



February 2021

LONG TERM CONSEQUENCES OF ABUSE

It is not always easy to recognize when a child has been abused. Children who have been abused are often afraid to tell anyone, because they think they will be blamed or that no one will believe them. Sometimes they remain quiet because the person who abused them is someone they love very much, or because of fear, or both.

And the long term consequences of abuse can greatly affect the child. In most cases, children who are abused or neglected suffer greater mental health than physical health damage. Emotional and psychological abuse and neglect deny the child the tools needed to cope with stress and to learn new skills to become resilient, strong, and successful. So a child who is maltreated or neglected may have a wide range of reactions and may even become depressed or develop suicidal, withdrawn, or violent behavior. As the child gets older, they may use drugs or alcohol, try to run away, refuse discipline, or abuse others. As an adult, they may develop marital and sexual difficulties, depression, or suicidal behavior.

Not all children who are abused have severe reactions. Usually the younger the child, the longer the abuse continues, and the closer the child's relationship with the abuser, the more serious the mental health effects will be. A close relationship with a very supportive adult can increase resiliency, reducing some of the impact.

www.healthychildren.org

Our offices will be closed on February 12th for Lincoln's birthday and the 15th for President's Day



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February
11 Noon Networking - CASA
12 Office closed
15 Office closed
March
11 Noon Networking - CASA

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

ANNUAL FUNDRAISING DINNER

The agency's annual fundraising dinner, which is generally held in March, was previously postponed due to COVID health and safety concerns. As the dinner is the major fundraising event of the year, we are hoping to hold the fundraiser in the fall. If you or someone you know is interested in helping to plan the event and be a part of the fundraising dinner committee, please contact Diane Pieper at the office. The committee generally meets once a month for 6 months prior to the dinner to discuss ideas, themes, decorations, games, etc., solicits donations for the live and silent auction, and helps with dinner set-up. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

BECOME A CASA VOLUNTEER

Adams County CASA needs volunteers to speak up for the abused and neglected children in the court system. These children desperately need your help to give them hope and be the voice on their behalf.

An informational meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 2nd, at 5:15 p.m. via zoom. The link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83348391349>. An additional informational meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 3rd, at 12:15 p.m. at the agency office, 1420 Harrison Street, Quincy. The informational meetings are designed to explain the program in detail and answer any questions prospective CASA volunteers may have.

Training for Adams County CASA volunteers is set for Friday, March 12th, from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Saturday, March 13th, from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and Sunday, March 14th, from 1:00 to 8:00 p.m. Due to COVID space considerations, training will be held at the Hope Lutheran Church, 1739 Harrison Street in Quincy. For more information, call the office at 217-223-2272.

THANK YOU

Thank you to the Blessing Foundation for its donation of teddy bears. The teddy bears will be made available to children who visit one of our centers due to allegations of abuse or neglect. "Jack" and "Izzy" are sure to bring comfort to these children.

The agency received a \$4,000.00 donation from the Jacksonville Elks Club. The check presentation was held on January 20th. Funds will be used to support the agency's CASA programs.

Passavant Area Hospital in Jacksonville recently donated 300 face masks. The masks will help to insure the health and safety of staff and clients.

Your thoughtfulness and support of our agency is truly appreciated!

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.