

William J. Spencer
CASA of New Jersey's
2012 Mission Partner

William J. Spencer is the creator of [Whole-System Learning](#) (WSL). WSL's mission is to **breathe life into learning** by engaging the learner's **head, heart and hands**. WSL marries the 'art' of whole-system methods with the 'science' of rigorous instructional design.

This approach to adult learning incorporates the latest research from cognitive neuroscience about the physiobiological basis of perception, motivation, memory and learning. The system stands on the shoulders of Accelerated Learning, and incorporates discovery learning, experiential learning, as well as movement in learning; it is applied both to the design and to the facilitation of learning.



The learning extends over time—and may include web-based learning, interactive group sessions, on-the-job learning tasks, action learning projects, self-directed learning, managerial support and periodic reinforcement.

William Spencer's hallmark and personal passion are using **innovative and experiential** learning methods. He revels in creating engaging learning solutions that transfer learning to the workplace and give **tangible business results**. He shares this passion on each project, in train-the-trainer sessions and in public programs for those who want to learn more about innovative approaches to learning.

Originally from the United Kingdom, Mr. Spencer holds a Business Studies Diploma and several IT qualifications. A Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society in London, Mr. Spencer has traveled extensively, living and working internationally for 17 years.

WSL has worked with many **Fortune 1000** companies in the financial, retail, professional services, pharmaceuticals, manufacturing, travel, and hospitality sectors, as well as Local and Federal Government.

For the past few years, William and the WSL team have contributed substantial financial gifts and pro-bono services to CASA. Using the WSL model, they helped spearhead the development and implementation of a highly-participative training curriculum. The WSL team are currently working on a companion piece on Educational Advocacy.

Dr. Anthony D'Urso
CASA of New Jersey's
2012 Hero for New Jersey's Children

Dr. Anthony D'Urso has been teaching graduate psychology for over twenty years in the area of child, adolescent and adult psychopathology, forensic psychology and clinical practice. He supervises clinical evaluations for children and adolescents at the Montclair State University (MSU) Assessment Center in the College of Education. He is a nationally known expert in child maltreatment and has developed many systems in the State of New Jersey for child victims.



He has co-directed Finding Words - New Jersey, a forensic interviewing academy since 2002 and has trained over one thousand child interviewers from law enforcement and child protective services. He co-designed and implemented the New Jersey Child Fatality and Near Fatality Review Board and has served as its Chair for the last eight years.

In 1999, Dr. D'Urso worked with a dedicated steering committee to establish CASA of New Jersey. As its founding Board President, Dr. D'Urso helped CASA of New Jersey form critical relationships that have helped CASA flourish since.

His current research interests include best practices in forensic psychology, and have been cited in both the New Jersey Supreme Court and Appellate Division as an expert witness.

He is currently studying the process of disclosure in young victims of child sexual abuse to identify factors which impact the credibility and reliability of childhood recollections.

Dr. D'Urso is also interested in therapy outcomes in the use of expressive therapy in complex posttraumatic stress. He is investigating the factors associated with the diagnosis of non-accidental trauma and the prediction of later fatality.

Jean Harris CASA of New Jersey's 2012 Volunteer of the Year

For the past 20 plus years, Jean Harris has advocated for over 50 children, whom she helped find safe, permanent homes. The impact this has had, not only on the children's lives, but on the lives of their families and the community as a whole, cannot be measured in words.

In all of her years of service, Jean has advocated for three different New Jersey CASA programs. Currently, she advocates in Atlantic County, after having done so in both Morris and Ocean Counties. Jean not only serves as an advocate for children, but also as a Mentor Advocate and a member of the Program Impact Committee. Jean helps facilitate CASA 101 Training to teach potential volunteers about writing a comprehensive, fact-based CASA court report. She also is a recipient of the Presidential Service Award for donating over 1,000 volunteer service hours.

Jean has been recognized many times by professional and social service organizations for her service on behalf of abused and neglected children. In honor of her outstanding service, Jean was presented with an Award of Distinction in Ocean County in 1999 and 2001. Community stakeholders routinely comment on Jean's impact as a CASA Volunteer, commenting on her professionalism, fairness in judgment, honesty, compassion and unwavering advocacy for the children she serves. Several Judges have also remarked on the thoroughness of Jean's reports and her thoughtful and relevant recommendations. She is universally respected by all the individuals with whom she comes in contact.



Jean remembers being told early on by her case supervisor that an advocate enters people's lives to help resolve a problem and when it's resolved, you move on. "You can't keep intruding – you step in, do what you can and you step out." Families often reach out to Jean to

report successes and update her on the children's progress. While she loves to hear from the families, Jean has never initiated contact with any of the children for whom she has advocated. Jean shared some time ago that she will eventually find out about all the children she served over the years by saying, "When I go to heaven, I'll see all those kids again."