

COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE

McDonough County, Illinois

July 2018



Advocacy Network for Children Mission Statement: To protect and uphold the rights of children when wrongs have been committed against them; to help abused or neglected children have safe, permanent homes where they can thrive; to act as a powerful voice in these children's best interest and to educate the public about the plight of unrepresented children within the child welfare system.

The National Court Appointed Special Advocate Association has issued the following:

Statement Regarding Separation of Children and Parents During the Immigration Process

June 20, 2018

For nearly 40 years the National Court Appointed Special Advocate Association (National CASA) has advocated for the best interests of children who have experienced abuse or neglect. One of our guiding principles is that children are better off when they remain with their families of origin if safely possible.

We also know the long-term effects of trauma that children experience when they are separated from their parents, which are most often detrimental to their well-being and can have long-term negative impact.

While CASA programs and volunteers work in family or juvenile court systems, not the federal court system, we support best-interest advocacy for all children. We have been deeply concerned about the family separations at the Southwest border and thank those who have spoken out on behalf of these children. We join with these voices.

If children involved in immigration proceedings become involved in family or juvenile court, we urge the appointment of a CASA/GAL volunteer to advocate for the child's best interest and help the court make the most well-informed decision in these tremendously important matters.

We ask our nation's legislators to carefully consider the impacts on children when they address immigration legislation so that no child is subjected to further trauma. (taken from casaforchildren.org)



***CASA Field Trip!
Visit to Mary Davis Home, the
Juvenile Detention Center for
The 9th Judicial Circuit
Galesburg, Illinois***

On June 12th CASA volunteers had the opportunity to tour the Mary Davis Home in Galesburg. From left to right, CASA volunteers Margarita Obregon, Jan Greenwood, Diane Banach, Eunice Lutz, Volunteer Coordinator Vicki Duba, and CASA volunteer Brenda Thompson toured the facility which houses juvenile delinquents while a more permanent placement is found. The facility can accommodate just over 30 clients but rarely reaches its maximum capacity. Juvenile delinquent from counties outside of the 9th Judicial Circuit can place juvenile delinquents at Mary Davis if the facility is not at capacity. Several CASA cases are dual cases, abuse and neglect as well as juvenile delinquency.

Following the tour, we enjoyed lunch in the beautiful courtyard of the Landmark in Galesburg. It was a perfect location and allowed time for sharing.



**MCDONOUGH COUNTY HAS MORE THAN 20 ABUSED AND
NEGLECTED CHILDREN WAITING FOR A CASA VOLUNTEER TO BE
THEIR VOICE!**

CASA – Calendar of Opportunities

July 10, 2018. CASA Volunteer Breakfast. 7:30 – 8:30. Volunteers, just trying something different. If you are interested in having breakfast with other CASA volunteers, please call Vicki Duba. Details will follow if interest. Breakfast on your own.

August 2018. Summer break. No activities planned.

September 12, 2018 (Wednesday). Brown Bag lunch. 12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m. First Presbyterian Church, 2nd floor meeting room. Clairice Hetzler, MSW, LCSW, Clinical Social Work/Therapist, will present on play therapy. Clairice will provide tips on using play therapy to “break those barriers” and build rapport/trust with your CASA kids.

October 9, 2018. Evening in-service, 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. Macomb City Hall. Lori Evans, West Central Illinois Special Education Coop will present on autism. Public invited.

November 13, 2018. Brown Bag lunch. 12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m. First Presbyterian Church, 2nd floor meeting room. Featured speaker is Kirstin Hall, Supervisor at Lutheran Social Services. Kirsten will talk about the responsibilities of the agency in a juvenile abuse and neglect case. Kirsten will answer those questions we often have as CASA’s, such as 1) why agency reports are written in the formats they are written, 2) how the agency is assigned a case from DCFS, 3) foster homes, 4) working with difficult parents, etc. You won’t want to miss this one CASA volunteers, Kirstin offers a wealth of information!

December 11, 2018. Holiday Open House. 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. First Presbyterian Church, 2nd floor meeting room.

