

# 2010 Annual Report

The National Court Appointed Special Advocate Association

## Strength in Numbers



**CASA**

Court Appointed Special Advocates  
FOR CHILDREN

THE NATIONAL COURT APPOINTED  
SPECIAL ADVOCATE ASSOCIATION

*When I was growing up I didn't have a "family family." I didn't have someone to bake cookies with, an auntie to push me in the right direction or to tell me when I was messing up. I didn't have anyone to support and encourage me.*

*Now I have all these people who care about me; my CASA volunteer calls us "Team Lauren." Each one helps me in a different way. In the future, I hope to take a piece of each of them and use it in my own life. Use what they have taught me to work with other youth so that hopefully one day I can give back by making a difference in someone's life the way that they have done in mine.*

—Lauren Huichan

Read more about Team Lauren and the National CASA *Fostering Futures* program that is supporting her success on the next page and beginning on page 8.





**Lauren Huichan**, surrounded by her chosen family. Lauren is part of *Fostering Futures*, a National CASA program supporting older youth in care that was piloted at 16 sites in 2010.

**Left to right (three rows):**

**front:** **Erica Padilla**, a former foster youth and current member of the First Judicial District CASA (NM) board and advisory committee, is a mentor to Lauren and many other CASA-served youth.

**Ray Hansen**, Lauren's first CASA volunteer, was forced to resign for health reasons. Lauren says Ray was the first adult who ever listened to her.

**middle:** **Janice Quinn**, First Judicial District CASA (NM) program director, connects Lauren to supportive community resources and opportunities to develop her leadership talents.

**Shannez Dudelczyk**, CASA volunteer coordinator, worked with Lauren on her *Fostering Futures* goal-setting worksheets.

**Lisa Church**, CASA volunteer coordinator and volunteer, supported Lauren before she left foster care.

**back:** **Hon. Michael E. Vigil**, First Judicial District Court Judge, Santa Fe, works alongside Lauren to promote *Fostering Futures* and the needs of youth leaving foster care in the community.

**Betsy Model**, *Fostering Futures*-trained CASA volunteer, talks with Lauren daily, helping to keep her educational success top of mind.

Hear from these members of Team Lauren at [CASAforChildren.org/AnnualReport](http://CASAforChildren.org/AnnualReport).

## Making a Bold Commitment to Children

At the end of 2010, as the first decade of the 21st century drew to a close, legislators across the country faced tough choices about funding and policy priorities. Many CASA and volunteer guardian ad litem (GAL) programs dealt with deep budget cuts as a result of the still-struggling economy.

Recognizing the challenges facing our programs, and the potential consequences for children, National CASA redesigned our grants program to provide working capital for programs with an emphasis on the operational costs needed to keep volunteers advocating for children. With the generous support of the United States Department of Justice Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Jewelers for Children Foundation and the Walmart Foundation, we were able to provide nearly \$11 million in grants to help keep CASA program doors open, to maintain the quality of our advocacy and, in many cases, to serve even more children in this time of need.

But we did not let ourselves become mired in the recession. In 2010, we initiated our most ambitious effort toward fulfilling our commitment to the children we serve. If we are to achieve our strategic vision of serving all children who need a CASA volunteer by 2020, we must be more aggressive and more strategic in gaining popular support for our cause. And so we laid the foundation for



*Thank you to our mission partners who make success possible for children:*



**JEWELERS FOR CHILDREN**  
A GIFT OF LOVE FOR CHILDREN IN NEED



what will be a new communications and fundraising campaign for National CASA and for our state and local programs. To ground the campaign in the priorities and values of our network and supporters, we spoke with nearly 500 people—CASA/GAL executive directors, donors, foster youth alumni and volunteers. In 2011, we will take this learning and apply it to the launch of this campaign.

This campaign is more than a slogan, more than an advertisement and more than a new mission statement. It is a bold commitment to ensuring that all children living in foster care have volunteers who will fight for and protect their fundamental right to be safe, to be treated with dignity and respect, and to learn and to grow in a loving family.

Thinking of this commitment to children today and in the future, the words of Roy Sesana—an internationally known activist and recipient of the Right Livelihood Award—come to mind.

*We are the ancestors of our grandchildren's children.  
We look after them, just as our ancestors look after us.  
We aren't here for ourselves. We are here for each other  
and for the children of our grandchildren.*

Thank you for your interest in the work of National CASA and for helping us honor our commitment to future generations.

Michael Piraino, CEO  
National CASA Association

Britt Banks, President  
National CASA Association



## By the Numbers

- **75,087** volunteers served as caring adults in the lives of more than **240,000** abused and neglected children in 2010.
- CASA and guardian ad litem (GAL) volunteers contributed **5.8** million hours of service, equal to **\$290** million.
- **90.5%** of funding received by National CASA was directed to services and support for CASA/GAL programs.



Regional program officers are just a phone call away for staff of the programs in their regions. Pictured left to right: Tracy Evans (Southern Gulf), Susan Grant (Northeast), Michael Heaton (Western), Paige Beard (Mountain Plains), Janet Ward (Midwest), Dodd White (Mid-Atlantic).

National CASA provides tools necessary to build, sustain and grow strong CASA programs, offering training, online and printed materials, information-sharing and grants.

At the heart of our service to programs are six National CASA regional program officers (RPOs), consultants to the state and local programs in the regions they serve. Most RPOs began their CASA careers working at local programs. All bring a wealth of knowledge in child welfare issues to the role. They train program staff, facilitate information-sharing, offer guidance on best practices and serve as a sounding board to state and local programs.

### **New National CASA Grants Help Programs Document Results**

Funders and other supporters are increasingly demanding that nonprofit organizations demonstrate their effectiveness using data. In response, National CASA worked with a private vendor, Social Solutions, to create a customized version of their Efforts-to-Outcomes (ETO) web-based performance management system. CASA programs can use ETO to manage the children and volunteers that they serve and measure outcomes. The first 175 CASA programs received National CASA grant funds and technical support in 2010 to pilot this “ETO for CASA” in April.

## Tribal Programs Grow in Strength and Number

Fueled by funding from the Office for Victims of Crime, National CASA supported tribal program training and expansion in 2010.

National CASA partnered with the Potlatch Fund to present a two-day leadership development training to tribal CASA programs in 2010. We provide ongoing training and technical assistance to build capacity to ensure sustainable tribal programs.



In Alaska, National CASA's western regional program officer worked with state and local program staff, judges, tribal leaders and others to bring volunteer advocacy to unserved children in four new areas.

## National CASA Recognized with Seal of Excellence

National CASA's commitment to quality extends from our local programs to state organizations and our national office. Local and state CASA/GAL organizations participate once every four years in a quality assurance assessment that measures their compliance with our standards.



In 2010, National CASA was recertified by the Standards for Excellence Institute. The institute's seal is awarded to organizations that demonstrate the best in nonprofit governance and management, with actions guided by values of integrity, trust and accountability.

## By the Numbers

- **233** CASA programs demonstrated that they are providing the highest quality of service to children by meeting more than **400** standards established by National CASA to support successful CASA program operations.
- National CASA awarded **484** grants totalling nearly **\$11** million to CASA programs. Grants are funded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, by Jewelers for Children and by the Walmart Foundation through the *Fostering Futures* pilot program.
- **A First!** New tools enabled programs to submit grants online, decreasing costs for programs and increasing overall efficiency.

National CASA works with a network of supporters and child welfare organizations to focus public attention on the needs of abused and neglected children and increase their chances for success.



Grammy Award–winning R&B singer **Anthony Hamilton** was named as a National CASA spokesperson. Hamilton promoted the need for CASA volunteers—issuing a strong appeal to African American male volunteers—during a summer concert tour. In the fall, Hamilton spoke about the CASA cause on the nationally syndicated *Tom Joyner Morning Show*.



National CASA focused the public eye on children who might otherwise go unseen by holding **Forgotten Children** events in San Francisco and Atlanta. The San Francisco event was underwritten by CBS television and staffed with help from the local Omega Delta Phi fraternity.



Longtime spokesperson **Judge Glenda Hatchett** continued to spread the word about the need for CASA volunteers with radio tours and newspaper editorials. Her Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service op-ed appeared in 25 newspapers.





Senators **Mary Landrieu** (D-Louisiana) and **Chuck Grassley** (R-Iowa), co-chairs of the Senate Caucus on Foster Youth, joined **Dr. Phil McGraw** in urging viewers to become CASA volunteers and stand up for children caught in the foster care system. And viewers responded! More than 5,900 people inquired about becoming volunteers in the four days after the *Dr. Phil* show aired, *nearly 20 times more than the average* number of inquiries in a four-day period.

National CASA cause-related marketing partners **All-State Legal** and **Fred Meyer Jewelers** continued to contribute funds and raise awareness for the CASA cause, bringing their combined support of National CASA to more than \$180,000 since 2003.

## By the Numbers

- **42,500** people inquired about becoming a CASA volunteer at [CASAforChildren.org](http://CASAforChildren.org).
- **17,000** people were fans of National CASA on Facebook by year-end.
- **127** Kappa Alpha Theta fraternity chapters—and many alumnae chapters—fielded volunteers to help raise awareness of the CASA cause and funds for local CASA programs.
- **51** chapters of the Omega Delta Phi fraternity conducted service projects and held fundraising events to benefit their local CASA programs.
- **A first!** National CASA CEO Michael Piraino posted his first story as a featured writer on *The Huffington Post*. *The Huffington Post* is noted for its highly active community, with over one million comments made on the site each month.

### Bringing the Children's Voice to Capitol Hill

National CASA is actively working to improve outcomes for children in state care:

- Informing public policy and joining public- and private-sector leaders at the table as a member of the National Foster Care Coalition
- Working with foster care alumni, policy makers and other child welfare leaders to develop a bill of rights for foster youth with the Senate Caucus on Foster Youth
- Advocating for educational stability for youth in care as part of the National Working Group on Education



National CASA develops trainings and educational resources for program staff and volunteers that are engaging, relevant and timely and—ultimately—equip CASA volunteers to provide high-quality advocacy to abused and neglected children.

**Learn in Person—Learn Online.  
Giving Volunteers and Staff Options**

Practice what you preach, the old saying goes. Following the proven principle of offering learners a variety of ways to engage, the National CASA training team continued to augment its in-person volunteer and staff trainings with online options: podcasts on topics ranging from working with immigrant youth to social networking; and training webinars to strengthen staff skills in areas including program management and working with boards.

**New *Fostering Futures* Program Helps Youth Succeed**

Each year, more than 25,000 18- to 21-year-olds are forced to leave foster care because they “aged out.” Having experienced maltreatment and instability—and lacking the connections and support systems that others take for granted—these young people are understandably ill equipped to handle day-to-day challenges. Renting an apartment, preparing for a job interview and balancing a checkbook are life skills that no one has taught them. As a result, they are less likely to graduate from high school and college, more likely to be unemployed and experience homelessness.

To improve these odds and help young people make the passage from foster care to future success, National CASA launched the *Fostering Futures* program. A \$1.6-million grant from the Walmart Foundation funded the development of a curriculum and rollout to 16 pilot sites in 2010.



*We're proud of the Fostering Futures program and what it's doing to help the lives of foster youth aging out of the system. Our support of Fostering Futures is a natural extension of Walmart's local commitment to CASA. Our stores and associates have long supported their local CASA programs through our Volunteerism Always Pays program.*

—Margaret McKenna  
President, Walmart Foundation



Funding from the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation enabled National CASA to start work on a “flex-training” volunteer training curriculum. The option will reduce the amount of time potential CASA volunteers must spend in the classroom, allowing them to complete over half of the curriculum online. Meeting the needs of a diverse population is one way National CASA is working to increase the number of CASA volunteers standing up for children.

Nearly 900 *Fostering Futures*-trained CASA volunteers worked with 965 young people in 2010. These volunteers helped youth set achievable goals, develop healthy relationships, access resources and gain independent living skills.

Meet Lauren Huichan, the first young person to go through the *Fostering Futures* process in Santa Fe, and her CASA volunteer, Betsy, on the following page.



## By the Numbers

- **26,529** people listened to our podcasts, gaining valuable information from leaders in their fields.
- **190** participants increased their cultural competency in National CASA *Knowing Who You Are* trainings; nearly 300 strengthened their ability to train volunteers in facilitation skills workshops.
- **1,400** program staff, volunteers and other members of the child welfare community gained skills necessary to improve their advocacy for children at the 2010 National CASA Annual Conference in Atlanta, GA.
- **A first!** Facebook groups were incorporated into National CASA program staff trainings, giving participants the ability to interact before and after the in-person session.

### National CASA Awards of Excellence Share Successes, Inspire Achievement

At our annual conference, CASA of New Orleans was held up as an example to others for its achievements in building diversity in its program. Pictured are Dellona Davis, CASA New Orleans executive director (left), and National CASA Immediate Past President Hon. Ernestine Gray.



Lauren Huichan lived in 22 settings during five years in the foster care system. But she never had a place she considered home or people who cared for her like family.

After being removed from the care of an abusive mother, Lauren lived in shelters, group homes, foster homes and residential treatment facilities. She often wondered where she would be sleeping the next day, frequently had trouble in school and always felt punished for being in care.

Lauren met Ray, her first CASA volunteer, when she was 14 years old. Ray was forced to resign from Lauren’s case due to health issues, but he holds a special place in her life: Ray was the first adult who ever listened to her, who encouraged her dreams. But he was not the last.

Today, Lauren has a support group that includes her *Fostering Futures* CASA volunteer, Betsy Model. Betsy is an advocate, an advisor and a motivator. She is quick to point out that her role is to empower Lauren, not to mentor her:

*I see Lauren and me as a team—as a partnership. We work together to come up with answers to her questions and to help Lauren figure out what makes her happy, what makes her feel fulfilled and what a path might look like towards the future that she wants.*

*I think it’s important that these be Lauren’s decisions, Lauren’s actions that take place. It’s through these decisions and actions that Lauren will grow confident in her ability to not only make good ones but learn from the not-so-great ones and rebound from them with new knowledge and coping skills.*

In 2010, nearly 900 *Fostering Futures*-trained volunteers helped 965 young people like Lauren make the successful passage from state care to independent living. Lauren was the first young person to go through the *Fostering Futures* process in Santa Fe. Now a freshman at the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, Lauren is an advocate for youth in foster care. She explained the benefits of *Fostering Futures* at an annual Children’s Law Institute and is president of Adelante, a youth-led organization empowering New Mexico’s foster youth.



*Many of our children for years have lacked the advice and nurturing that a caring adult can bring to their lives. The CASA volunteer is in a position to provide the guidance of a capable and caring adult. And they become cheerleaders for the children—by encouraging them and recognizing their achievements. And on the flip side, they become confidants by comforting them during times of setbacks and disappointments.*

—Judge Michael E. Vigil  
First Judicial District Court, Santa Fe



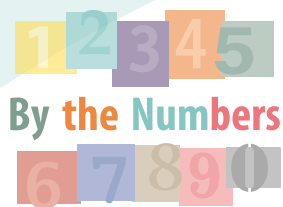


Lauren with her CASA volunteer, Betsy Model.

*Betsy motivates me—she helps me get through tough times. She doesn't judge me. She's there just to support me, no matter what. I never really had someone like that before.*

**STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES**  
**For the Year Ended December 31, 2010**

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
<b>Support and Revenue</b>			
Cooperative agreements			
Department of Justice for training and technical assistance	\$3,704,918		\$3,704,918
Grants program	11,778,702		11,778,702
Grant — Department of Justice for Native American tribal courts	212,092		212,092
Conference fees	344,927		344,927
Membership dues	96,365		96,365
Promotional sales, net of cost of sales of \$68,413	42,336		42,336
Interest and investment income	31,562		31,562
Foundation contributions	66,324	\$657,500	723,824
Other contributions and income	577,009	350	577,359
Net assets released from restrictions	2,026,057	(2,026,057)	
<b>Total support and revenue</b>	<b>\$18,880,292</b>	<b>(\$1,368,207)</b>	<b>\$17,512,085</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Training and technical assistance	\$3,077,885		\$3,077,885
Member and public outreach	1,876,793		1,876,793
Grant activities	12,056,660		12,056,660
<b>Total program services</b>	<b>\$17,011,338</b>		<b>\$17,011,338</b>
General and administrative	\$1,547,404		\$1,547,404
Fundraising	242,930		242,930
<b>Total supporting services</b>	<b>\$1,790,334</b>		<b>\$1,790,334</b>
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$18,801,672</b>		<b>\$18,801,672</b>
Change in net assets	\$78,620	(\$1,368,207)	(\$1,289,587)
<b>Net assets, beginning of year</b>	<b>\$1,368,369</b>	<b>\$2,397,585</b>	<b>\$3,765,954</b>
<b>Net assets, end of year</b>	<b>\$1,446,989</b>	<b>\$1,029,378</b>	<b>\$2,476,367</b>



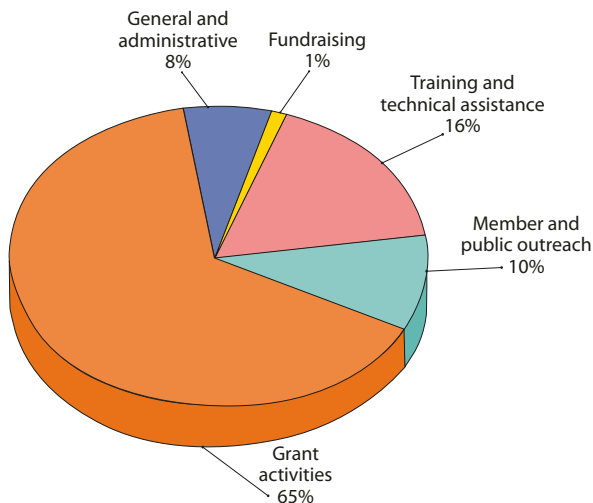
## SUMMARY OF REVENUE AND EXPENSE For the Year Ended December 31, 2010

### Support and Revenue

OJJDP training and technical assistance	\$3,704,918
OJJDP grants program	11,778,702
OVC tribal courts	212,092
Conference fees	344,927
Sales, interest and dues	170,263
Foundations	723,824
Other contributions and income	577,359
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$17,512,085</b>

### Expenses

Training and technical assistance	\$3,077,885
Member and public outreach	1,876,793
Grant activities	12,056,660
General and administrative	1,547,404
Fundraising	242,930
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$18,801,672</b>



### National CASA Grant Program

The National CASA grant program is funded through the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and private sources. Grants are awarded to increase the number of CASA organizations nationwide; strengthen and expand existing organizations; and increase the diversity of CASA volunteers to better reflect the children served.

Each year, approximately one-third of CASA/GAL programs receive grants from the National CASA Association through a competitive funding process. More than \$112 million in grants have been awarded since 1993.

Grant Types	Number Awarded	Amount Awarded
Capacity-Building	26	\$390,000
Diversity Implementation	20	189,500
Program Expansion	77	2,582,500
New Program Development	21	847,000
State Organization	46	2,530,000
Sustainability	60	1,767,000
Tribal	13	363,670
Urban High-Needs	11	475,000
Other	19	181,800
Efforts-to-Outcomes	175	208,455
Fostering Futures	16	1,195,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>484</b>	<b>\$10,729,925</b>

■ STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION ■

December 31, 2010 and 2009

ASSETS	2010	2009
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash	\$1,704,847	\$3,544,617
Investments	226,449	203,293
Receivable from Department of Justice	429,477	160,373
Contributions receivable	282,600	25,979
Inventory	22,854	43,565
Prepaid expenses	103,803	64,525
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>\$2,770,030</b>	<b>\$4,042,352</b>
<b>Furniture and Equipment</b>		
Office furniture	\$18,464	\$18,464
Office equipment	53,227	64,945
Computer equipment	155,446	206,786
<b>Total furniture and equipment</b>	<b>\$227,137</b>	<b>\$290,195</b>
Less accumulated depreciation	(184,045)	(282,595)
Net furniture and equipment	43,092	7,600
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$2,813,122</b>	<b>\$4,049,952</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable	\$192,034	\$164,678
Accrued vacation payable	101,276	104,100
Deferred conference revenue	43,445	15,220
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>\$336,755</b>	<b>\$283,998</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Unrestricted	\$1,446,989	\$1,368,369
Temporarily restricted	1,029,378	2,397,585
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>\$2,476,367</b>	<b>\$3,765,954</b>
<b>Total liabilities and net assets</b>	<b>\$2,813,122</b>	<b>\$4,049,952</b>





The National CASA Association is grateful to the following individuals, corporations and foundations, whose contributions from January 1 through December 31, 2010, made our work possible.

**\$100,000 +**

Jewelers for Children

**\$50,000–\$99,999**

Britt Banks  
Kappa Alpha Theta  
Foundation

**\$10,000–\$49,999**

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Newmont Mining  
Corporation  
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Mary Stutts  
Walmart Foundation

**\$5,000–\$9,999**

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**\$1,000–\$2,499**

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MacLellan Bergevin  
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Renne and Bruce Bilson  
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Kappa Alpha Theta—Gamma  
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Michael E. Yasick

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Chapter  
Kappa Alpha Theta—Pi  
Chapter  
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and Larry Lohman  
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Traci Mears  
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Vera Cadillac-Buick-GMC-  
Hummer  
Noga and Antonio Villalon  
Washington and Lee  
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Alice Tobin Zaff

**\$250–\$499**

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Anna Chandler  
Melinda Chipley  
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**\$100–\$249**

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Alan and Barbara Bellanca  
Kristin and George Bennett  
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Susan Bondie  
Angie Boyles  
Nancy and Jeffrey Bramlett  
Angela Brennan  
Jeffrey Brewer and Karen  
Bobrow  
Bonnie L. Broadwater  
Dimitrios Bronzoulis  
Suzanne B. Bryan  
Jan Burke  
Ryan Busse  
Timothy Butz  
Margaret Cain  
Mary Caldwell  
Maryann and Larry Calvin  
Kathleen Cannon  
Cars 4 Causes  
Grace and David Cashion



In an initiation ceremony at Kappa Alpha Theta's Omicron chapter at the University of Southern California, Theta women welcomed Robin McGraw and celebrated their shared commitment to giving a voice to abused and neglected children.

(Donors continued)

Child Welfare League of America  
Michael Choy  
Gretchen and Aaron Clark  
Margaret Clinton  
Elizabeth Coker  
Mary M. Collard  
Kimberly Cote  
Emily Cox  
Danielle and Andrew Crough  
Barry Crutchfield  
Tamara Cutler  
Diane and James Daniel  
Katherine Daugherty  
Marilyn Davis  
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