



April 2020

## ***SWISHIN' FOR A MISSION FUNDRAISER A BIG WIN!***

The “Swishin’ for a Mission” fundraiser held on March 6th was a huge success. Proceeds from the dinner are near \$37,000.00 and will help us in our mission of providing critical services to children who have been abused and neglected.

We would like to thank everyone who made a monetary donation, donated an item for the auction, or attended this fun event. We couldn’t have done it without this year’s fundraising committee and would like to thank them for the countless hours they spent making the dinner such a success:



Kori Griffin, chair   Denise Tallcott   Liz Hultz   Jeri Conboy   Sandy Blickhan  
Deanne Corzatt   Erica Parrish   Pam Yates   Nikki Murphy   Angie St. Clair

Also, a BIG thank you to Jeff Oberling for serving as auctioneer for the evening, to members of the Quincy Notre Dame Cheerleading squad who helped greet guests and helped with games, and to our wonderful and generous sponsors: Quincy Recycle, STARadio, KHQA, Rokusek Design, Gully Transportation, Mercantile Bank, Stevenson-Paxton Group of Wells Fargo Advisors, Knapheide Manufacturing Co., Gardner Denver, Something Borrowed, State Street Bank, Kristopher’s Hair Studio, Blessing Health System, Titan International, Thrivent Financial, Quincy Medical Group, JK Creative Printers, First Mid Bank & Trust, Refreshment Services Pepsi, United Community Credit Union, Schmiedeskamp, Robertson, Neu & Mitchell, Kohl Wholesale, Emotion Belly Books-Tracy Schleppehorst, Bank of Springfield and Lowell Yates.

Congratulations to Sherry Centanni, who was the recipient of this year’s “Clairice Hetzler Advocacy for Children” award. Sherry was a CASA volunteer for 20 years and has been an advocate for children and supporter of the agency for many years.

What an “All Star” team we had this year!

### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**April**  
09 Noon Networking - Quincy office  
(tentative)  
10 Office closed  
**May**  
14 Noon Networking - Quincy office  
25 Office closed

We currently have the following volunteer needs:

- Happy Bear Presentations
- CASA Volunteers
- Fundraising
- Mailings

If you would like to help, please contact our office at 217-223-2272.

Our agency could not continue its mission of advocating for children without your help. You can help by:

- Monetary Donation
- ANC Foundation Donation
- Office Supply Donation

## ***CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH***

April is National Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month. Due to COVID-19 concerns, several community events planned have been cancelled. We will be doing the following **non-communal events** to remember child victims:

- April 1: Pike County CASA staff will be planting pinwheels on the courthouse lawn in Pittsfield to honor the number of abused or neglected children in the county;
- April 6: Hancock County CASA staff will be planting pinwheels on the courthouse lawn in Carthage to honor the number of abused or neglected children in the county;
- April 15: Morgan County CASA staff will be planting pinwheels on the square in Jacksonville to honor the number of abused or neglected children in the county;
- The agency office in Quincy will have a pinwheel display in the front of the office during the month to honor all children who have been abused and neglected.

Regardless of whether events are held, communities need to rededicate themselves to being supportive of families, and play an active role in preventing child abuse and neglect. In addition, we all need to take positive action to promote child and family well-being.

### ***NEW CASA VOLUNTEERS***

The latest group of Hancock County CASA volunteers were sworn in by Judge Rodney Clark on March 10th. Pictured left to right are Mandy Humphry (CASA Coordinator), David Elschlager, Max Owsley, Julie Ferguson, Lori Waddell, Brianna Newlon and Judge Clark.



Welcome and thank you for all you do for the children in our community!

### ***THANK YOU***

A \$2,776.00 grant was received from The Tracy Family Foundation. As specified in the grant, the funds will be used to send two CASA staff to the National CASA Conference in Washington, D.C.

A \$1,000.00 grant was received from The Stamerjohn Family Fund through the Community Foundation. As specified in the grant, the funds will be used for general operating support.

We truly appreciate your support of our agency, its mission and programs!

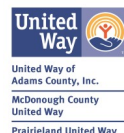
***Please see page 3 for the agency's response to COVID-19***

**\*\* When shopping at Amazon Smile, choose Advocacy Network for Children as your charity and Amazon will donate a portion of your purchase price to us!\*\***



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## *AGENCY RESPONSE TO COVID-19*

Amid all the concerns over COVID-19, our agency is taking steps to keep our staff, volunteers and clients safe. Most staff are doing a work from home and can be reached via email or on their cell phones. Our Executive Assistant, Diane Pieper, is working in the office and can assist anyone with questions or concerns.

Our Children's Advocacy Center staff is doing essential forensic interviews only. These interviews are being done on a case-by-case basis and through communication with our multidisciplinary team members. Staff is doing follow-up contact with clients to check on their well-being. Mental health providers are willing to provide mental health services to our clients via telemental health.

Our CASA staff is constantly in touch with its volunteers for assistance and guidance as it relates to child visits via technology and help with case reports. No home visits are being done for the safety of all parties. All informational meetings and trainings have been cancelled or on hold until further notice.

We are following guidelines put into place by our various grantors (both state and federal), the CDC and local and state officials.

We need to all work together to reduce the spread of this virus. At the same time, with all the stress and uncertainty this is causing families, we fear child abuse cases will go up in the coming months. With school and daycares being closed, reporting of child abuse cases are likely to decline. If you suspect a child is being abused, please call the Child Abuse Hotline at 1-800-252-2873.

Please visit our website or Facebook page for additional updates. Our website also contains a complete list of staff names, phone numbers and office locations.