



November 2020

WE CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!

A little girl is scared to go home because mommy's boyfriend touches her. Two young brothers have to take care of themselves at night while daddy and his "friend" go out. Siblings come to school hungry, wearing the same clothes they had on yesterday and afraid to tell the teacher what happens to them at home. The stories could go on and on.

Actually, the stories need to stop. Children should not have to live in fear and worry what is going to happen to them. Children need to laugh, play, and know that they are loved and will be taken care of.

The heart of Advocacy Network for Children's mission is to help these children and be a voice on their behalf. We work to put an end to the physical and emotional abuse these children suffer from each and every day. But we can't do it without you.

With the end of the year fast approaching, please help us by making a tax deductible gift to Advocacy Network for Children or the Advocacy Network for Children Foundation. Together, we can bring hope, promise, and healing to the most vulnerable victims of a crime, our children.

Our offices will be closed on November 11th in observance of Veteran's Day and November 26th and 27th for the Thanksgiving holiday!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November
11 Office closed
12 Noon Networking - Quincy
26-27 Office closed
December
10 Noon Networking - Quincy
24 & 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

CASA PROGRAM HOLDING MULTI-COUNTY TRAINING

There is an urgent need for CASA volunteers and our CASA program is taking action. A multi-county training is currently being held in all 7 counties served by the agency. This hybrid training combines in-person, virtual and independent learning. The training began October 19th and will conclude November 16th. Court observation and swearing in of new volunteers will be held in each respective county. If you would like to be a CASA volunteer or would like more information, please call the office.

ANNUAL FUNDRAISING DINNER CANCELLED

We are sorry to say that the agency's annual fundraising dinner which is generally held in March is cancelled. This was a hard decision to make but taking everything into consideration, the board and committee agreed this was the safest thing to do. As the dinner is the agency's main fundraising event of the year, other events are being looked into to raise money for the agency. Stay tuned!

PREVENTION PROGRAM

With school being in session, don't forget that Advocacy Network for Children offers a child sexual abuse prevention program to schools throughout West Central Illinois at no cost. Prevention staff is also working on doing presentations on-line to assist schools during the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information or to schedule a presentation, please call Karolina Anton at 217-617-6058.

THANK YOU

Thank you to the staff at Peoples Prosperity Bank who donated snacks, coloring books, crayons and pencils. The items will be made available to children who visit our center. Pictured are Diane Pieper, Executive Assistant, Gina Wolf from Peoples Prosperity Bank, and Todd Shackelford, Executive Director.



Thank you to Quincy Cleaners for providing cleaning services for our Happy Bear Mascot.

During this time of thanksgiving, we would like to thank our Board of Directors, CASA volunteers, various event volunteers, MDT members, partner agencies, and donors who have supported our agency throughout the year. Your commitment to our agency is greatly appreciated and ensures we can continue to be a voice for children in need.

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 increased 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.