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## **Boston CASA Summer Quarterly Newsletter**

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

Summer in New England is very short, so I'll keep this brief to let you return to the summertime pleasures of birds singing, beach escapes, the delicious aroma of barbecue, and the beautiful sunshine!

I am pleased to share the excellent news that Boston CASA is on track to achieve the Plan for Growth's first-year goals. Thanks to you and a surge in both new donors and foundations making first-time grants, we have exceeded last year's fundraising with one quarter remaining in the current fiscal year. With this support, we have been able to serve 75 new children. We are looking forward to a strong finish to the 2024 fiscal year.

I hope you will consider joining us at Boston CASA's Second Annual Golf Outing on August 12th at the William J. Devine Golf Course in Dorchester. It's an opportunity to promote Boston CASA's essential mission, increase awareness of our important

work, and raise funds to increase the number of foster children able to gain the much-deserved support of a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA).

Our unwavering commitment to providing more children with the life-changing opportunity of a CASA is at the heart of everything we do. This dedication drives us forward and inspires us to always do more. I can't thank you enough for believing in Boston CASA's mission and for partnering with us.

Enjoy the summer!

Warm regards,  
Nicole

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## Boston CASA's Youth Advisory Board

Our Youth Advisory Board has been hard at work over the past few months!

Our Board has been partnered with Small House, a Boston-based non-profit with a mission to empower transition-aged youth and young adults aged 18-24 with the tools they need to permanently and successfully transition into adulthood and independence. Small House helps youth create the kinds of lives that they want to live through goal setting and life-skill building, with plans to establish and offer transitional housing. In partnership with Boston CASA's Youth Advisory Board (YAB), YAB members were able to receive a unique, 10-session unique evidence-based



Our CASA YAB Coordinators Jasmine and Jaylene with Asjah Monroe, Founder and Director of Small House

resiliency life-coaching program  
covering topics such as identity and  
mindset, self-awareness, and planning  
for success.

## **What does it feel like to be part of the Youth Advisory Board? Here's what our members shared:**

### **Jocelyn, 18**

Jocelyn said being in YAB has been a great opportunity where she has learned a lot and grown significantly as a person. She says that her experience on the board has been good and that the assignments are relevant to her personal experience and helpful. Highlight: a self-care how-to and learning the importance of taking time for herself.

### **Mia, 17**

Mia says she feels good about being part of the Youth Advisory Board and it's been a good experience. Most importantly, she has learned that she has a voice, and finding others with similar experiences helps her feel less alone. She feels she can really connect with other board members. Highlight: learning it is okay to open up and speak the truth.

### **Jaiden, 18**

Jaiden says that being a part of the Youth Advisory Board is very fulfilling and that she feels like she is doing something important. Her experience with the board has been very positive so far, and she's met great people. Highlight: learning more about herself through the assignments and gaining skills to become a professional.



Boston CASA Staff Jasmine and Jaylene with YAB members Jocelyn and Jaiden.

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## Support our Back to School Drive Today!

The summer has just started, but we're gearing up for back to school here at the Boston CASA office! Last year our

Back to School Drive was a great success and thanks to our amazing donors and supporters we were able to give our youth the supplies they needed to start the school year off right.

**Our next drive starts now!** Based last year's feedback, we are asking for gift cards instead of specific supplies so that our youth and families can

### Looking to Support our Drive off of Amazon?

We are also looking for the following gift cards that are not sold on Amazon:

Dick's Sporting Goods  
Target  
Walmart  
Primark  
TJ Maxx

If you purchase any of these gift cards, you can either drop them off at our office



purchase the materials they need.  
Please support our CASAs and youth  
by purchasing an item from our wish  
list! All items will be shipped to our  
office (when checking out, please  
make sure to select the shipping  
address "Charly Snellings Boston MA  
Gift Registry" The full address is  
hidden). If you have any questions,  
please reach out to Charly, Director of  
Community Engagement and  
Volunteer Services at  
[charly@bostoncasa.org](mailto:charly@bostoncasa.org).

or mail them to 85 Merrimac Street Suite  
401 Boston MA 02114.

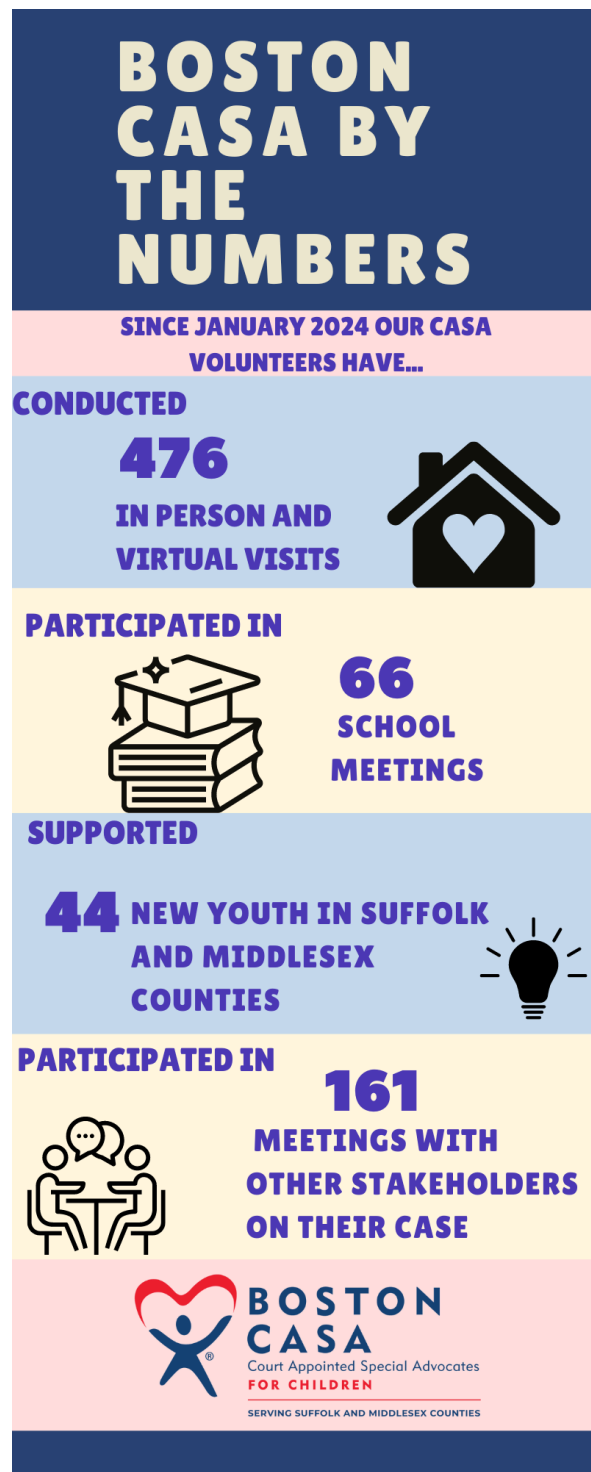
Support our Wish List Here



# Six Months of CASA Work

As we hit 2024's halfway point, we wanted to shout out the amazing work our CASA volunteers have been doing.

From visits with youth to hours writing court reports to meetings with stakeholders our CASAs go the extra mile to advocate for the youth they work with. We are excited to see what the rest of 2024 looks like!





## Register for our Golf Outing Today!

We have limited spots left for our 2nd annual golf outing on August 12th 2024. Register today to secure your spot! We also still have sponsorship opportunities available.

[Register Here!](#)



## Boston CASA and Kappa Alpha Theta

CASA and the local chapters of Kappa Alpha Theta have had a long-standing and valuable partnership. In the spring, Boston CASA hosted members of the Tufts Kappa Alpha Theta Chapter to learn more about Boston CASA and the work that our volunteers do.

Members of Kappa Alpha Theta also helped support our Gala in March by checking in and registering guests.

CASA and Kappa Alpha Theta have long partnered in advocating for youth



in the child welfare system. Thank you  
to all members of Kappa Alpha Theta!

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## Spotlight on the Kenneth Erskine Fund

The Kenneth Erskine Fund helps our CASAs meet the needs of the youth and families they work with by bridging the gap between different funding sources. Our CASAs have been able to use this valuable resource to pay for afterschool programs, summer camps, sporting equipment and more!

Recently the Erskine Fund was used to pay for a five-year-old child's summer camp experience. This summer camp will help provide enrichment experiences and emotional regulation skills to support her in the future.

Thank you to the Erskine family for their continued support of Boston CASA!

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