



## Newsletter

**April 2019**

**Hancock County**

### Topic One



New CASA Volunteers sworn in on March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Pictured from left to right; Mandy Humphry, Patty Stevens, Carrie Steffensmeier, Dawn Owren, Terry Marler, Perry Cameron and Judge Clark.

### Topic Two

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Remember that suspected child abuse is sufficient reason to make a report to authorities. You do not need proof. Your call may save the life of a child. If you suspect that a child is being abused or neglected, please call: 1-800-252-2873 (1-800-25-ABUSE). You can remain anonymous. An investigation will take place before a child is removed from the home and placed in safe care.

### Topic Three

**Happy April Birthdays!!**

**Janice Best- 13<sup>th</sup>**

**Cynthia Smith- 13<sup>th</sup>**

**Enjoy your special day!**



### Key Dates



#### **Child Abuse Prevention Pinwheel Planting April 8<sup>th</sup> noon**

Join us in Carthage at the Hancock County Courthouse under the flag on Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at noon. There will be a pinwheel planting on the courthouse lawn. Each pinwheel represents the abused and neglected children in Hancock County.

#### **Koins for Kids April 13<sup>th</sup> 8AM-1PM**

Volunteers will be "Standing strong for Abused Children" collecting coins on Saturday at Hy-Vee in Hamilton from 9am-1pm and County Market in Carthage from 8am-12pm. Stop by and please support CASA and our other Advocacy Network for Children programs. Thank you!

#### **CASA Networking April 17<sup>th</sup>, 11:30AM**

Sherry Bliss with Tri-State Family Services will be our guest speaker. They offer our bio parents "Understanding the Nature & Dynamics of Domestic Violence" and "Positive Discipline in Parenting". We will see you then!

## What is child abuse and neglect?

Child abuse is the mistreatment of a child under the age of 18 by:

- a parent or their romantic partner;
- an immediate relative or someone living in their home;
- a caretaker such as a babysitter or daycare worker;
- any person responsible for the child's welfare, such as a health care provider, educator, coach or youth program volunteer.

The mistreatment can either result in injury or put the child at serious risk of injury. Child abuse can be physical (i.e. bruises or broken bones), sexual (i.e. fondling or incest), or mental (emotional injury or psychological illness).

Neglect is the failure of a parent or caretaker to meet "minimal parenting" standards for providing adequate supervision, food, clothing, medical care, shelter or other basic needs.

*If you see abuse that does not fit the above-mentioned perpetrators, please call 911*

## What if I'm not absolutely sure abuse is occurring?

Unfortunately, as much as 70 percent of child abuse goes unreported, and a child tells an average of seven adults that they are being abused or neglected before a report is made. Every delay in reporting suspected abuse or neglect increases the likelihood that abuse will become more serious, or even deadly, and that the perpetrator will abuse additional children. By trusting your own senses, common sense and instincts, and calling the hotline whenever you suspect a child has been harmed or is at risk of harm, you can ensure a child is safe and that her family is getting the help they need.

To prevent unnecessary investigations, hotline calls are screened by trained social workers to determine whether they warrant investigation for abuse or neglect. Of the more than one million hotline calls received over the past four years, only about one in four resulted in a formal report and an investigation. Many of the calls that do not lead to investigations are often directed to referrals that connect families with community-based programs aimed at preventing abuse. When formal investigations do occur, only four percent result in children being removed from their homes.



*Our Mission: to help abused and neglected children have a safe and permanent homes where they can thrive; to act as a powerful voice in these children's best interest.*

**Advocacy Network for Children**

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