



### The Evening Features:

- ♥ **Susan J. Ganz Awardee Linda Spears**  
President and CEO of Child Welfare League of America
- ♥ **Honorable Judge Stephen M. Limon**
- ♥ **CASA Youth Speakers**
- ♥ **Emceed by Tom Stebbins**
- ♥ **An Opportunity to Mingle with CASAs and the Boston CASA Board of Directors**
- ♥ **Bob "The Piano Man" Richardson**
- ♥ **Complimentary Beer, Wine, and Appetizers. Cash Bar**



Questions? Please Contact Michael Esten at 617-714-9430 Ext. 103 or [michael@bostoncasa.org](mailto:michael@bostoncasa.org)



BOSTON CASA'S 12TH ANNUAL GALA

# Transforming Lives

**March 20, 2024**

6:00 PM - 9:00 PM



Boston CASA promotes and protects the best interests of children and youth who have experienced abuse and neglect. We train and support community-based volunteers who provide a voice to children in the court system so they may thrive in a stable environment.

## 2024 Recipient of the Susan J. Ganz Award



### LINDA SPEARS

Linda Spears' distinguished career in the service of children began in 1992 at the Child Welfare League of America (CWLA) where she rose to the position of VP of Policy, Programs, and Public Affairs. In 2015,

Governor Charlie Baker appointed her Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families. As the longest tenured leader in the history of the department, Linda had a tremendously positive impact on a wide spectrum of DCF processes and policies.

At DCF, Linda became known for her ability to establish shared accountability through partnerships with social workers, youth, families, foster parents, service providers, and policy leaders. She managed an annual budget of \$1.2B and a department that employed 4,200. Linda became known for leading system-wide reforms from redesigning protective intake to expanding in-house clinical support for social workers. Her commitment to equity-minded practices saw her establish programs for LGBTQIA+ children and families, and for individuals with disabilities. Under her leadership, Massachusetts saw a 115% increase in the utilization of kinship care placements, a nearly 100% increase in adoptions, and a 20% reduction in the number of children in the state's care. Linda's lasting impact will be the robust infrastructure, the data-driven management, and the culture of continuous quality improvement she built.

In 2023 Linda returned to the CWLA as its President and CEO. Her wealth of experience and familiarity with the organization positions her to lead it into its second century.

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**Please Join Boston CASA's Community  
For an Evening Celebrating  
The 2024 Susan J. Ganz Award  
Recipient Linda Spears**

and

**To Support the Outstanding Efforts of  
Our Court Appointed Special Advocates**

**March 20, 2024**

Reception Begins at 6:00 PM

Program Begins at 6:45 PM

Artist for Humanities Epicenter

100W 2nd Street, Boston, MA 02127

Individual Ticket: \$200

To Purchase Please Complete  
the Reply Card or Visit

[bostoncasa.org/gala2024](https://bostoncasa.org/gala2024)



**Please RSVP by Monday, March 18, 2024**

For Sponsorship Information or to Make a Fully Tax-  
deductible Online Donation Please Visit

[bostoncasa.org/gala2024](https://bostoncasa.org/gala2024)

All Proceeds Will Support the Mission of Boston CASA.