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## Boston CASA Fall 2025 Newsletter

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### A Letter from Our Executive Director

Dear Boston CASA Community,

As we close out an extraordinary fiscal year, I am filled with deep gratitude for the incredible Boston CASA community. Together, we've achieved record-breaking milestones serving more children than ever before, training the largest group of volunteer advocates in our history, and surpassing our fundraising goals by more than 25%. These accomplishments reflect the collective dedication, compassion, and belief in our mission shared by our volunteers, donors, partners, and staff.

The work of our wonderful CASAs has never been more important. Every day, they bring consistency, care, and hope to children and youth across Suffolk and Middlesex Counties. Their unwavering commitment fuels our Plan for Growth and reminds us why we strive so passionately to expand our reach so that every child who needs an advocate can have one.

As we step into Fiscal Year 2026, we do so with renewed purpose and bold vision building on our momentum to reach more children, deepen our impact, and drive systemic change through our Youth Advisory Board. Our goals for the year are ambitious yet achievable: to serve 20% more children, train additional volunteers, and hire another Advocate Supervisor to ensure every CASA and child receives the individualized support they deserve.

We're continuing to strengthen our foundation through data and impact measurement to better understand how the presence of a CASA changes outcomes for the children we serve. Through our exciting new partnership with LEGO, CASAs will take part in LEGO's Learning Through Play training and gain creative, evidence-based tools to build trust, empower children's voices, and help every child thrive with confidence and agency. As we work to serve more children across Suffolk and Middlesex Counties, this collective effort will help us tell a more powerful story of impact – one rooted in measurable results and meaningful change.

We also partnered with a development consultant who conducted a comprehensive fundraising audit. In the year ahead, we will review the audit's recommendations and implement strategic improvements to strengthen our fundraising infrastructure to position Boston CASA to meet our long-term financial sustainability and growth goals.

Finally, with the partnership of Teak Media, Boston CASA has reached an audience of more than 20.5 million readers and 118,500 in print circulation across Suffolk and Middlesex Counties. Our goal for FY26 is to build on this success by broadening awareness of the vital work of our volunteers and sharing the inspiring stories made possible by our generous community of supporters.

Together, we are growing and shaping a stronger future that provides hope and creates opportunities for brighter futures for every child and youth we serve. Thank you!

Warm regards,  
Nicole

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## **Boston CASA Celebrates Growth**

On September 26th, Boston CASA hosted a gathering to celebrate the completion of the second year of the ambitious Plan for Growth and to gain media coverage to raise the organization's profile to assist in fulfilling the lofty goals for the future.

The Boston CASA team was joined by Founding Executive Director, Charles Lerner, family court judges, and long-time supporters to celebrate the organization's tremendous growth. Guests heard from Terry Craven, Recall Judge and Former First Justice of Suffolk County Juvenile Court; Bryan Ganz, CEO of Byrna Technologies

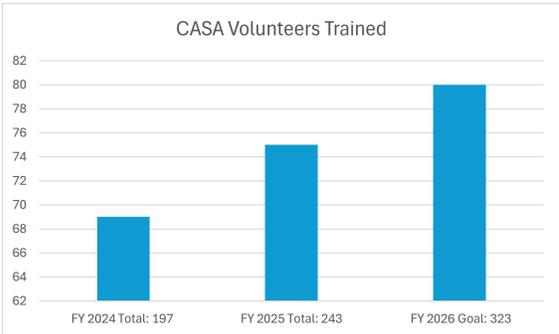
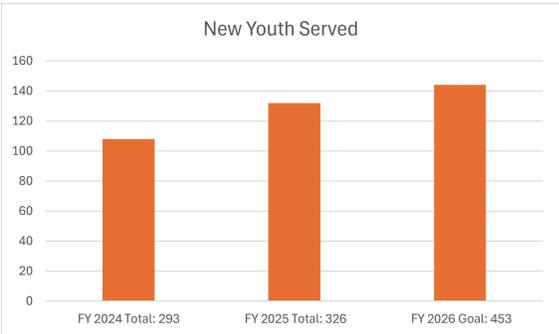
and former Boston CASA Board member; Erin Margolius, CASA volunteer; and Youth Advisory Board (YAB) member El’Asia Williams.

Executive Director Nicole Stewart opened the program highlighting Boston CASA’s achievements over the past two years, including serving more children and youth, expanding staff, training more volunteers, and moving into a larger, cost-saving office space. Bryan Ganz reflected on Boston CASA’s beginnings and shared how his late wife Susan’s dedication as a CASA inspired their family’s commitment to supporting foster youth. Judge Terry Craven offered heartfelt praise for CASA volunteers, calling them “the secret ingredient in difficult cases,” emphasizing how their insight helps judges make the best decisions for children. El’Asia Williams captivated the audience with her powerful story, speaking about the lasting impact of her CASA, Erin Margolius: “She shows me that I have a voice, that I’m a human being with feelings, just trying to live life like everyone else.” Margolius, in turn, reflected on the deep connections CASAs build with children: “This is an organization that allows relationships to flourish over years if necessary. You don’t have a term limit. You stay, you get the job done and help your child.”

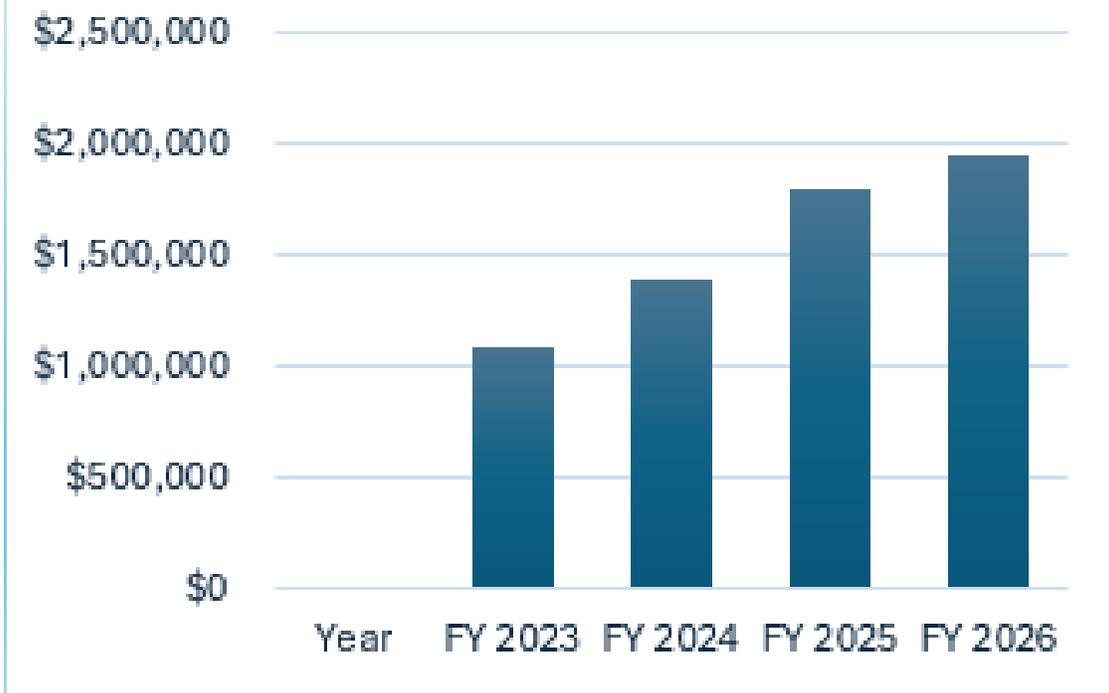
The event was great moment to reflect on where Boston CASA has been and where it is going, and it was covered by FOX 25 Boston, the *Charlestown Patriot Bridge*, the *Jamaica Plain Gazette*, and the *Boston Sun*.

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## The Plan for Growth In Action



## Fiscal Year Revenue Growth



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## Boston CASA Open House

Boston CASA hosted an open house on September 26th to celebrate our expansion and honor the incredible work of our CASAs. Guests toured our new office at 151 Merrimac Street, Suite 200, and connected with staff. If you couldn't join us, we'd love to welcome you for a visit during office hours.



## Join Us at the Youth Advisory Board Forum on November 1st

Our 2025 Youth Advisory Board (YAB) will be sharing their projects on November 1st at the Cambridge Public Library. Join Boston CASA staff, volunteers and supporters to hear from our youth! Space is limited, please RSVP below.

[RSVP Here](#)

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# Boston CASA's Multicultural Advisory Committee Recap

Boston CASA's Multicultural Advisory Committee (MAC) has officially completed its first year. Comprised of 8–10 dedicated members, MAC was established to ensure that Boston CASA remains steadfast in its commitment to equity and aligns with our core values. The committee plays a vital role in identifying and addressing issues that impact our program, children, youth, families, and the communities we serve.

In partnership with MAC, Boston CASA is working to diversify our volunteer pool so that it more accurately reflects the cultural and lived experiences of the youth and families in our care. This effort not only enhances our ability to provide culturally responsive advocacy but also strengthens our collective understanding through education on cultural norms within our diverse communities.

This year, MAC focused on three key objectives; recruitment and diversification of the CASA volunteer pool to better mirror the communities we support and promote inclusive representation at all levels. Community awareness and relationship-building within underrepresented populations to advance understanding of Boston CASA's mission and encourage broader volunteer engagement. This will lead to the development of a comprehensive resource guide to enhance language access and provide training on cultural humility for both CASA volunteers and staff. Ultimately, MAC's purpose is to support and enhance Boston CASA's efforts to deliver the most effective advocacy for every child and youth.

Interested in learning more about the Multicultural Advisory Committee? Register to join Boston CASA staff at an upcoming information session:

[November 17, 2025 12:00 PM-1:00 PM](#)

[November 17, 2025 6:30 PM-7:00 PM](#)

[January 12, 2026 12:00 PM-1:00 PM](#)

[January 12, 2026 6:00 PM-7:00 PM](#)

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# Another Successful Back to School Drive

Thank you to everyone who help support our Back to School drive earlier this fall. We received over 200 items which totaled over \$4,000 that we were able to give to our CASAs for their youth.

This successful drive would not have been possible without your support!

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## Boston CASA and LEGO

The Boston CASA staff got the opportunity to be trained in LEGO's Learning Through Play curriculum at LEGO's new Boston office. We learned about the power of play in relationship to child development and how we can incorporate play into our own lives!

In September the LEGO staff came to our new CASA training to conduct the Play Agents trainings. Our new CASAs got the opportunity to build ducks from LEGOs and learn about the importance of play. We are looking forward to continuing this extraordinary partnership with LEGO with our current CASAs.

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