In many ways, 2016 was a year of transition for CASA-NYC. Last summer we bid farewell to Peggy Grauwiler, who stepped down after eight years as Executive Director, and I was honored to assume leadership of this incredible organization. We welcomed several new staff and board members, as well as 37 new volunteer advocates. We adjusted to the quickly changing environment in the New York City Family Court, which welcomed nine new judges and implemented an ambitious strategic plan under the leadership of newly appointed Administrative Judge Jeanette Ruiz. We have also continued to adjust to the ever-changing needs of the low income children and families we serve, as they face the growing challenges of living in New York City.

While I have been inspired by the energy and adaptability of our staff, board and volunteers, I am also encouraged by the many constants at CASA. As I’ve transitioned to my new role as Executive Director, I’ve been grateful to have the partnership of Jessica Aaron who, while also new to her role as CASA’s board president, is by no means new to CASA. Jessica has served CASA since 2002 in every conceivable role – as an advocate, intern, employee, and member of both junior and executive boards. We have an incredibly committed staff of passionate social workers and attorneys who care deeply and work tirelessly to support our volunteers and children. And of course, for 37 years, CASA-NYC’s volunteer advocates have remained the heart and soul of our organization. It has been a pleasure to meet and learn from those who have been selflessly serving New York City’s foster children for 5, 10, 15 years and more.

Another constant for CASA has been the support of the many individuals, foundations and corporate sponsors who make our work possible. I look forward to continuing to work alongside all of you, as well as our partners in the child welfare agencies and courts, to ensure that children in New York City foster care grow up in safe, loving and permanent homes.

With gratitude,
Kerry Moles
Executive Director
A LETTER FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT

I am so grateful to the CASA staff, board and volunteers for the incredible work they have done this year on behalf of children in New York City foster care. More children are being served by volunteer advocates who can give them the kind of one-to-one attention that they desperately need and deserve, so they can move out of foster care and into safe and permanent homes as quickly as possible.

In the year ahead, we hope to continue to increase the number of children matched with volunteer advocates, and further deepen the work we do with them. We know that kids with CASA volunteers are more likely to get the services they need, do better in school, spend less time in foster care and are less likely to be re-abused and re-enter foster care.

We will accomplish this in many ways: by recruiting more volunteer advocates who speak the languages of our children and families; by increasing the number of core training classes for new advocates and offering enhanced training on special populations like youth transitioning to adulthood; by hiring additional advocate supervisors in the courts that need them so that we can meet the growing demand for CASA; and by staying with young people transitioning out of foster care until we are confident that they have what they need to launch into adulthood.

None of this important work would be possible without the steadfast support and commitment of our donors. Already in 2017 we have increased our fundraising, which has enabled us to create a new position for a full-time Volunteer Coordinator and increase the number of advocates we train substantially. This was the first step to meeting the needs of all of the kids who are at risk of falling through the cracks in NYC’s foster care system. CASA staff, leadership and donors are in this together, and every day we help take care of the most vulnerable kids in our city together. I thank each of you and look forward to continuing our partnership in the year ahead.

Sincerely,

Jessica Aaron
President, Board of Directors
WHO WE SERVE

In 2016 CASA served 1,001 children and youth throughout the five boroughs of New York City.

In 2016 we expanded our capacity in Queens, adding new staff and increasing the number of children served in the borough by 250%.

We saw a significant increase in the number of infants and toddlers assigned to CASA, most often for assistance with early intervention, support for parental reunification and placement with out-of-state relatives.

FINANCIALS
Fiscal Year 2016 (10/1/15 to 9/30/16)

Revenue
- Individual Donations: 316,170
- Other Donations: 40,784
- Board Donations: 163,064
- Miscellaneous Income: 15,632
- Total Grants: 247,000
- Government Contracts: 446,701

TOTAL REVENUE: $1,229,351

Expenses
- Salaries: 737,767
- Benefits: 229,787
- Other Than Personnel Expenses: 279,907

TOTAL EXPENSES: $1,247,461
THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS! FY 15-16, October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016

FOUNDATION SUPPORT
$50,000+
Help for Children
William Randolph Hearst Foundation

$20,000 to $49,999
The Achelis and Bodman Foundations
Joseph LeRoy & Ann C. Warner Fund
The Sirius Fund
The Wasyli Family Foundation

$10,000 to $19,999
CME Group Community Foundation
Lower Manhattan Community Church
The Wendy’s Advertising Fund
William C. Bullitt Foundation

$5,000 to $9,999
Frankel Family Foundation
Frederick & Diana Elghanayan Family Foundation
The Xerox Foundation

$1,000 to $4,999
John N. Blackman, Sr. Foundation
Kappa Alpha Theta Foundation
Lemberg Foundation
The New York Community Trust
Marble Collegiate Church
Metzger-Price Fund
Spirit of Hope Children’s Foundation

$500 to $999
The New York Bar Foundation
Posner-Wallace Foundation
The Pittsburgh Foundation

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$10,000+
Akerman, LLP

$5,000 to $9,999
The Chubb Corporation
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Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP

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BOROUGH COORDINATOR
Imagine you’re a child with severe medical needs, alone in a hospital in another state… until your CASA volunteer shows up.

CASA volunteer David has been the most consistent presence in Sharonne’s life, throughout her frequent hospitalizations. Several months ago, Sharonne was temporarily placed in a hospital eight hours away from home, where her foster mother is unable to visit. David regularly takes time away from his small business and flies down to visit Sharonne. He speaks with Sharonne and the hospital staff frequently by phone. David reports back to the Judge, Sharonne’s attorney and the foster care agency about her treatment, progress and obstacles – providing essential input into long-term planning for Sharonne and the kind of tenacious support a loving parent would provide.

Imagine you’re a teenager who has never been motivated to go to school… until someone finally asks the right questions.

A Family Court Judge requested CASA’s assistance with Kiara, who was missing so much school she was failing. Kiara reported to her advocate Liz that she had a hard time getting to school because it was such a long commute. Liz listened to Kiara and identified a motivator that none of her caseworkers had: Kiara said she had always wanted to be on a high school sports team, and she was a really fast runner. None of the schools she had been to in the past offered sports. Liz and Kiara worked together to research schools closer to her home and found a high school that specializes in working with kids in foster care, and also has a track team. Liz accompanied Kiara to her interview and helped with enrollment paperwork. Today, Kiara’s guidance counselor reports that she has excellent attendance and maintains the high grades required for members of the track team.

Imagine you’re a child with disabilities, receiving treatment and services that don’t meet your needs… until someone really pays attention to what your needs are.

When CASA volunteer Nicole began working with Edgar, he had been hospitalized five times in the previous nine months and had repeatedly run away from his foster care placement. Nicole carefully reviewed his records and did some research. She quickly realized that Edgar was not receiving appropriate treatment and services for the conditions with which he had been diagnosed. He had been heavily medicated for a mental health disorder that had not have, but was not receiving appropriate educational services for the diagnoses he did have. Nicole brought these discrepancies to the attention of the Judge and the foster care agency, and advocated for Edgar’s placement in a setting that was designed specifically for children with similar disabilities. More than a year later, Edgar is stable in this placement where he’s receiving the services he needs; he has stopped running away and has not been hospitalized again.

“Thanks for always asking about her first. Sometimes people forget these are children and not just a docket number.”

Foster Parent and pre-adoptive resource

“Thank you for making sure I’m okay, I’ve never had anyone care like that in my life before.”

CASA teen