



Sharing News with You - Summer 2020



THANK YOU FOR KEEPING KIDS SAFE



Executive Director Deidre McCormack Martin and her family

Dear Family Law CASA Community,

As summer nears its end, and we prepare for the school year to start, I have been reflecting on what it means to be a parent during this time in our world and country. My three girls, 13, 11 and 11 (yes – twins), have struggled these past 5 months with being stuck at home, not being able to see friends, nor have their normal education and extra-curricular activities.

My husband and I have struggled to juggle work responsibilities and their schooling and everyone's mental health during such stressful times. I'm sure many of our community can relate to the feelings of helplessness, constant worry and depletion that is very normal when we're managing an ongoing disaster like this one.

And then **I think of the families and kids who are involved in the cases we work on – families already facing the many challenges of poverty and systemic inequities, not to mention the stress of high conflict family environments.** For our families of color, there is an added layer of dealing with systemic racism and

marginalization. Our work intersects with a crucial piece of their lives and we want to ensure that we are delivering compassionate, high quality support with an equity focus.

[Read More](#)

Give A Child Hope

You Gave Abby the Chance to Be a Kid Again



Being in the middle of a custody battle is tough enough for the adults, but add in the feelings of a young girl and it becomes a complicated and heart-rending situation. **Confusion, sense of loss, panic, and fear are all emotions that were hard for 8-year-old Abby to understand.**

Abby watched horrified as her parents, who she loved and trusted, began fighting and throwing allegations of domestic violence, substance abuse, and neglect at each other.

A Family Law CASA advocate was assigned to the case and went to bat for Abby collecting every piece of information available in order to recommend the safest parenting plan possible.

In addition to the parents, who were wary of her involvement initially, the advocate interviewed a dozen others - family members, friends, and service providers - to better understand the safety concerns and family dynamics. She reviewed and summarized police reports, school records, and nearly 400 pages of documents from Child Protective Services

Throughout her involvement in the high-conflict case, the advocate encountered resistance and suspicion in efforts to determine recommendations that would be in Abby's best interests. The advocate determinedly sorted through the noise and distractions among the various accusations being leveled and focused instead on the core safety concerns. Ultimately it was concluded that a 50/50 residential plan that minimized interaction between the parents was the best choice for Abby.

You helped Abby have a voice in court. Thanks to the advocates' hard work, Abby can spend time with each parent in a safe environment and enjoy being a kid again. And at the same time Abby's parents are receiving the supportive services they need to address their issues in order to become better parents.

Keep CASA Kids Safe

Zoe and Jay Are Safe Because of You



Imagine watching your dad become so angry that he physically rips off the kitchen sink faucet with his bare hands. Five-year-old Zoe and her big brother 7-year-old Jay were in constant fear of their dad's terrifying anger. And now that their parents were going through a divorce, they were experiencing too many scary moments of their dad's rage-filled outbursts.

Thanks to your support, a Family Law CASA advocate was assigned to the case due to concerns about the father's past substance abuse and his current emotional and psychological state.

After spending a great deal of time gathering reports and talking with family members the advocate learned that there had been a family history of past traumas that the father had experienced in his own upbringing. Believing that those past traumas were the reason for his substance abuse and lack of stability in his mental health the advocate recommended to the court that the father participate in mental health treatment.

You helped Zoe and Jay settle into a safer, less stressful life with their mom. The father agreed to the treatment and is currently working on a better relationship with Zoe and Jay. They are hoping to spend more time with their dad as he completes treatment.

Help A Child Now



Virtual New Advocate Training

September 25th & 30th
Zoom

Be a Voice in Court for
a Child Today!
Apply before Sept 3rd
<https://bit.ly/VolunteerFLC>
Volunteer@familylawcasa.org



Family Law **CASA**
Giving children a voice in court

Help CASA Kids Feel Safe and Secure



At Family Law CASA we are fortunate to have the technology at hand to continue to help our CASA kids and families during this pandemic. New high-conflict custody cases are constantly assigned by the King County courts as trials, mediations, hearings and the dedicated work of our volunteers all take place via video conferencing and phone

COVID-19 and its impacts on the families we serve has only strengthened our resolve to prevent further traumas, support the healing of fragile families, and ensure the safety and well-being of the children.

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 restrictions we are unable to host our fall fundraising event, CASA Uncorked. Those attending the annual dinner and auction event generously donate almost a quarter of our budgeted income for the year. Now, we are replacing it with a special peer-to-peer campaign.

We are asking our loyal donors to reach out to their friends and family members and urge them to help us through this tough time. **Please share this newsletter and consider making a fall donation to help our CASA kids.** For more information on the campaign please contact development@familylawcasa.org.

Thank you for believing in these kids' futures!

Yes! I want to help children like Abby, Zoe, and Jay

Five Easy Ways to Support CASA Kids:

- ♦ [Make a gift online](#)
- ♦ **Mail your gift** to Family Law CASA, 810 Third Avenue, Suite 700 Seattle, WA 98104
- ♦ **Advise your charitable fund** to make a gift to FL CASA
- ♦ **Make a gift of stock** - Contact Lisa Johnston at 206-748-9700 for transfer instructions.
- ♦ **Include CASA in your Estate Plans.** Contact us at development@familylawcasa.org for more information.
- ♦ **Visit www.familylawcasa.org** to learn more about our CASA kids.

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Names, images, and details about the children you are helping are varied and changed to protect their privacy.

Family Law CASA is a 501(c)3 organization; TIN: 14-1840620

Our mailing address is:

Family Law CASA 810 3rd Ave
Ste 700
Seattle, WA 98104-1618

Add us to your address book 206-748-

9700

Visit www.familylawcasa.org to learn more about our CASA kids.

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