



Boston CASA Honors Massachusetts Attorney General Andrea Campbell in celebration of its 11th annual Transforming Lives Gala on Thursday, April 27, 2023, at 6:30 PM at Artists for Humanity—special guest performances by Boston Children's Chorus and Robert Richardson.

Boston CASA is excited to gather with supporters, volunteers, and all those who make their work possible. The theme, "*Opening Doors to Lifechanging Possibilities*," could not be more apt, as Boston CASA has spent the last year working with Community Action Partners (CAP), a volunteer organization of Harvard Business School and Kennedy School alumni, laying the groundwork for growth, change, and limitless opportunity.

Attorney General Andrea Campbell is honored with the Susan Ganz Award for her years of dedication and tireless advocacy to increase opportunities and improve outcomes for those most systemically disenfranchised. Andrea's story inspires hope for the youth, families, and communities Boston CASA serves. Her remarkable accomplishments, filled with many firsts, embody this year's Transforming Lives Gala theme: opening doors to lifechanging possibilities.

Boston CASA

Boston CASA is Boston's only nonprofit organization representing the Suffolk and Middlesex counties that trains and supports volunteer advocates to give a voice and hope to children involved in the court system due to abuse and neglect. Beginning with a staff of one in 2012 and 30 volunteers serving 60 children, Boston CASA is now a 13-person staff with over 200 volunteers serving more than 300 children. Last year, CASAs donated **over 15,000** hours and delivered more than **\$750,000** worth of advocacy services to Suffolk and Middlesex Counties. CASAs provide the highest quality, comprehensive advocacy for children and families and serve as the *only* person in a foster child's life whose sole role is to advocate for that child's best interest. The positive impact is often enormous, yet we can only serve 15% of the children and youth who are court involved in Middlesex and Suffolk counties. "We know children with a consistent, caring adult in their life have more favorable outcomes, and my goal is for every child to have a CASA advocate on their behalf," stated Executive Director Nicole Stewart.

The Role of a CASA Volunteer

In complicated and hectic family and legal situations, a judge can appoint a CASA to advocate for their assigned child's best interest and well-being. CASAs provide a carefully researched background of the child to help the court make a sound decision about that child's future to ensure their ability to thrive. Most children represented by a CASA are in foster care, but some are with their family of origin. However, they all share a common experience of being thrust into a world of uncertainty that is a frightening and difficult ordeal. Yet, CASAs are often the only stable factor in that child's life, lifting their voice and championing what's in their best interest without compromise. On average, Boston CASA volunteers remain on a case for at least 18 months.