

COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE

McDonough County

May 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 interests; and to educate the public about the plight of unrepresented children within the child welfare system.

2nd Annual Run for CASA's Kids Raises Over \$8,000 for Advocacy!



Over 50 runners and walkers met at the Old Dairy on Saturday, April 14, to support CASA of McDonough County. The rain held off as 5K participants headed south on Lafayette, looped through the Compton Park area and returned to the Old Dairy via Washington Street. There was also a one-mile family run/walk.

Runner and walker participation was not all that flourished in this year's Run. Volunteer participation grew significantly and insured the event went smoothly. The Morning Rotary of Macomb took the Run for CASA's Kids as a project and supplied nine members to work the registration process and to direct runners along the course. The Macomb City Police Explorers assisted at major intersections along the route to keep runners and walkers safe. CASA volunteers and Friends of CASA also helped make the event a success. (Please see complete list of sponsors and donors on page three.)

Vicki Duba, Volunteer Coordinator for CASA and Beci Steelman, Friend of CASA, co-chaired the event for the second year. They report sponsorships and donations far exceeded their expectations. Steelman says she has "some new ideas for the 2019 event and can't wait to start planning!"

The profit from the event helps assure CASA volunteers can continue their advocacy for abused and neglected children in the juvenile court system through no fault of their own. CASA volunteers speak in the best interest of abused children who most often have been removed from an unsafe home situation of a parent and placed in foster care. It has been proven that having a CASA volunteer assigned to a case reduces the time the case remains open by about 8 months, a significant savings to the county.

The 2nd Annual Run for CASA's Kids is the last in a series of events hosted by CASA of McDonough County, a program of Advocacy Network for Children, in honor of April's Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month. Earlier in the month there was a **flag raising** at City Hall where the Awareness and Prevention flag continues to fly for the month of April. Duba, Judge Heidi Benson and CASA Volunteer Eunice Lutz presented **assemblies for Macomb Junior and Senior High students** on child abuse and what students should do if they, or someone they know, are victims of abuse. Blue and silver pinwheels, the symbol of child abuse prevention, have been placed at all schools in Macomb. CASA volunteers and Friends of CASA collected **"Koins for Kids"** at Farm King and HyVee April 7th and raised more than \$600 which will help offset the operating expenses of the program.



**Thank you, B.P.O. Elks,
Macomb Lodge #1009!**

**We appreciate your
donation in the
amount of \$1,500 in
support CASA of
McDonough County!**

Upcoming Opportunities

May 8th. Brown Bag Lunch at 12:00 noon. First Presbyterian Church, 2nd Floor Meeting Room. Erica Thurman, Juvenile Probation Officer, will talk to us about her program and the challenges she faces. We will learn some of the offenses youth commit to be placed on probation and the consequences. We will spend some time discussing dual juvenile abuse/juvenile delinquent cases.

May 16th. Interagency Council Meeting at 9:00 a.m. McDonough County Health Department. Lauren Surprenant, Salvation Army, will talk about the Pathways of Hope program and give some national and local homeless statistics and what is being done to address the problem.

June 12th. Brown Bag Lunch at 12:00 noon. First Presbyterian Church, 2nd Floor Meeting Room. A time for sharing. A time for volunteers to talk about their successes, as well as challenges and frustrations they face in their CASA case.

2018 Run for CASA's Kids Sponsors and Donors

"Sprinters" - \$500 - \$999

J & D Orton Transportation Inc.
Yetter Manufacturing Company
Good Hope-Sciota Lions Club
Northwestern Class of '69

"Distance Runners" - \$250 - \$499

Riden Farm Supply, Inc.
Colchester Lions Club
Galen and Barbara Olson
March, McMillan, DeJoode & Duvall, PC
Lucie, Scalf, Sutton & Bougher, Attorneys at Law
Scott Terry, Attorney at Law
State Bank of Industry
McDonough District Hospital
Troopers Lodge No. 41
Lowderman Auction Company
Farmers and Merchants State Bank of Bushnell

"Friends of CASA" – up to \$249

GFWC Macomb Womens Club
IPI Wealth Management
Swearingen-Hite Family
McDonough County Bar Association
Steve and Tina Lovejoy
Macomb Kiwanis Club
Chicks on the Square
Kitchen Cooked, Inc.
Citizens Bank
UCB Bank
Russell Grain, Inc.
Farm King
NTN-Bower Corp.
Professional Eyecare Center
Dodsworth-Piper-Wallen, Inc.
Jock Hedblade
QueenOfChalkCouture
Art of a Social Nature

In-Kind Donations

Beci Steelman, Co-Chair of Run for CASA's Kids
The Old Dairy, Event Host
Advocacy Network for Children, Parent Agency
Dave Steelman, Photography
Nikki Conley, Artwork
Dot Foods, Water and snacks for run day
Mid-State Graphics, Shirt screens and artwork
Macomb AM Rotary, Member support on run day
Community News Brief, Advertising
Brandy Jackson, Fresh fruit on run day



Students at St. Paul School place a blue and silver pinwheel, the symbol of child abuse prevention, in the garden.



MHS students Maddie Thurman, Grace Akers, Sanjana Babu, and Jude Turner volunteer their time to place pinwheel gardens at all Macomb City schools.



This year's run t-shirt!



WIU student volunteers, Ryan Mumma and Karolina Anton, and CASA volunteer Jan Greenwood collect Koins for Kids at Hy-Vee.



Macomb City Police Honor Guard raise Child Abuse Prevention Flag.