



October 2020

IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING!

Protecting children in our community is a responsibility we all share. It is important for every person to take child abuse and neglect seriously, be able to recognize it and know what to do.

If you have reason to believe a child you know is being abused or neglected, call the **Illinois Department of Children and Family Services** Child Abuse Hotline at 1-800-25-ABUSE (1-800-252-2873).

If you believe a child is in immediate danger of harm, call 911 first.

Your confidential call will not only make sure the child is safe, but also help provide the child's family the services they need to provide a safe, loving and nurturing home.

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.

By trusting your own senses, common sense and instincts, and calling the hotline when you suspect a child has been harmed or is at risk of harm, you can ensure a child is safe and that the family is getting the help they need.



Our offices will be closed on October 12th in observance of Columbus Day!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October
08 Noon Networking - Quincy
12 Office closed
November
11 Office closed
12 Noon Networking - Quincy
26-27 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

WELCOME NEW CASA VOLUNTEERS

Pike County CASA swore in its latest group of CASA volunteers on August 13th. Pictured (below left) are left to right, Kay Reddick, Judge Frank McCartney, and Michelle Gates.

Schuyler County CASA swore in its first group of CASA volunteers on August 26th. Pictured (below middle) are left to right, Michelle Hite, Amy Wiley, Judge Scott Butler, and Brandi Riddell.

Adams County CASA swore in its latest group of CASA volunteers on September 1st. Pictured (below right) are left to right, top row, Judge John Wooleyhan, Sandra Barger, Dan Brink, Kiara Wiemelt, Krista Schemerhorn and Gabby Stephens, and bottom row, Lori Stice, Hannah Campbell, Jennifer Wiemelt, and Katie Cernea.

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



THANK YOU

Carthage Township Town Fund recently donated \$100.00 in support of the Hancock County CASA program.

Farmers National Bank of Griggsville donated \$500.00 in support of the Pike County CASA program. A check presentation was held on August 27. Pictured are left to right, Danielle Buss, CASA Manager, Karolina Anton, Pike County CASA Coordinator, and Rebecca Seybold from FNBG.



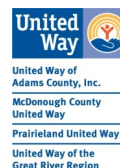
We truly appreciate your generosity!

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 ongoing concerns over COVID-19, our agency continues to take steps to keep our staff, volunteers and clients safe. Staff began returning to the office in shifts on June 1st with changes put in place. However, when COVID-19 cases increasing in Adams County, staff returned to working from home on July 27th. When needed, a limited number of staff will be at the office at various times for meetings or interviews.

Our Children's Advocacy Center staff continue to do forensic interviews. Safety precautions are in place for our staff, MDT members and children and families and PPE supplies are available if needed. Attendance at court hearings is done at the direction of the respective county. Staff is doing follow-up contact with clients to check on their well-being. Mental health providers remain willing to provide mental health services to our clients via telemental health or in person with precautions in place.

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. Home visits are being conducted with precautions in place for the safety of all parties. Attendance at juvenile court case hearings are being done at the direction of the respective county. Trainings for new volunteers are being done via Zoom or in locations where appropriate spacing can be made.

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

We need to remain vigilant and continue to all work together to reduce the spread of this virus. At the same time, with the stress and uncertainty this pandemic is causing families, we fear child abuse cases will go up in the coming months. 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 new or additional updates. Our website also contains a complete list of staff names, phone numbers and office locations.