



"Standing Strong for Abused Children"

June 2024

ABOUT ADVOCACY NETWORK FOR CHILDREN

Advocacy Network for Children opened its doors in January 1990 as CASA of Adams County. Its mission was to serve abused and neglected children in Adams County.

The CASA program uses trained community volunteers who then become the voice for a child in the court system. The agency has expanded its CASA program to include the counties of Hancock, Morgan, Pike, Brown, Cass and Schuyler. Hundreds of children have been represented by trained CASA volunteers to date through the agency's CASA program.

In 1999, Advocacy Network for Children opened its first Children's Advocacy Center in Adams County. Since then, the agency has opened centers in 8 additional counties to serve child victims of sexual or severe physical abuse. The counties include Brown, Cass, Schuyler, Pike, Morgan, Scott, Hancock and McDonough. To date, the agency has provided services to over 7,500 child victims of sexual abuse or severe physical abuse through its Children's Advocacy Centers.

Children's Advocacy Centers use a team approach in the investigation and prosecution of sexual and severe physical abuse cases involving children. Team members include Children's Advocacy Center staff, local law enforcement, State Police, DCFS, State's Attorneys, mental health, and medical personnel. Short term counseling is also available for victims and their non-offending family members.

Advocacy Network for Children also provides a prevention program to children Pre-K through 5th grade. "P.S. It's My Body" teaches children safety strategies and is designed to decrease children's risk of being abused. Children learn to recognize welcome and unwelcome touches, practice saying "No" and moving away, and to identify trusted adults they can report unwelcome touches to. Children are reminded that they have the right to say "No" and that abuse is never their fault. The program includes a teacher and parent component that provides safety tips, strategies for talking to children about personal safety, and what to do if a child discloses abuse.

The unique services provided by Advocacy Network for Children are free and staff is available 24/7.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June
19 Office closed
July
04 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

CASA TRAINING

There are children in the court system waiting for a CASA volunteer, someone who will speak on their behalf and to be in their corner. An accelerated training for Adams County CASA volunteers is scheduled for Friday, June 7th, and Saturday, June 8th from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday, June 9th, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Training will be held at the agency office located at 1420 Harrison Street, in Quincy. For more information, call the office at 217-223-2272.

In addition, we offer a guided learning training for individuals to become CASA volunteers in our seven county service area. The guided learning allows individuals to take the training on their own schedule and pace. Informational meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 12:30 p.m. via Zoom. The link to join is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81723076585>. For more information on the guided training option, call the office at 217-223-2272.

BE A PART OF OUR FUNDRAISING DINNER COMMITTEE

The agency's Fundraising Dinner Committee is gearing up to start working on the annual fundraising dinner to be held on Friday, October 18th. If you or someone you know would like to be a part of this important committee in any capacity, call the office at 217-223-2272 and ask to speak to Diane.

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.

WHY ARE CHILDREN AFRAID TO TELL ABOUT ABUSE

There are a number of reasons why a child may not disclose abuse that is happening to him/her. Some of those include:

- The abuser shames the child or says the child let it happen.
- The abuser is often manipulative and may try to confuse the child about what is right and wrong or tell them the abuse is a "game."
- The abuser may threaten to harm the child or a family member.
- Children are afraid of disappointing their parents and disrupting the family.
- Children often love the abuser and don't want to get anyone in trouble.
- Some children are too young to understand.

THANK YOU

The agency was chosen as the April non-profit from Women of Impact and received \$2,700.00. Women of Impact is a group of local women who raise funds for the benefit of non-profits in the surrounding area.

Your thoughtfulness and support of our agency is truly appreciated!



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