

COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE

McDonough County, Illinois

August 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.

Why We Donate to CASA

by Dan and Paula Wise

We have been very fortunate in our lives. We were born into and raised by hard working middle class families that valued education. We each obtained advanced degrees in fields of study that fascinated us; we found academic jobs we loved at the same institution; and we worked hard at those jobs for more than 30 years. We shared the values of living comfortably but within our means and so we were able to save some money along the way. At this point in our lives, we want to give back to the community that has been so good to us throughout the years.

Because each of us has a soft spot in our hearts for children and families, CASA was a perfect choice to be a recipient of a charitable contribution. Unfortunately, there are many children who do not know what it means to have a stable home life. Some are verbally abused, physically abused, sexually abused, and/or neglected. They need advocates who can speak to them and for them and get them the help they need. Although CASA relies on its wonderful volunteers, we know there are expenses to administer and run the program. We donate to CASA in order to keep this service in our community!

Happy August Birthday!

Debbie Orton – 7th
Sharon Otey – 15th

CASA REPORTS MUST INCLUDE AN EDUCATIONAL COMPONENT

One requirement of the United Way CASA grant is an educational component be included in the program. CASA volunteers with school age children are required to receive monthly school updates on how the children are progressing academically and socially. They accomplish this by visiting with teachers, administrators and counselors. Volunteers are encouraged to visit pre-schools as well. This information is then shared in the CASA court report.

This is just another way CASA volunteers provide useful information to the Judge and other parties of the court to aid in decision-making.

**Guest speaker: Kirstin Hall, Supervisor
Lutheran Social Services of Galesburg
November 13th from 1:00 – 4:00
First Presbyterian Church, Dudley/Carroll Streets, Macomb, IL**

Kirsten will present a workshop for CASA volunteers. She will talk about the responsibilities of the social service agency in a juvenile abuse and neglect case. Kirsten will answer those questions that CASA workers often have, such as why agency reports are written in the formats they are written; how DCFS assigns what agency get a case; foster parents - certifications and support; how they work with difficult parents; adoptions and subsidies, and so much more. Kirstin brings a wealth of information!

Volunteers, there will be plenty of time for questions and answers during the workshop. However, if you have a list of questions beforehand, please feel free to submit them and they will be presented to Kirsten prior to the workshop.

Volunteers, please plan to attend this important meeting! You will gain a better understanding of the responsibilities of the agencies who serve not only the abused and neglected children in the juvenile court system but the entire family. This will cover from case inception to case closure. (3 hours of continuing education credit)

CASA VOLUNTEER ANNUAL REVIEWS



This year's volunteer appreciation gift is this beautiful stadium blanket. It is compact, easily stored in the car and ready for those picnics, outdoor concerts and ball games. **CASA volunteers, thank you** for the important work that you do!

CASA volunteers, thank you for taking time to meet for your annual review. It has been an opportunity to go over your responsibilities as a CASA volunteer as well as the Volunteer Coordinator's responsibilities to both you and the program. Your suggestions for program improvement were constructive and taken with sincerity; they will be implemented when possible. Volunteers will receive a summary of responses as soon as all reviews have been completed.

CASA – Calendar of Opportunities

August 15, 2018. Interagency Council at the Health Department. 9:00 – 10:30

a.m. Morgan Parker, Director of Programs and Services of Adams County United Way, will speak about their “Un-met Needs Committee.”

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.

September 14, 15 and 16, times to be announced. McDonough CASA training for new volunteers.

This intensive weekend training, along with a court observation, allows you to become a CASA volunteer in a very short time! Minimum enrollment of 5 required. If you, or anyone you know, would like to be a CASA volunteers . . . this is the weekend for you! Contact Vicki Duba, PH: 309-544-0003 to register.

September 19, 2018. Interagency Council at the Health Department. 9:00 – 10:30. Guest speaker is Representative Norine Hammond.

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.

October 17, 2018. Interagency Council at the Health Department. 9:00 – 10:30. Senator Jill Tracy is the guest speaker.

November 13, 2018. Workshop. 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. First Presbyterian Church, 2nd floor meeting room. Featured speaker is Kirstin Hall, Supervisor at Lutheran Social Services. See article on page 2 for details.

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