

COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE

McDonough County, Illinois

March 2018 Newsletter

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.

2018 Koins for Kids. Last year's Koins for Kids collected more than \$800 to help support day to day operating expenses of our CASA program. We need your help once again. Won't you give a couple hours of your time to collect coins at Farm King or HyVee? We will be at these locations on April 7th from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Please call Vicki Duba at 309-544-0003 to reserve your time! Bring a friend or your grandchild. Have fun and help support CASA!

April: Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month

One of the Advocacy Network for Children's goals is to raise awareness about child abuse. Often the enormity of the problem is just not understood, and some want to believe it "doesn't happen in my hometown." The information presented here contains data from the 27th Maltreatment Report prepared by the Children's Bureau (Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Administration for Children and Families) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The reporting year (2016) was October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016. The data gathered was submitted voluntarily by the 50 states, District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. The statistics will most likely shock you!

Some child abuse statistics:

- Professionals (daycare providers, educators, legal and law enforcement, medical personnel) submitted 64.9% of suspected child abuse "hotlines" or reports.
- There are a variety of possible outcomes for each report. If the investigation reveals the allegations are supported by state law or policy, the report is *substantiated*. At the other end of the spectrum, the case might be closed because DCFS (Department of Children and Family Services) could not even locate the victim.
- In 2016 there were an estimated 676,000 victims of abuse and neglect.
- Those 676,000 victims represent a 3% increase over 2012.

- 28.5% of those victims were younger than 3 years old.
- Victimization was highest for children under one year old.
- Whether the child was male or female was not significant.
- Caucasian children represented 44.9% of those abused.
- Hispanic children represented 22% of those abused.
- 20.7% of abused children were African American.
- 74.8% of victims were neglected.
- 18.2% of victimized children suffered from physical abuse.
- 8.5% of the victims were sexually abused.
- The four-top caregiver risk-factors contributing to child abuse: alcohol abuse, drug abuse, financial problems and inadequate housing.
- In 2016, 91.4% of abused children were victimized by one or both parents.
- In 2016, an estimated 1,750 children died from abuse and neglect. That represents a 7.4% increase from 2012.
- 70% of those were younger than 3 years old.
- Children under 1 year died from abuse and neglect at 3 times the rate of children who were 1 year old.
- Nearly 30% of the fatalities in this study had at least one prior DCFS (Department of Children and Family Services) contact in the 3 years prior to the death.

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Child Abuse Awareness - continued

Child fatalities in Illinois: 2012 to 2016.

2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
105	93	100	77	64

Prevention. There are some funding streams for prevention services provided to parents whose children are at risk for abuse. These services are designed to provide parents/caregivers education on childhood developmental stages and other types of assistance.

Title I of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA), as amended [P.L. 100-294]— The Grants to States for Child Abuse or Neglect Prevention and Treatment Programs (State Grant) provides funds to states to improve CPS systems. The grant serves as a catalyst to assist states with screening and investigating child abuse and neglect reports, creating and improving the use of multidisciplinary teams to enhance investigations, improving risk and safety assessment protocols, training CPS workers and mandated reporters, and improving services to infants with life

Title II of CAPTA, as amended [P.L. 100-294]—The Community-Based Grants for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect program (formerly the Community-Based Family Resource and Support program) provides funding to a lead state agency (designated by the governor) to develop, operate, expand, and enhance community-based, prevention-focused programs and activities designed to strengthen and support families to prevent child abuse and neglect.

Title IV–B, Subpart 2, as amended [42.U.S.C. 629 et seq.] Promoting Safe and Stable Families— The goal of this legislation is to keep families together by funding such services as prevention intervention so that children do not have to be removed from their homes, services to develop alternative placements if children cannot remain safely in the home, and family reunification services to enable children to return to their homes, if appropriate.

Title XX of the Social Security Act, [42. U.S.C. 1397 et seq.], Social Services Block Grant (SSBG)— Under this grant, states may use funds for such prevention services as child daycare, child protective services, information and referral, counseling, and foster care, as well as other services that meet the goal of preventing or remedying neglect, abuse, or exploitation of children.

For the complete Child Maltreatment 2016 report: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm2016.pdf>

Learn what YOU can do to help prevent child abuse in our April newsletter!

***NEW CASA VOLUNTEER TRAINING
SCHEDULED TO BEGIN MARCH 19, 2018***

Since opening our doors in 2011, we have advocated for more than 155 children.
Today there are children waiting for their CASA.

If you know of anyone who might like to advocate for abused children, please have them call 309-544-0003 for more information.

Happy March 10th Birthday Dan Colvin!
Thanks for all you do for your CASA kids!

CALENDAR OF OPPORTUNITIES

March 9 – Advocacy Network for Children Fundraising Dinner. The theme for this annual event is “March Madness.” It will be held at The Ambiance in Quincy. CASA volunteers and guests may attend free of charge. Tickets are \$50 per person. Please call 217-223-2272 to make your reservation.

March 19 – CASA Volunteer Training for new volunteers. We are looking at an accelerated training. Only 10 days from the beginning of training until you are ready to be assigned your first CASA case! Times will be tailored to those attending.

March 28 – Opioid Awareness, Education and Prevention. 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. at Macomb City Hall. The Human Service Center (HSC) is a behavioral healthcare organization located in Peoria. HSC provides comprehensive mental health and substance abuse services. This Awareness, Education and Prevention program was presented in December with outstanding reviews! CASA of McDonough County is hosting this event for those of you who were not able to attend in December. Call Vicki Duba at 309-544-0003 to make your reservation.

April – Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month

April 3 – Flag raising at City Hall at 12:15 p.m. Mayor Inman will read a proclamation and the Macomb City Police Honor Guard will raise the Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Flag in honor of April’s Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month. Please join us for this heartfelt ceremony honoring abused and neglected children.

April 7 – Koins for Kids Fundraiser. Volunteers and “Friends of CASA” will again collect coins to benefit CASA of McDonough County. Collection sites are HyVee and Farm King and will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. If you would like to help with this fundraiser, please call Vicki Duba at 309-544-0003.

April 13 – Interagency Conference “Trauma Informed Care.” This **free** conference will be held at WIU’s Horrabin Hall and offers continuing education credits. Call 309-544-0003 for details.

April 14 – 2nd Annual Run for CASA’s Kids, 8:00 a.m. at the Old Dairy, Macomb, Illinois. Register online at <https://RunforCasasKids.itsyourrace.com/register/> or visit the agency website, advonet.org for a printable, paper registration. Not a runner but would like to help? We can use you! Please contact Vicki Duba, 309-544-0003.

May 8 – Brown Bag Lunch at 12:00 noon. First Presbyterian Church, Dudley and Carroll Streets, 2nd floor meeting room. Erica Thurman, Juvenile Probation Officer in McDonough County will talk about her program and the challenges it faces.



***We’re on Facebook! Check us out at
McDonough County CASA!***