



January 2021

## *OVERCOMING WORRIES ABOUT REPORTING CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT*

**Worry:** “I don’t want to interfere in someone else’s family.”

**Reality:** Child abuse and neglect is NOT merely a family matter, and the consequences of staying silent can be devastating for the child.

**Worry:** “What if I break up someone’s home?”

**Reality:** A child abuse report does not mean a child is automatically removed from the home— unless they’re clearly in danger. Parents may be first offered support, such as parenting classes or anger management counseling.

**Worry:** “They will know it was me who called.”

**Reality:** Reporting can be anonymous. In most places, you do not have to give your name when you report child abuse.

**Worry:** “What I have to say won’t make a difference.”

**Reality:** If you have a gut feeling that something is wrong, it’s better to be safe than sorry. Even if you can’t see the whole picture, others may have noticed signs as well, and a pattern can help identify child abuse that might have otherwise been overlooked.

[www.helpguide.org](http://www.helpguide.org)

*Our offices will be closed on January 1st. The staff of Advocacy Network for Children wish you all a safe and healthy new year!*



### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January  
01 Office closed  
14 Noon Networking - Quincy  
18 Office closed  
February  
11 Noon Networking  
12 Office closed  
15 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

## STAFF CHRISTMAS GET TOGETHER

The staff at Advocacy Network for Children got together for the holiday on December 14th. Although it wasn't in-person, it was a nice way to share some laughs and take a little break. Pictured are (top row) Jamie Peek, Danielle Buss, Diane Pieper, Lexi Goehl, (middle row) Jamie Carroll, Karolina Anton, Susan Tode, Libby Gaige, (bottom row) Mandy Humphry, Ali Hibbert, Todd Shackelford, and Jessica Bolton.



## WELCOME NEW VOLUNTEERS

Hancock County CASA swore in its latest CASA volunteer on November 24th. Pictured (left to right) Mandy Humphry (CASA Coordinator), Angela Miller and Judge Rodney Clark.



Morgan County CASA swore in its latest two CASA volunteers, Jessica Howard and Lisa Gallion, on December 3rd.

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

## SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

If you are a member of a church, business, or service organization and would like more information about our agency and its mission of protecting the children in our community, we would love to schedule a time to speak with you. Due to safety concerns, we can do presentations via Zoom or in person with adequate spacing. Just call the office to set up a time.

## THANK YOU

Thank you to all of our "Secret Santas" for your donations of toys, snacks, gift cards and monetary donations for our Children's Advocacy Centers. Your generosity will certainly help lift the spirits of the children and families who visit one of our centers.

The Schuyler County Children's Advocacy Center and CASA program received a donation from Culbertson Memorial Hospital from its recent "Casual Day".

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.