



WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF A CHILD DISCLOSES ABUSE

If a child tells you that he/she was abused, you should:

- > Avoid denial and keep calm to avoid the child shutting down;
- > Listen and let the child tell his/or her own story;
- > Don't interrogate or ask leading questions as this may confuse the child and hinder any criminal investigation;
- > Reassure the child that he/she did nothing wrong and that it is not the child's fault;
- > Thank the child for telling you and be supportive;
- > Do not contact the alleged perpetrator as this may allow him/her time to prepare a response;
- > Call your local law enforcement or Department of Children and Family Services hotline.

During this unsettling time we are experiencing, children are at a greater risk of being abused. Your call could save a child's life.

***The staff of Advocacy Network for Children would like to wish everyone
a safe, happy and healthy Memorial Day!***

***Ali, Danielle, Diane, Jamie C., Jamie P., Jessica, Karolina, Lexi, Libby,
Mandy, Sue, and Todd***



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May
14 Noon Networking - Quincy
(via Zoom)
25 Office closed
June
11 Noon Networking - Quincy office
(tentative)

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 ACTIVITIES

The agency office in Quincy had a pinwheel display in the front of the office at 1420 Harrison Street during the month to honor all children who have been abused and neglected; Pike County CASA staff held a “Pinwheel Planting” at the Pike County Courthouse on April 1st; Hancock County CASA staff held “Pinwheel Planting” at the Hancock County Courthouse on April 7th; and Morgan County CASA staff held a “Pinwheel Planting” on the square in Jacksonville on April 15th. With COVID-19 concerns, these events were non-communal. To see pictures of these events, please visit our Facebook page.

Prevention begins with awareness. By rallying our neighbors, businesses, schools, friends and families, we can make a difference in the lives of abused and neglected children. If you suspect that a child is being abused, please call the DCFS hotline at 1-800-252-2873.

THANK YOU

United Community Credit Union employee’s donated \$200.00 to the agency from their March jeans day. Employees were allowed to wear jeans on Fridays throughout the month of March if they made a donation to the agency.

Harmony Township Community Fund donated \$50.00 in support of the Hancock County CASA program.

Sonora Community Fund Drive donated \$250.74 in support of the Hancock County CASA program.

The Adams County CASA program was the recipient of funds through Blue Cross and Blue Shield Blue Corps employee volunteer matching dollars program in the amount of \$2,000.00. For every hour that a BC/BS employee spends volunteering with a community partner, Blue Cross Blue Shield provides \$20.00, up to \$2,000.00.

The Adams and Pike County CASA programs received a \$4,166.00 donation in honor of Doctors Days 2020. This donation is in honor of Blessing Hospital, Blessing Physician Services, and Illini Hospital medical staff.

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 the concerns over COVID-19, our agency continues to take steps to keep our staff, volunteers and clients safe. Most staff continue to 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 are doing essential forensic interviews. 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. Our recent CASA trainings in Adams County and Morgan County were changed to a web-based on-line training. Court observations are currently on hold. Swearing in ceremonies of new volunteers is decided by the Circuit Court of the respective county.

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.