



October 2, 2017

BOARD of DIRECTORS

David Eby
CHAIRMAN
Devine, Millimet & Branch

Amy Coven
CHAIRMAN-ELECT
WMUR TV ABC-9

Thomas Buchanan
TREASURER
Derry Medical Center

John Zahr
SECRETARY
Dyn

Evelyn Aissa
Reaching Higher New Hampshire, Inc.

Adele Baker
Manchester, NH

Judy Bergeron
MTS Services

Arthur Bruinooge
Portsmouth, NH

Kathy Christensen
Amherst, NH

Nick Giacomakis
New England Investment
& Retirement Group, Inc.

Jerry Howard
Strategy First Partners

Ellen Koenig
NH Women's Foundation &
Nonprofit Consultant

Bryan Lord
New Ventures Advisors, LLC.

Linda Lovering
Lovering Volvo

Denise McDonough
Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield

Benjamin Oleson
Town of Lancaster, NH

Maria Proulx
Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield

Alan Reische
Sheehan, Phinney, Bass + Green

Chief Nick Willard
Manchester Police Department

Marcia R. Sink
PRESIDENT & CEO

Town Of Allenstown
16 School St
Allenstown, NH 03275

Dear Board of Selectmen,

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of New Hampshire strives to protect the rights of our state's most vulnerable children to live, learn and grow in the embrace of a loving family. Our trained Volunteer Advocates speak on behalf of the best interests of abused children who come to the attention of New Hampshire's family courts through no fault of their own.

As you may know, CASA of NH is the only nonprofit organization in the state to recruit, screen and train volunteers to advocate for victimized children. There is never an end-point to our mandate, but rather a steady stream of children in jeopardy, particularly an increased number who have come into the court system due to the tragic drug epidemic in our state. Parental substance abuse often has a negative impact on the physical and emotional well-being of children because home environments become chaotic and unpredictable, leading to child mistreatment. We, as a society, have a major interest in how child protection systems respond to children who are the victims of this dire epidemic as well as child abuse and neglect on the whole.

When children are thrust into the confusion of the court and foster care systems, our Volunteer Advocates ensure the child's interests are considered. They paint a clear picture of their needs so judges can make informed decisions for the child's future.

On behalf of CASA of New Hampshire, I respectfully request inclusion in your 2018 budget. The children that we serve come from every corner of the state, and are part of your very community. The same holds true for our volunteers as is evidenced below.

BERLIN (603) 752-9670 **COLEBROOK** PO Box 24, Colebrook, NH 03576 (603) 237-8411

DOVER PO Box 205, Dover, NH 03821 (603) 617-7115 **KEENE** 39 Central Square, Room 303, Keene, NH 03431 (603) 358-4012

MANCHESTER PO Box 1327, Manchester, NH 03105 (603) 626-4600 **PLYMOUTH** 258 Highland Street, Plymouth, NH 03264 (603) 536-1663

FY 2017
BY THE NUMBERS

In Merrimack County alone:

131*
58
68,144
7,933

Children served
Volunteers
Miles traveled
Hours of volunteer time

Value of volunteer advocacy provided

Statewide:

1,358
513
538,861
73,750
\$3.5M

** This number includes children who use your towns' schools and resources and live with foster parents or extended family members in your community. (July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017)*

CASA believes that when appropriate intervention happens at a critical time in an abused child's life, the cycle of violence can be broken and their life can take a path towards becoming healthy, productive adults contributing to our communities. For that reason, we respectfully request your consideration for funding of \$500.00 in your next budget cycle.

Please know that your funding makes a huge impact in the life of an abused or neglected child. For additional information, please call 626-4600 or visit our website at casanh.org.

Sincerely,



Marcia R. Sink
President and CEO