



March 2021

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

Advocacy Network for Children will be selling yard signs beginning March 8th in various locations throughout its nine-county region to bring awareness and raise money for the agency. This all leads up to April being National Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month.

National Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month recognizes the importance of families and communities working together to prevent child abuse and neglect and promotes the social and emotional well-being of children and families. During the month of April, as well as throughout the year, communities are encouraged to increase awareness and provide education and support to families through resources and strategies to prevent child abuse and neglect.

You can show your support by purchasing a yard sign for \$10.00 at the following locations:

Quincy: Hy-Vee on Harrison; both County Market locations; Peoples Prosperity Bank;

Camp Point: Hibbert Country Financial Insurance; **Pittsfield:** County Market; **Carthage:** County Market;

Macomb: Haymakers; **Rushville:** County Market; **Jacksonville:** County Market; **Mt. Sterling:** IGA; **Hamilton:** Hy-Vee;

Beardstown: Save A Lot.



In addition, signs will be available at the agency's administrative office located at 1420 Harrison Street, Quincy.

Let's all stand together in the prevention of child abuse.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March
11 Noon Networking - CASA
April
02 Office closed
08 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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR—ANNUAL FUNDRAISING DINNER

The agency's annual fundraising dinner, which is generally held in March, was postponed due to COVID health and safety concerns. However, we are excited to announce that we have set the date of Friday, October 29th, for our event. Stay tuned to find out the theme and other new and exciting things we are planning to make this important event a success.

DID YOU KNOW.

Children's Advocacy Centers are child-focused centers that coordinate the investigation, prosecution and treatment of child abuse while helping abused children heal. Illinois has 33 nationally accredited Children's Advocacy Centers. Advocacy Network for Children is among those and has 8 satellite centers in 8 counties. While all accredited Children's Advocacy Centers share common elements, each is unique and designed to meet the needs of its particular community.

BECOME A CASA VOLUNTEER

The Adams and Hancock County CASA programs need 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 Wednesday, March 3rd, at 12:15 p.m. at the agency office, 1420 Harrison Street, in Quincy and at noon at the Hancock County office, 601 Main (back door) in Carthage. The informational meetings are designed to explain the program in detail and answer any questions prospective CASA volunteers may have.

Training for Adams and Hancock 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 Quincy office at 217-223-2272 or the Hancock County office at 319-795-3714.

THANK YOU

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

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.