



August 2024

## *HELP US SHARE OUR STORY*

Between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024, 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 525 cases of reported sexual abuse or severe physical abuse in the nine (9) area counties it serves. And our Prevention Program made presentations to nearly 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

Sept  
02 Office closed  
12 CASA noon networking  
October  
10 CASA noon networking  
14 Office closed  
18 Fundraising dinner

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 18, 2024** 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 mailing list or have questions about the dinner, please call the office at 217-223-2272 and ask to speak to Diane.

## ***STAFF NEWS***

As of July 1, 2024, Danielle Buss has transitioned into the role of Associate Executive Director. This position will assist the Executive Director in expanding resources, partnerships, services, staff skills, assist in implementation of fiscal system changes and be the authority in absentia. Brittany Durst has transitioned into the role of CASA Manager. Brittany will be assuming all current CASA program management duties.

## ***GUIDED LEARNING FOR CASA VOLUNTEERS***

Don't forget, our CASA program continues to offer guided learning. 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 at 217-223-2272 and speak to one of our CASA staff.

## ***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.

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 and ask to speak to Anita.

## ***THANK YOU***

Thank you to Quincy Cleaners for providing cleaning services for our Happy Bear mascot costume.

Your thoughtfulness and support of our agency is truly appreciated!



1420 Harrison Street, Quincy, IL 62301  
217.223.2272 (phone) 217.223.6791 (fax)  
**www.advonet.org**

