
Nancy Fullam
Hon. Jane Greenspan
Lynne Honickman

Katayun Jaffari
Ron Jaworski
Leonard Klehr
Susanna Lachs
Leslie Anne Miller
Dermot Mulroney
James Murray
James Redeker
Michael Stiles

Staff

Laurie Aylor
Suzanne Bartch-Waters
Cathy Behar
Morgen Black-Smith
Shakiya Brock
Blanca Castro
Frank Cervone
Xia Chen
Fiona Dawson
Awaly Diallo

Sarah Dlugos
Benjamin Dobkin
Alexandra Dolan
Michael Drzik
Pamela Ende
Cate Galbally
Shoshi Goldfuss
Sydney Groll
Marguerite Gualtieri
Cheneeta Harris
M. Suzanne Hodges
Meghan Johnson
Jessica Jones

Barry Kassel
Dr. M. Christine Kenty
Eva Kraft
Sandra Lavini
Antonia Lewis
Marti Little
Lauren McNeil
Emily Murbarger
Renny Osuna
Kelly Sagastume
Gillian Schaps
Jodi Schatz
Chaneil Scott

Meghan Seitz
Shannon Sherwood
Sonja Smith
Megan Somsanith
Mashira Stevens
Nia Thomas
Briana Ventimiglia
Gerald Weaber
Meagan Wells
Kelsey Wolk