



February 2024

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.

Our offices will be closed on February 12th and 19th in observance of Lincoln's Birthday and President's Day



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February
08 CASA Noon Networking
12 Office closed
19 Office closed
March
14 CASA Noon Networking
29 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

WE WOULD LOVE TO TALK TO YOUR GROUP

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.

STAFF NEWS

We would like to welcome Erica Parrish as our new CASA Volunteer Recruiter/Coordinator. Erica started with the agency on January 29th. In this position, she will be responsible for recruiting, training, supporting and supervising volunteers in our CASA program. Erica is no stranger to the agency as she was a CASA volunteer for 5 years and also serves on the agency's fundraising dinner committee. Welcome to the team Erica!

PITTSFIELD OPEN HOUSE

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

An open house was held on Wednesday, January 17th, from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. Thank you to everyone who stopped by and toured the new office. A special thank you to the Health and Wellness Foundation of Pike County for its generous grant that helped make this move possible.

WELCOME NEW CASA VOLUNTEER

Morgan County CASA swore in its newest volunteer on January 11th by Judge Jeffery Tobin at the Morgan County Courthouse, along with Morgan County CASA Coordinator Amber Range. Pictured are, left to right, Amber Range, Judge Tobin and Leslie Howard.



Welcome and thank you to this new CASA volunteer for her dedication and commitment to the children in our community.

THANK YOU

The agency is blessed to receive funding for its various programs from local United Way agencies. Those include United Way of Adams County, Prairieland United Way, McDonough County United Way and United Way of the Great River Region.

Your thoughtfulness and support of our agency is greatly appreciated.



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