



CASA
 Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN



Newsletter

JULY 2019

Hancock County

Completed

We had THREE cases close last month. All 5 children will remain home with their parents. This is the goal and it was able to be achieved in these cases. Thank you to the CASA's that spoke up in their reports to the court and helped make a difference in these children's lives.

Community

WGEM Sports
 Trivia Night

Saturday, July 27th
 6:00PM.

Quincy University's Hall of Fame room. Teams of up to 8 - \$120/team Must be 21 to participate, BYOB.

All proceeds go to CASA in all four of our counties. Call office to get an entry form.

Celebration



Carrie Steffensmeier- 12th

Janet Thompson-27th

Don't forget to enjoy your summer and take time for yourself! Taking care of yourself is a necessity for all the hard work you have been doing!! Take time to soak up some sun, read a book, enjoy your family, etc.



Community Informational Meeting at 6:00PM

The first Tuesday of August, September, & October.

CASA TRAINING

October 25th – 27th, 2019

More CASA volunteers are needed to serve the advocating needs of children in Hancock Co. foster care.

Request an application TODAY!

CASA volunteers don't forget to fill out your calendars as you work your case!!

Please make sure to get those to me by the end of each month.

Thank YOU

CASA Continued Education Training

July 10th 1:30-3pm Identity Theft Seminar at Hancock Village, Carthage, IL.

June 10th 9am-8pm Drug Exhibit "Hidden in Plain Sight" at Memorial Hospital..

CASA: THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS WORK

Addressing an urgent need:

The stats are harrowing. In 2017, nine out of every 1,000 U.S. children were determined to be victims of abuse or neglect. That's why the need for CASA volunteers is so great. CASA volunteers advocate for the best interests of children who are involved in the court system as a result of abuse or neglect. For many of these children, their CASA advocate will be the one constant in an otherwise chaotic life. The children we serve have experienced significant trauma. The vast majority of children who are victims of maltreatment have suffered from neglect. Physical abuse accounted for 18 percent of child maltreatment victims in 2017. Some children are subjected to both physical abuse and neglect.

Physical abuse and neglect are two of a number of highly stressful, potentially traumatic experiences known as "adverse childhood experiences," or ACEs. One in 3 children in the U.S. has experienced three or more ACEs. Experiencing abuse, neglect and other ACEs can cause feelings of helplessness and intense fear in children. Among other ACEs children who have experienced abuse or neglect may have been subjected to are:

- witnessing violence
- sexual or emotional abuse
- having mental illness in the household
- incarceration of a household member

For children who are removed from their families, that removal and life in foster care can add to the trauma. The impacts of this trauma can last a lifetime. Trauma can mark children's health and ability to thrive immediately, and as they age, including negatively impacting:

- brain development -achievement
- physical health - behavior
- mental health - income
- educational

But there is hope. Some children are more resilient to the impacts of trauma. For others, it's a relationship with a supportive adult—like a CASA volunteer—that makes the difference. CASA volunteers help children—and families—access services that promote healing. CASA volunteers are trained to understand the impact of trauma on children. They spend time with children and the people in their lives. They talk to service providers, teachers and social workers to gather information that will help them make informed recommendations to the court. Based on what they learn, our volunteers advocate for services that help children develop resilience without causing additional trauma. They also encourage services that strengthen parents' relationships with their children.

Source: <https://casaforchildren.org/our-impact/reaching-permanent-homes/> & <https://casaforchildren.org/our-impact/the-lasting-effects-of-abuse-and-neglect/>



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