



February 2022

SEX TRAFFICKING

Sex trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery in which individuals perform commercial sex through the use of force, fraud, or coercion. Minors under the age of 18 engaging in commercial sex are considered to be victims of human trafficking, regardless of the use of force, fraud, or coercion.

Sex traffickers frequently target victims and then use violence, threats, lies, false promises, debt bondage, or other forms of control and manipulation to keep victims involved in the sex industry for their own profit.

Sex trafficking exists within diverse and unique sets of venues and businesses including fake massage businesses, escort services, residential brothels, in public on city streets and in truck stops, strip clubs, hostess clubs, hotels and motels, and elsewhere.

People may be vulnerable to trafficking if they:

- Have an unstable living situation
- Have previously experienced other forms of violence such as sexual abuse or domestic violence
- Have run away or are involved in the juvenile justice or child welfare system
- Are undocumented immigrants
- Are facing poverty or economic need
- Have a caregiver or family member who has a substance use issue
- Are addicted to drugs or alcohol.

If you suspect someone is being trafficked, always report suspicious behavior and/or illegal activity to law enforcement. Never attempt to rescue a victim, confront a suspected trafficker directly, or alert a victim to any suspicions. It is up to law enforcement to investigate suspected cases of human trafficking.

Call 1-888-373-7888 to report a tip; connect with anti-trafficking services in your area; or request training and technical assistance, general information, or specific anti-trafficking resources.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February

- 10 CASA Noon Networking
- 11 Office closed
- 21 Office closed

March

- 13 CASA Noon Networking

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

WE NEED CASA VOLUNTEERS

There is a huge need for CASA volunteers in several of our counties. An accelerated training in Morgan County is scheduled for February 18th-20th, a training in Hancock County will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays in March, and an accelerated training in Adams County is scheduled for March 4th-6th. A number of informational meetings have been scheduled this month via Zoom (February 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd). The informational meetings will be held at 12:15 p.m. and last approximately 30 minutes each. In addition, an information meeting for Morgan County will be held on February 9th at 5:15 p.m. and for Hancock County and Adams County on February 23rd at 5:15 p.m. The informational meetings are designed to explain the program and answer any questions a person may have about the trainings and becoming a CASA volunteer.

CASA volunteers are trained community volunteers appointed by a judge to speak up for abused or neglected children in court. The trainings are free and all materials are provided. No special experience is required. If you would like to be the voice for an abused or neglected child in our community, please call Danielle Buss, CASA Manager, at 217-223-2272. Additional information about our CASA program is available on our website or Facebook page.

PREVENTION PROGRAM

Advocacy Network for Children offers a child sexual abuse prevention program to schools, pre-schools, and other organizations throughout West Central Illinois at no cost. Illinois law requires schools to implement a child sexual abuse prevention program to students in Pre-K through 5th grade. We provide the program to students Pre-K through 5th grade. The curriculum we use, Happy Bear and P.S. It's My Body!, is evidence based and age appropriate. If you would like more information, would like to schedule a presentation, or would like to volunteer to help with presentations, please call the office.

STAFF NEWS

We would like to welcome Kari Frink and Brittany Durst to the agency. Kari is a new Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) Coordinator and will be based in the Quincy office. Kari's first day with the agency was January 3rd. Brittany is a new CASA Coordinator in Adams County. Brittany's first day with the agency was January 24th. Welcome to the team!

Jamie Peek, CAC Coordinator for Pike, Scott, Morgan and Cass Counties, celebrated her 15 year anniversary with the agency on January 16th. Thank you Jamie for your commitment and dedication to the agency and the children we serve.

**** 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!****



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

www.advonet.org

