



August 2023

HELP US SHARE OUR STORY

Between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023, our seven (7) county region CASA volunteers were a voice for nearly 600 children in the court system because of abuse or neglect. Our Children's Advocacy Center program coordinated nearly 450 cases of reported sexual abuse or severe physical abuse in the nine (9) area counties it serves. And our Prevention Program made presentations to over 2800 students in Pre-K through 5th grade to teach these students about personal safety.

As a community, we all need to work together to keep our children safe from abuse and neglect. We would love to share our story and provide more information about our agency and its mission of protecting abused and neglected children.

If you are a member of a church, business, or service organization, we would love to schedule a time to speak with your group. If you would like to help us, please call the office at 217-223-2272 to schedule a date and time. Together, we can make a difference in the life of a child.

WHAT IS GROOMING

Grooming is a process by which an offender gradually draws a victim into a sexual relationship and maintains that relationship in secrecy. At the same time, the offender may also fill roles within the victim's family that make the offender trusted and valued.

Grooming behaviors can include: special attention, outings, and gifts; isolating the child from others; filling the child's unmet needs; filling needs and roles within the family; treating the child as if he or she is older; gradually crossing physical boundaries, and becoming increasingly intimate/sexual; or use of secrecy, blame, and threats to maintain control.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August
02 CASA guided learning informational mtg
Sept
04 Office closed
06 CASA guided learning informational mtg
14 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

SAVE THE DATE—ANNUAL FUNDRAISING DINNER

The agency's Fundraising Dinner Committee is busy working on the annual fundraising dinner. This year's "Tailgate to Celebrate" event is set for **Friday, October 13, 2023** at the Ambiance in Quincy. The dinner is the major fundraising event for the agency and is designed to be a fun and enjoyable evening for everyone.



Dinner invitations will be mailed out later this month. If you are not on our invitation list or have questions about the dinner, please call the office at 217-223-2272 and ask to speak to Diane.

STAFF NEWS

Libby Gaige retired after 5 years with the agency. Libby was the Morgan County CASA Coordinator in Jacksonville. An open house was held on June 30th in her honor. We wish her all the best in her retirement.



We would like to welcome Anita Hanke who started on August 1st. Anita will be the new Adams County Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) Coordinator following the recent resignation of Kari Frink. We wish Kari the best in her new adventure.

GUIDED LEARNING FOR CASA VOLUNTEERS

Don't forget, informational Zoom meetings regarding the new guided learning are being held on the first Wednesday of each month at 12:30 p.m. through November. Guided learning allows a person to train on their own time, in their own home and on their own schedule. If you ever wanted to become a CASA volunteer and couldn't commit to a full week's training or an accelerated training on a weekend you weren't available, this is for you.

For more information, please call the office and speak to one of our CASA staff or visit the agency's Facebook page.

PREVENTION PROGRAM

With the start of the new school year fast approaching, don't forget that Advocacy Network for Children offers a child sexual abuse prevention program to schools throughout West Central Illinois at no cost. The curriculum we use, Happy Bear and P.S. It's My Body!, is evidence based and age appropriate. Presentations are about 30 minutes each and are available in-person or virtual.

We are also looking for volunteers to help us with the presentations. No experience is required and we will teach interested individuals. For more information, please call the office at 217-223-2272.



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