

[View this email in your browser](#)

Spring 2024



# Boston CASA Spring Quarterly Newsletter

---

## **A Message from Nicole Stewart, Boston CASA Executive Director**

Dear Boston CASA Community,

Last month at our 12th Annual Transforming Lives Gala, we had an opportunity to celebrate the work of our CASAs, the children and youths they serve, and to raise funds to ensure we can continue to expand our services to the eligible children of Suffolk and Middlesex Counties. It was a wonderful evening that reflected the entirety of our community. It opened with a spectacular performance by dancers from OrigiNation Cultural Arts Center. We honored Linda Spears with the Susan J. Ganz Award, a testament to her extraordinary career-long commitment to improving policies and practices for our most vulnerable children and families. Her impact on our community has been profound. We also heard from Maria Mossaides and Judge Terry Craven, two women who have devoted their lives to protecting children. It was wonderful to have Divina speak on behalf of the youth in the room about the impact her CASA has had on her life. Her speech was a true celebration of her journey and the important role a CASA plays. It was tremendous to have members of Boston CASA's Youth Advisory Board and so many CASAs on hand to serve in the role of ambassadors. We announced the start of the Susan J. Ganz endowment thanks to the generosity of Bryan Ganz, founder of Byrna Technologies. Once again, we were blessed with videos by Nikki Cole that can be watched on our website. The evening concluded with a wonderful display

of philanthropy as community members raised their paddles and ensured the evening's success with over \$200,000 raised.

When Boston CASA became independent of the judiciary in 2012, it was with a mandate to grow the program. In 12 years, the organization has gone from serving 60 children that first year to over 300. There is still work to do with only 15% of the eligible children and youths receiving the essential support of a CASA in Suffolk and Middlesex Counties, and we need to continue to grow until we can provide a CASA to every child in need. This will require increased financial support from all sectors of our communities. The good news is that modeling shows once Boston CASA doubles its current budget, it will triple the number of children served, and we will be able to reach nearly 50% of these often-forgotten youth. Doubling our budget is only daunting if one forgets the importance of our cause.

For the past 14 months, Boston CASA has been developing a program to ensure our CASAs and staff are more responsive to transitional-aged youth in the system – those between the ages of 14-22. A recent [Boston Globe article](#) outlined the hardship these young people face as they transition to adulthood. The piece accentuates the challenges foster youth have navigating both the real world and the services DCF provides. This is where a CASA can make a world of difference, and why we started our Youth Advisory Board (YAB). The Youth Advisory Board serves as a platform for these young people to voice their concerns, share their experiences, and contribute to the development of our programs. By involving them directly in our work, we can ensure that our services are tailored to their needs and provide them with the support they need to thrive.

We are incredibly grateful for this community of support and partnership in our work to provide every child and youth with the life-changing opportunity of a Court Appointed Special Advocate to help them thrive. In closing is a quote from this year's youth speaker at the Gala, Divina, who is class of the 2023 YAB and currently a YAB mentor, "I don't think I would have been here if I hadn't had the mindset change that Claire [my CASA] introduced me to. The idea that things can change. That a better world is possible."

Warm regards,

Nicole Stewart

---



---

## Looking for ways to support Boston CASA?

We have three great opportunities to support Boston CASA and businesses in the area!

Shop at Altar'd State in Dedham on their Mission Mondays through April and 10% of your purchase will be donated back to Boston CASA.

If you purchase a “Giving Bag” at any local Stop and Shop, use the Giving Tag on the bag to redirect your donation to Boston CASA.

During the month of April Boston CASA is Baramor's Pull for Charity partner. \$3 of their “Pull for Charity” beer will be donated to Boston CASA.

ALTAR'D STATE  
*stand out. for good*



Baramor is located in Newton Centre and has great options for everyone!



A blue banner with white and red text. On the left, it says "Join Us Virtually" in red and white, followed by "Tuesday, April 9 11:00-11:45am". Below that, it says "2nd Annual MA CASA LEGISLATIVE APPRECIATION DAY" in white. On the right, there is a photo of a young boy in a green shirt leaning on a desk, with a red circular graphic overlay that says "Court Appointed Special Advocates".

## CASA Legislative Appreciation Day on April 9th

We hope that you will join us for our Second Annual CASA Legislative Appreciation Day to honor the support of legislators who have championed the extraordinary work of Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteers. The event will be hosted virtually on Tuesday, April 9 from 11:00 AM-11:45 AM.

A graphic honoring Representative Jim O'Day. It features a circular portrait of a man with glasses and a mustache. To the right is a map of Massachusetts with stars indicating the locations of 7 local programs in Franklin/Hampshire, Essex, Berkshire, Worcester, Middlesex/Suffolk, Hampden, and Bristol counties. Below the map, it says "A partnership of 7 Local Programs serving 9 counties" and "MA State CASA Office". At the bottom, there is a yellow banner with a video camera icon, a QR code, and the text "Registration required" and the CASA logo.

[Register Here](#)

Join us on August 12th for our Golf Tournament!

Registration is open for the Boston CASA Golf Tournament! Join us on August 12th at the William Devine Golf Course for an exciting day of golf and lunch. We did sell out last year, so act fast! Registration and sponsorship opportunities can be found here:

[Register Here](#)

---

## March By The Numbers

March was a busy month at CASA! We had over 50 hearings during the month and completed another new CASA training for 35 CASAs.

At our Transforming Lives Gala, we announced the establishment of the Susan J. Ganz Endowment for Boston CASA that will help support our work for years to come.



### March 2024 By the Numbers

**35**

New CASAs Trained

**56**

CASA Court Reports  
Filed

**\$100,000**

A generous donation  
established the Susan J.  
Ganz Endowment for  
Boston CASA

---



## The Boston Marathon

On April 15th five runners in the Boston Marathon will be running in support of Boston CASA.

Looking to support one of our runners? You can donate to their fundraising campaigns with the button below.

Boston CASA thanks the Boston Athletic Association and the City of Boston for providing the bibs for this year's marathon.

[Support Runners Here](#)





*Copyright (C) 2024 Boston CASA. All rights reserved.*

Our mailing address is:

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe](#)