

Dear Friends,

With the help of so many, 2018 continued to be a year of growth for CASA-NYC, in both scale and scope. At the heart of our organization are our volunteer Advocates, who give so generously of their time to help change the trajectory of the lives of children and youth in foster care. In the past year, we trained 92 new volunteers, bringing us up to **209 Advocates, the largest number ever, and served 1,128 children and youth.** Please consider joining this group of caring New Yorkers!

On the programmatic side, we continue to deepen the work we do with our kids by developing our expertise in supporting special populations. Through our **Pregnant and Parenting Youth Initiative**, we trained a new cohort of Advocates to specialize in providing intensive support for young parents to help prevent child abuse and neglect and next-generation foster care placement. We also launched a new support group for pregnant and parenting youth.

We hired our first full-time Coordinator of Services for Youth Transitioning from Care and launched a **Youth Leadership Council** – eight incredible current and former foster youth who are speaking out about their experiences in foster care, helping to train our staff and Advocates as well as family court and child welfare professionals. These remarkable young people are informing CASA’s programming and advocating for improvements in the child welfare system.

In 2017 CASA-NYC developed an assessment to measure progress in safety and stability of youth

transitioning from foster care (YTC), including pregnant and parenting youth (PPY). The initial results are in:

- **85% of all youth and 95% of parenting youth showed improvement in one or more measures of safety and stability as a direct result of CASA-NYC’s involvement.** Our young people showed the greatest improvement in the areas of education, housing stability, and social/emotional support.

All of this great and life-changing work could not happen without the support and generosity of our board, staff and volunteers – and the hundreds of donors who show up in numerous ways to show they care for some of the most vulnerable children in the city we all call home.

Please accept our deepest gratitude.



Kerry Moles

Kerry Moles
Executive Director



Jessica Aaron

Jessica Aaron
Chair
Board of Directors



The Honorable Anne-Marie Jolly and volunteer Advocate Farrah Landry at the November 2018 Swearing-In Ceremony.



New volunteer Advocates taking the Oath of Confidentiality.

events



Top left: Former foster youth Shyanne and Sharonda Hope-Cross and volunteer Advocate Wendy Mono during keynote address at the Fall Heroes Luncheon; Top right: Luncheon co-chairs Abigail Weinsbank and Joanne Seelaus with staff members Michaele McInay and Elizabeth Van Horn; Bottom left: Associate Board members at their annual fall gala; Bottom right: Heroes Award recipient Hedy Matteson gets a standing ovation.

IMPACT OF CASA-NYC: PROGRESS OF YOUTH AGING OUT OF FOSTER CARE IN NEW YORK CITY

Background

In 2012 CASA-NYC began providing specialized support to improve the outcomes of youth ages 15 to 21 in and aging out of foster care through the **Youth Transitioning from Care (YTC) Project**. In 2017, we expanded the YTC Project to offer intensive support to current and former foster youth ages 15 to 24 who have children of their own through the **Pregnant and Parenting (PPY) Initiative**, with the goal of preventing child abuse and neglect and next-generation foster care placement.

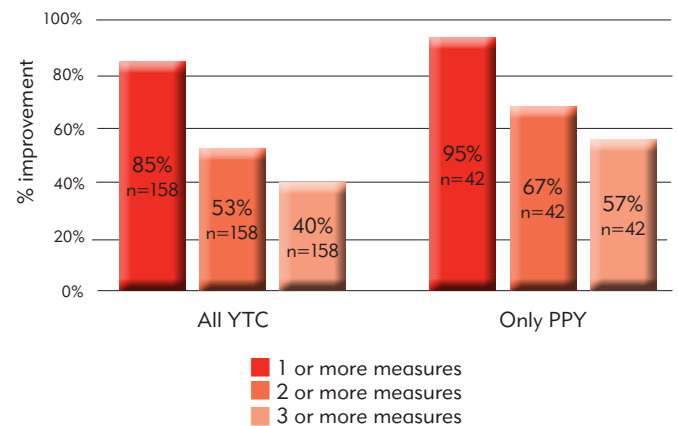
Measure of Youth Safety and Stability

In 2017 CASA-NYC developed the Measure of Youth Safety and Stability, **a tool measuring progress in safety and stability** of youth transitioning from foster care, including pregnant and parenting youth. Seven areas of functioning are assessed, including education (special supports or attainment), housing stability (safe and permanent living arrangements), social/emotional support (supportive adult or peer relationships), health and mental health (well-being and access to service providers), vital documents (possession of vital documents), income/employment stability (stable employment or income), and parenting support (including concrete supports and services for children).

Evaluation of Impact

Between July 1, 2017 and September 30, 2018, CASA-NYC evaluated the progress youth made between initial assessments and interim/closing assessments for 158 youth, including 42 pregnant or parenting youth, as a result of CASA-NYC's advocacy. 85% of youth and 95% of pregnant or parenting youth showed improvement in one or more measures of safety and stability. Youth made the most progress in areas of education, housing stability, social/emotional support and parenting support.

Progress in Safety and Stability



Of 158 youth completing initial and interim and/or closing assessments, 85% made progress in one or more measures of safety and stability. Of 42 pregnant or parenting youth, 95% made progress in one or more measures of safety and stability.

FINANCIALS

Fiscal Year 2018 (10/1/17 to 9/30/18) and 2017

	2018	2017
Revenue		
Individual donations	\$448,651	\$328,283
Foundation grants	401,000	341,000
Other donations	135,407	113,728
Board donations	189,421	181,911
Miscellaneous income	1,189	337
Government contracts	364,792	364,934
TOTAL REVENUE	\$1,540,460	\$1,330,193
Expenses		
Salaries	\$788,803	\$670,714
Benefits	242,262	201,562
Other than personnel services	576,517	482,196
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,607,582	\$1,354,472



Members of the CASA-NYC Youth Leadership Council, launched in July 2018.

NIGEL AND RANDI



Nigel Warren

Nigel entered foster care when he was 12, after his father passed away and his mother's drug addiction led to charges of child neglect. After initially being sent to a residential group

home, he was bounced around between foster homes—he recalls being in about eight different homes between ages 12 and 17.

Nigel met his Advocate, Randi, when he was 14. "I was like, 'Who is this lady? I'm definitely not talking to her.' It took me years to trust her. But the whole time she was helping me behind the scenes. She was always in court telling the judge things, and then the judge would order things to be done for me that should have been done in the first place. Like one winter I didn't have a coat, and she noticed I came to court with just a sweatshirt. She told the judge that in court, and next thing you know, I had this really nice coat."

According to Randi's notes, during his time in foster care Nigel went through 11 case workers, 8 foster homes, 6 mental health providers, several detention centers – and one CASA volunteer through it all. "I hope I can always be here for him. I intend to be."

When Nigel was 17 he was arrested and sent to prison in upstate New York. It was while he was in prison that he came to rely on and trust Randi. "She was there the minute she found out. She came all the way upstate to visit me. No one in my family did that. She sent me all these cards. I still have those cards. She helped me get my stipends that the agency owed me. She helped me get my GED. She sent me care packages. And she helped me make a plan for when I got out. If she would have never been there, I would have never sat down and thought about my life and decided to change."

Nigel aged out of foster care when he was in prison. He was released three years ago, and Randi helped him make a successful transition to living in the community, working and serving as a member of CASA-NYC's Youth Leadership Council. Nigel is 24 now and says Randi is trying to get him to go to college. "She texts me all the time. She takes me out to eat, and she brings those financial aid forms. She keeps me on track. She's family now."

Randi Feiner



Randi grew up outside of Philadelphia. She taught children with disabilities and raised two daughters in New Jersey. Over the years, she volunteered caring for children with AIDS, helping new immigrants resettle, and working with homeless families. When she moved to NYC, she was looking for a volunteer project and a friend recommended CASA.

Nigel was one of Randi's first CASA cases. Nigel was 14 and Randi says that understandably, given his experiences, he "struggled with anger and needed nurturing and direction." He had several brushes with the law. "I always showed up at court," Randi said. "One time his foster mom asked me to retrieve his belongings while he was in detention, or she would have to discard them." The foster care agency wouldn't store his belongings either, so Randi drove to Coney Island and picked up several garbage bags of his things and kept them in her basement. When Nigel's godfather died suddenly, he wanted to go to the funeral, but getting permission to attend meant jumping through hoops. "I had two or three days to make it happen. I called his legal guardian, ACS attorney, caseworker, and anyone else I could think of." In the end Randi prevailed and Nigel got to attend the funeral. "There's just no way it would have happened without CASA," Randi said.

"Nigel had no support while he was in prison, so I made sure he knew he could count on me. I wanted him to get out of there better than he went in." Randi talked to his counselor and got information about programs that were available to him, and she tried to convince Nigel to take advantage of them. "GED, group therapy, religion, whatever would help him get on the right track." And he listened. He asked Randi to send him a GED review book and books about starting your own business. "He had some good business ideas. I can't imagine how he could keep up his spirits for three years without any contact from the outside. He learned to take responsibility for his actions, forgiveness, and to look forward to better possibilities."

Because he "aged out" of foster care while he was still in prison, Randi negotiated a temporary place for Nigel to stay when he got out at age 21, and eventually she helped him get into a supportive housing program for former foster youth, where he still lives. She also helped him get into a job training program. "Nigel has really turned his life around. I would love to see college in his future. He has come a long way!"

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS! *FY 2018: October 1, 2017 to September 30, 2018*

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Spring Gala, May, 2018, from top: Associate Board Co-Chair Khaila Ross enjoying the program; Comedian Monroe Martin talking about his experience growing up in foster care; Volunteer Advocate and Honoree Karen Azoulay placing a winning bid during the live auction, with board member Shelley Rapp.

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