



## 2021 YEAR IN REVIEW

### In This Issue:

- Yard Sign Event - 2
- Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month - 2
- Fundraising Dinner - 2
- New CASA Volunteers - 2
- United Way Day of Caring - 2
- Your Help is Needed - 2
- Community Grants - 3
- Staff News - 3
- Community Involvement - 3
- Agency Goals - 3
- Program Statistics - 3
- Agency Programs - 4
- Agency Staff - 4
- Board of Directors - 4
- Thank You's - 5-6



### *From the Executive Director*



I once conducted a forensic interview with a young girl who had been severely physically abused. In talking with her and getting the facts of the abuse, I concluded, as I always do, with the following statement: "I've asked you a lot of questions. Do you have any questions for me?". The young girl said "Yes. Is all this my fault?" I immediately said "No. It's not your fault". She replied, "If it's not my fault, then whose fault is it?". I said, "I don't know whose fault it is, but I know it's not your fault".

So many of the children we serve believe that they are the cause of the abuse, neglect or circumstances that led them to be victims. And nothing can be further from the truth. Children, no matter how difficult, are never the problem. And we must continuously support them and believe that they are not the reason for being victims. We must support them to know that they are smart, beautiful, strong.

The mission of the Advocacy Network for Children remains to champion the victims of abuse and neglect and be their voice. Won't you join us? Call us at 217-223-2272 to see how you can make a difference in a child's life.

Todd Shackelford

**STANDING STRONG FOR ABUSED CHILDREN**

## ***YARD SIGN FUNDRAISER RAISES AWARENESS AND MONEY***

The agency held its first ever yard sign fundraising and awareness event in March and April. In addition to bringing awareness on the issue of child abuse, a little over \$2,300.00 was raised. Signs were available at various locations throughout our nine-county region for \$10.00. We would like to thank the following businesses for coming on board to sell our signs: Quincy: Hy-Vee on Harrison and both County Market locations; Camp Point: Hibbert Country Financial Insurance; Pittsfield: County Market, Save A Lot; Carthage: County Market; Macomb: Haymakers; Rushville: County Market; Jacksonville: County Market; Mt. Sterling: IGA; Hamilton: Hy-Vee; Beardstown: Save A Lot. We would also like to thank everyone, including our multi-disciplinary team members, who displayed a sign showing they were taking a stand against child abuse and those who shared their pictures on Facebook.

## ***CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH***

In addition to the yard sign event, the agency held other events to honor child victims of abuse and neglect throughout the month of April. A pinwheel planting event was held at the Hancock County Courthouse. The agency office in Quincy had a pinwheel display throughout the month and a flag raising was held at the Adams County Courthouse. It is so important that communities dedicate themselves to being supportive of families and play an active role in preventing child abuse and neglect.

## ***FUNDRAISING DINNER A HUGE SUCCESS***

The annual fundraising dinner was held on October 29th at The Ambiance in Quincy. The “Tailgate to Celebrate” themed dinner raised over \$41,000.00. We would like to thank the fundraising committee for all their hard work in making the dinner such a fun and enjoyable evening. Members included Brooke Hunsaker and Kylee Straube (co-chairs), Kori Griffin, Denise Tallcott, Jeri Conboy, Gina Wolf, Deanne Corzatt, Erica Parrish, Angie St. Clair, Sue Allen, Sally Westerhoff, and Lisa Theurer. Congratulations to Sandy Schlepffhorst, this year’s recipient of the “Clairice Hetzler Advocacy for Children Award” and to Rokusek, recipient of the new “Advocacy Network for Children Business Award”.

## ***WELCOME NEW CASA VOLUNTEERS***

**Adams County:** Delene Seaman, Steve Rees, Yvonne Tucker, Kayla Martin, Kathy Obert, Andi Clark, Allison Sutter.

**Hancock County:** Erica Hartman, Joni McLees.

**Pike County:** Michelle Dell, Christina Butler, Heidi Clark, Michelle Escapa, Shelley Scyrcl.

**Brown County:** Amy Schaefer.

**Cass County:** Vickey Hoenes, Tommi Schlueter.

**Schuyler County:** Julia Vincent.

## ***UNITED WAY DAY OF CARING***

United Way held its Day of Caring on June 4th for partner agencies. We had 8 volunteers from Blue Cross Blue Shield who volunteered their time at our Quincy office. Their hard work trimming bushes, planting flowers, painting a side door and adding 2 tons of new rock in the front area of the office made quite a difference to our outside area.

## ***YOUR HELP IS NEEDED***

Advocacy Network for Children could not continue its mission of advocating and protecting children without YOUR help. You can help with a monetary, Foundation or office supply donation. We also have a need for volunteers to help with Happy Bear presentations, fundraising and mailings.

*For pictures from our various events, visit our Facebook page or website at [www.advonet.org](http://www.advonet.org).*

## COMMUNITY GRANTS AWARDED

The agency was blessed to be the recipient of several private community grants this year. In addition, grant funds are received from Adams County United Way, McDonough County United Way, Prairieland United Way and Great River Region United Way.

Thank you to the various grantors for their support:

- The Stamerjohn Family Fund through the Community Foundation, \$1,000.00 for general support;
- The JW Gardner Foundation, \$10,000 for CASA;
- Illini Community Health Care Foundation, 2 grants totaling \$10,170 for Pike County CASA;
- Kiwanis Club of Quincy, \$500 grant for Adams CASA volunteer manuals;
- Illinois CASA, \$2,600 volunteer recruitment grant;
- CFM Foundation, \$25,000 CASA grant;
- Arthur O. & Lela Lindsay grant through the Community Foundation, \$5,000 for Adams CASA;
- Brown County Endowment grant through the Community Foundation, \$1,738.28 for Brown CASA;
- Kiwanis Club of Jacksonville, \$750 for Morgan CASA;
- Tracy Family Foundation Capacity Building Grant, \$4,000 video storytelling grant.

## STAFF NEWS

Anniversaries: Diane Pieper, Executive Assistant, 15 years on April 12th; Jessica Bolton, Dir. of Forensic Interviewing, 15 years on May 16th; Todd Shackelford, Executive Director, 5 years on September 12th.

Lexi Goehl, Adams County CASA Coordinator, welcomed a baby girl, Oaklynn Jo, on March 10th.

Jessica Bullard started with the agency on October 7th as an Adams County CASA Coordinator.

Staff attend trainings and conferences throughout the year to comply with continuing education requirements. State and National conferences for both the CASA and CAC programs are attended if funding is obtained or available.

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Advocacy Network for Children works closely with other area organizations to bring awareness to abuse and neglect in our community. The agency is involved in Mandated Reporter Trainings in several area counties. Staff participates and attends monthly United Way meetings and takes part in the Adams County AOK program.

## GOAL OF THE AGENCY

The goal of Advocacy Network for Children is really quite simple – to protect and uphold the rights of children when wrongs have been committed against them, to help abused or neglected children have safe permanent homes where they can thrive, to act as a powerful voice in these children’s best interests, and to educate the public about the plight of abused children.

## STATISTICS

FY 2021      FY 2020

### -Children’s Advocacy Center Activity

Cases Referred		
All 9 counties	457	393

### -CASA Activity

<b>All counties</b>		
Children Served	311	256
# of Volunteers	106	91

### Adams County

Children Served	186	155
# of Volunteers	55	47

### Hancock County

Children Served	43	50
# of Volunteers	17	21

### Morgan County

Children Served	27	34
# of Volunteers	18	17

### Pike County

Children Served	43	17
# of Volunteers	9	6

### Brown County

Children Served	0	0
# of Volunteers	1	0

### Cass County

Children Served	1	0
# of Volunteers	2	0

### Schuyler County

Children Served	11	0
# of Volunteers	4	0

### Prevention Program Activity

Presentations Made	47	101
# of Children Reached	1544	3388

*Programs of  
Advocacy Network for Children:  
Court Appointed Special Advocates*

Adams County  
Brown County  
Cass County  
Hancock County  
Morgan County  
Pike County  
Schuyler County

*Children's Advocacy Centers*

Adams County  
Brown County  
Cass County  
Hancock County  
McDonough County  
Morgan County  
Pike County  
Schuyler County  
Scott County

*Advocacy Network for Children Staff*

Karolina Anton  
Jessica Bolton  
Jessica Bullard  
Danielle Buss  
Jamie Carroll  
Libby Gaige  
Lexi Goehl  
Mandy Humphry  
Jamie Peek  
Diane Pieper  
Susan Tode  
Todd Shackelford



United Way of  
Adams County, Inc.  
McDonough County  
United Way  
Prairieland United Way  
United Way of the  
Great River Region

*Advocacy Network for Children  
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Marian Bland  
Shannon Nicholas  
Heather Leindecker  
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Jana Hattey

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Lowell Yates, Vice President  
Kristie Chevalier, Treasurer/Secretary  
Bob Daly  
Hal Oakley  
Kent Snider  
Mark Schlipman  
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NATIONAL  
CHILDREN'S  
ALLIANCE®  
ACCREDITED  
MEMBER



CASA  
Court Appointed Special Advocates  
FOR CHILDREN

Administrative Office  
1420 Harrison Street  
Quincy, IL 62301  
217.223.2272 (phone) 217.223.6791 (fax)

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



**Thank you to the following individuals and businesses for their generous donations and in-kind gifts for our 2021 Fundraising Dinner & Auction**

Hobson & Linda Bale	Ali Hibbert	Scotties Fun Spot
Bob Bergman	Danny & Barb Woodyard	Quincy Police Department
Mike & Nancy Bernhardt	Mariah Terstegge	Dick's Sporting Goods
Sherry Centanni	JJ's Kitchen Catering	Tiramisu
Kent Dean	Adams Fiber	Sturhahn Jewelers
Kathleen Dooley & Gary Handrick	Family of Brooke Hunsaker	Gifts by Grawe
Matt & Kandi Ehrhart	Ginny Gully	Bailey's Coffeehouse and Fudge Shop
Matt & Kathy Entrup	The Yum Factory	Texas Roadhouse
D.D. & Janie Fischer	Lee Lindsay	Quincy Brewing Company
Donna Foley	Creative Gardens	Domestics, etc.
Dave & Becky Grimm	Hansen Spear	Kirlins
Dennis Grimm	Ron Snider Auto Sales	Lowe's
Ray & Cyndi Hunsaker	Dan & Cindy Trower	Dame Hurdle & Co.
Joy Jurens	Derek Zahm State Farm Agency	Chicago Bears
Anne Mays	The Farm Stand	Color Smash Studio
Jeff McClean	The Butcher Block	Home Depot
Aurie & Mary Beth McGee	Jeff & Gina Wolf	Cedar Crest Country Club
Dave & Mary Oakley	Dan & Jeri Conboy	Westview Golf Course
Wayne & Carolyn Pond	Quincy Community Theater	R&R Golf
Charles Scholz	Quest Stables	Steve Smith
Tim & Karen Sedovic	Hollow Ground Guide Service	Liz Greer
Carolyn Stevenson	Christine Boyd	Sally Westerhoff
Darlene Stevenson	Lisa Theurer	Quincy Humane Society
John & Dale Stevenson	The Taproom & Café	Advocacy Network for Children Staff
Kim Straube	Bergman Nurseries	Sue Allen
Ron & Pauline Upper	SERVPRO of Quincy	Pawsh Paws Pet Salon
Jack & Patricia Van Camp	Divine Shine & Detailing	Quincy Humane Society
Ron & Colae Vecchie	Emerald City Jewelers	District Designs II
Mary Winters	Eric Theurer	Travis Marler
Paige Wiemelt	Alex Russell	Todd Shackelford
Montebello Gardens Florist and Gifts	Miles Hummel	Kori Griffin
O'Donnell Cookson Life Celebration	Dan Soebbing	Diane Pieper
Home	The Liquor Booth	Kylee Straube
Brooke Hunsaker	Fish Window Cleaning	Erica Parrish
Norm & Nancy Boone	Carter's Coffee Bar	Denise Tallcott
Courtney Saxton	Wine on Broadway	Deanne Corzatt
Lavender Jewel Interiors	Relax Quincy Spa	John Melton
Adriana Hunsaker	El Rancherito	Thrivent
Nici Woodyard	Gem City Gymnastics	Joyce & Terry Hollenberg
Hibbert Country Financial Ins.	Quincy Park District	

**Fundraising Dinner Sponsors**

First Mid Bank & Trust	Michele Pickett	Rinella Company
Knapheide Manufacturing Co.	Quincy Recycle	Gully Transportation
3 Branches	Hansen Spear Funeral Home	State Street Bank
Mercantile Bank	Schlipman Wealth Advisors	Schmiedeskamp, Robertson, Neu & Mitchell
Quincy Medical Group	STARadio	Lowell Yates
United Community Credit Union	Blessing Health System	Moore's Floors
Gardner Denver	Peoples Prosperity Bank	Entrup Drywall & Painting
Stevenson Paxton Group of Wells Fargo	Sharkey Transportation	Barney's Tavern
Advisors	Kohl Wholesale	
Bopi	Refreshment Services Pepsi	

**Thank you to the following individuals for volunteering their time to work on invitations for our 2021 Fundraising Dinner & Auction**

Joyce Mester	Connie Scott	Donna Fuller
Sandy Callahan	LeeAnn Hagerty	Jackie Stammeyer
Pat Bauer	Diane Meyer	

**Thank you to the following individuals and businesses for their generous donations and in-kind gifts throughout the year:**

**Agency Monetary Donations**

Salem Evangelical United Church of Christ	Ross & Sherry Centanni	Jerry Shackelford
Lori Bagley	Peoples Prosperity Bank	Tom & Marcia Hilbing
Pittsfield High School FFA Chapter	Scott & Robin Walden	DaVita Adams County Dialysis
Jane Copelan O'Connell	Kunes Country Honda	Dennis & Barb Gorman
James Dehart	Exchange Club of Quincy	Mercantile Bank
Pam Davis	Glen & Amy Koch	American Business Women's Association (Quincy Chapter)
The Abbey	Dave Kater	Barbara Gates Gerdes
Jacksonville Police Dept.	Quincy Gems Baseball	Kyle & Kimberly Venvertloh
Entrup Drywall & Painting, Inc.	Native Grill (Charges for Children)	Dennis & Marianne Cashman
Valerie Haugh	Brooke Hunsaker	Bo & Erin Knapheide
Jennifer Winking & Tim Schieferdecker	Matt Fessler	Robin Ayers
United Community Credit Union	Will & Kristin Spear	Jeri Conboy
Anita Laaker	Dick & Sandy Schlepphorst	Kristopher's Hair Studio, Inc.
Alma Jean Charitable Fund (Alan and Carol Nichols)	Bethany United Church of Christ	Signe Oakley
Merry Morrison	Women of Impact	S & D Developers, Inc.
	Autumn Harvest Farms	Pam Yates
	Quincy Unitarian Church	

**In Support of Adams County CASA Program**

Theresa McGartland Chapter LZ P.E.O.	Vicki Blackwell	Melrose Chapel United Methodist Church
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**In Support of Hancock County CASA Program**

Sonora Community Fund Drive	St. Albans Twp. Fund Drive	Entre Nous Club
Carthage Township Fund Drive	Chile Community Fund Drive	

**In Support of Morgan County CASA Program**

Kiwanis Club of Jacksonville

**In Memory of Morris Smith**

Weisenberger Family

**In-Kind Donations**

WGEM	Rokusek	STARadio
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**In Support of our Happy Bear Prevention Program and Volunteers**

Quincy Cleaners	Megan Dolbeare	Ryan Mumma
Terry Gibson	Jean Flint	

**Donation of Supplies, Beanie Babies, Kids Toys, Gift Cards**

Peoples Prosperity Bank	Carrie Steffensmeier	Roger & Karen Cobb Schaefer
Joan DeLany	Old Navy	Dollar General (Camp Point)
Debbie Hamm	Adriana Hunsaker	

**In Support of the Advocacy Network for Children Foundation**

Les & Karen Boots	Vicki Clark	James & Linda Russell
Will & Kristin Spear	Diana Finley	Hope Lutheran Church

*Thank you for your support!*

We apologize for any errors, omissions or failure to recognize anyone who has supported our agency.