



December 2023

## *YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE*

We would like to thank everyone who supported our agency this past year. Your support allowed us to continue helping abused and neglected children in our community.

Between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023, our 115 CASA volunteers were a voice for 582 children in the court system because of abuse or neglect in the seven area counties served. Our Children's Advocacy Center program coordinated nearly 450 cases of reported sexual abuse, severe physical abuse or witness to domestic violence or a crime in the nine area counties served. Our Prevention Program made presentations to nearly 2900 students in Pre-K through 5th grade to teach these students about personal safety, how to respond to unwelcome touches and who to tell if someone gives them an unwelcome touch.

If you would like to make a donation, please forward payment to 1420 Harrison Street, Quincy, IL 62301. You can also visit our website at [www.advonet.org](http://www.advonet.org) and click on the "Donate Now" button. All donations are eligible for tax deductions.

Together, we can bring hope, promise, and healing to the most vulnerable victims of a crime, our children.

## *MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR*

From the staff at Advocacy Network for Children, we would like to wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year: Amber Range, Anita Hanke, Brittany Durst, Danielle Buss, Diane Pieper, Jamie Carroll, Jamie Peek, Jessica Bullard, Karolina Anton-Mumma, Kristan Miller, Lexi Goehl, Mandy Humphry, Sue Tode and Todd Shackelford.



### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December  
22 & 25 Office closed  
January  
01 Office closed  
11 CASA Noon Networking  
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

## ***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. Just call the office to set up a time.

### ***FEATURED PROGRAM: CASA***

The Court Appointed Special Advocates Program (CASA) started in Adams County in 1990. Since then, programs have been added in Pike, Hancock, Morgan, Brown, Cass and Schuyler counties. CASA volunteers are trained community volunteers appointed by a judge to speak up for abused or neglected children in the court system. CASA volunteers work alongside attorneys and case workers from case inception to its completion. CASA volunteers come from all walks of life and no special experience is required. Once accepted, volunteers attend a 30 hour training in courtroom procedure, the social service and juvenile court systems, and the special needs of children who have been abused or neglected.

CASA volunteers are needed in all seven counties. If you would like more information, please call the office and speak to one of our CASA staff.

### ***WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF A CHILD DISCLOSES ABUSE***

If a child tells you that he/she was abused, you should:

- > Avoid denial and keep calm to avoid the child shutting down;
- > Listen and let the child tell his/or her own story;
- > Don't interrogate or ask leading questions as this may confuse the child and hinder any criminal investigation;
- > Reassure the child that he/she did nothing wrong and that it is not the child's fault;
- > Thank the child for telling you and be supportive;
- > Do not contact the alleged perpetrator as this may allow him/her time to prepare a response;
- > Call your local law enforcement or Department of Children and Family Services hotline.

### ***MEANING OF THE AGENCY LOGO***

The agency's logo was changed several years ago to reflect the main mission of the agency, to help abused and neglected children. The small circle in the middle is an abused or neglected child and the connecting circles surrounding this circle represents the team who is working together to help the child tell his or her story and help them begin to heal and make sure they have a safe, permanent home. This team includes staff, our CASA volunteers, DCFS, law enforcement, State's Attorneys, and mental and medical health professionals.



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