



September 2024

## *IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR KICK-OFF*

Don't forget to mark your calendars and plan to attend the agency's annual fundraising dinner set for Friday, October 18th, at The Ambiance in Quincy.

Invitations for the "Tailgate to Celebrate" dinner will be mailed soon. If you are not on our invitation list and would like to be added or attend the dinner, please call the office at 217-223-2272 and ask to speak to Diane. Reservations and payment are due in advance by October 4th and can also be made at [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com) or by scanning the QR code which will be available on our Facebook page beginning September 6th.

The committee is working hard and planning a lot of exciting things that you won't want to miss. There will be a live auction, silent auction, raffles, games and more.

This year's "Clairice Hetzler Advocacy for Children Award" recipient is Bob Daly and the "Advocacy Network for Children Business Award" recipient is Quincy Service Club. Both recipients have been long-time supporters of the agency and its mission.

The dinner is the agency's major fundraising event of the year and helps us provide critical services to children who are victims of abuse and neglect.

For additional information, you can visit the agency's Facebook page or website at [www.advonet.org](http://www.advonet.org).

We hope to see you there!



*"With the new day comes new strength and new thoughts."*

Eleanor Roosevelt.

### 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

## ***SOCIAL MEDIA AND TEEN MENTAL HEALTH***

Numerous studies show that higher levels of social media use among children and adolescents are linked to adverse effects, including depression and anxiety, inadequate sleep, low self-esteem, poor body image, eating disorder behaviors and online harassment. These risks are greater for girls versus boys and for those already experiencing mental health issues. We need to all work together to create strategies and safe social media environments for our children.

## ***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 NEEDS VOLUNTEERS***

With the start of the new school year, 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 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 the Quincy Service Club for it's recent donation of \$1,500.00 in support of the agency. A check presentation was held on July 26th. Pictured are, left to right, Diane Pieper (Executive Assistant), Carlos Fernandez (QSC President), Danielle Buss (Associate Executive Director) and Jamie Carroll (CAC Manager).



The agency was awarded a \$3,974.00 grant from the Tracy Family Foundation. As indicated in the grant application, funds were used to send two staff members to the Crimes Against Children Conference in Dallas, TX in August.

The agency was awarded a \$1,047.34 Community Endowment Funds grant through the Community Foundation. As indicated in the grant application, the funds will be used for general operating support. A check presentation for all grant recipients was held on August 13th at The Knowledge Center at Chaddock.

Your thoughtfulness and support of our agency is truly appreciated!



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