



January 2024

## *OVERCOMING WORRIES ABOUT REPORTING CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT*

**Worry:** “I don’t want to interfere in someone else’s family.”

**Reality:** Child abuse and neglect is NOT merely a family matter, and the consequences of staying silent can be devastating for the child.

**Worry:** “What if I break up someone’s home?”

**Reality:** A child abuse report does not mean a child is automatically removed from the home—unless they’re clearly in danger. Parents may be first offered support, such as parenting classes or anger management counseling.

**Worry:** “They will know it was me who called.”

**Reality:** Reporting can be anonymous. In most places, you do not have to give your name when you report child abuse.

**Worry:** “What I have to say won’t make a difference.”

**Reality:** If you have a gut feeling that something is wrong, it’s better to be safe than sorry. Even if you can’t see the whole picture, others may have noticed signs as well, and a pattern can help identify child abuse that might have otherwise been overlooked.

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

*Our offices will be closed on January 1st. The staff of Advocacy Network for Children wish you all a safe and healthy new year!*



### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January  
01 Office closed  
11 CASA Noon Networking  
15 Office closed  
February  
08 CASA Noon Networking  
12 Office closed  
19 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

## CAN WE TALK?

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 be happy to schedule a time to speak with you. We would love the opportunity to talk about and explain our programs in detail so the community is aware of the unique services we provide to children who have been abused and neglected and the impact abuse and neglect can have on a child. Please call the office to set up a time.

### FEATURED PROGRAM: CAC

In 1999, the agency expanded and started its first Children's Advocacy Center in Adams County. Since then, programs have been added in Pike, Scott, Morgan, Hancock, McDonough, Brown, Cass and Schuyler counties. Children's Advocacy Centers are child-focused centers that coordinate the investigation, prosecution and treatment of child abuse while helping abused children heal. There are 8 fully trained forensic interviewers on staff and our advocates provide the child and non-offending caretakers with care and compassion during the investigation and court process. The program is accredited through the National Children's Alliance and state chapter of Children's Advocacy Centers. While all accredited Children's Advocacy Centers share common elements, each is unique and designed to meet the needs of its particular community.

### NEW OFFICE LOCATION IN PITTSFIELD AND OPEN HOUSE

We have moved our Pike County Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) and CASA office in Pittsfield. The new office is located in The Studio Building (West side entrance) located at 120 Williams Industrial Drive, Pittsfield, IL. The new location offers more room and easier accessibility to our clients and CASA volunteers.



An open house is scheduled for Wednesday, January 17th, from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. Our partner agencies, CASA volunteers, and community members are invited to attend.

### THANK YOU

The Health and Wellness Foundation of Pike County awarded the Pike County CASA program a grant in the amount of \$7,500.00. As requested and stipulated in the grant, the funds will be used towards rent of the new office building in Pittsfield.

The agency received two recent grants from the Tracy Family Foundation. A \$10,000.00 grant in which funds will be used to support youth in the Cass County CASA Program and a \$15,000.00 grant in which funds will be used for specialized mental health services to children who are victims of abuse or neglect.

Your thoughtfulness and support of our agency is greatly appreciated.



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

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

