

### ***“Persistence is Key”***

*As a child, Lucinda Mercer’s mother would say “into each life a little rain must fall” whenever she was disappointed. To move past disappointments, one must keep looking forward and remain steadfast. It is this pattern that made Lucinda realize that persistence would be a contributing factor to any success in life.*

*Growing up in a single-parent home, Lucinda quickly learned that it was important to be able to take care of herself while her mother worked to sustain their family. She was fortunate enough to have her flute teacher as a support as well. Much like the role of a CASA, Lucinda felt it was essential to have the presence of another adult in her formative years to help guide her.*

*Although her years of volunteering as a CASA came on a whim, Lucinda attended a local information session in 2011 and felt that this was the exact “hands on” type of opportunity she wanted – the kind that would bring her “closer to the folks she was working with.” Lucinda has worked on two cases in her ten years as a CASA and has forged strong relationships with her youth. She enjoys playing Legos and working on art projects with them!*

*Over the years, Lucinda has learned that to be a CASA, it is important to “be persistent and to ask a lot of (seemingly) stupid questions.” In her toughest moments of advocacy, she continued asking questions in order to figure out the best solutions for problems. Within that persistence, she was able to facilitate conversations that put the right steps into motion. Lucinda also credits list-making and scheduling her calendar as part of her success as an advocate.*

*Aside from her advocacy for CASA, Lucinda works as the Development Director for Caring Contact – a crisis and suicide prevention hotline. She is deeply involved with training volunteers, grant writing and fundraising activities in her current position. She spends free time volunteering for the hotline and mentoring students on all things college related for College Connections. Lucinda and her husband have lived in Millburn for 27 years and have raised two grown daughters. Their household has always had furry felines – her current, Alfie, enjoys Zoom-bombing her meetings! In her free time, Lucinda enjoys the theater, cycling, and traveling.*

*Clearly, Lucinda brings a plethora of experience to the table that makes her an incredible part of the CASA of Essex team!*