



"Standing Strong for Abused Children"

December 2024

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

We would like to thank everyone who supported our agency this past year. Your support allowed us to continue helping abused and neglected children in our community.

Between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024, our 106 CASA volunteers were a voice for 583 children in the court system because of abuse or neglect in the seven area counties served. Our Children's Advocacy Center program coordinated 524 cases of reported sexual abuse, severe physical abuse or witness to domestic violence or a crime in the nine area counties served. Our Prevention Program made presentations to nearly 2750 students in Pre-K through 5th grade to teach these students about personal safety, how to respond to unwelcome touches and who to tell if someone gives them an unwelcome touch.

If you would like to make a donation, please forward payment to 1420 Harrison Street, Quincy, IL 62301. You can also visit our website at www.advonet.org and click on the "Donate Now" button. All donations are eligible for tax deductions.

Together, we can bring hope, promise, and healing to the most vulnerable victims of a crime, our children.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

From the staff at Advocacy Network for Children, we would like to wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year: Amber Range, Anita Hanke, Brittany Durst, Danielle Buss, Diane Pieper, Erica Parrish, Jamie Carroll, Jamie Peek, Jessica Bullard, Karolina Anton-Mumma, Kristan Miller, Lexi Goehl, Mandy Humphry, Sue Tode and Todd Shackelford.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December
12 CASA noon networking
24-25 Office closed
January
01 Office closed
09 CASA noon networking
20 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

SIGNS OF POSSIBLE SEXUAL ABUSE

Here are five signs of possible sexual abuse. If you notice a child experiencing any of these signs, please call and report immediately. You can make a report to the child abuse hotline at 1-800-252-2873, your local DCFS office or your local law enforcement office.

1. Symptoms of Anxiety; 2. Abnormal Sexual Behaviors or Symptoms; 3. Changes in Personality or Mood; 4. General Behavioral Changes; and 5. Changes in Beliefs or Discussions.

Your call could save the life of a child.

(www.onewithcourage.org)

STAFF NEWS

Todd Shackelford (Executive Director), Danielle Buss (Associate Executive Director), and Brittany Durst (CASA Manager) attended the 2024 Annual CASA Director's Conference in Chicago on November 14th and 15th.

Diane Pieper (Executive Assistant), Kristan Miller (CAC Coordinator/Forensic Interviewer), Anita Hanke (CAC Coordinator/Prevention Specialist) and Sue Tode (CAC Coordinator/Forensic Interviewer) attended the Annual Advocate Training in Springfield on November 19th, 20th and 21st.

CASA PROGRAM EXPANDING

With new grant funding from the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), we are expanding our CASA program into Mason, Menard and Scott Counties. We are honored to become the voice for children in these counties who are victims of abuse and neglect. With the addition of these three counties, our agency now provides a CASA program in ten counties: Adams, Brown, Cass, Hancock, Mason, Menard, Morgan, Pike, Schuyler and Scott.

THANK YOU

The agency received a \$16,000.00 grant from the Marion Gardner Jackson Charitable Trust, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee. As stipulated in the grant, funds will be used for new forensic recording equipment and support for our Children's Advocacy Centers.

A \$12,500.00 grant was received from the Health and Wellness Foundation of Pike County. As stipulation in the grant, funds will be used to hire a part-time CASA Coordinator Assistant.

A \$5,000.00 charitable grant was received from the Keokuk Area Community Foundation. As stipulated in the grant, funds will be used to support the Hancock County CASA program.

Thank you to the Adams County Special Response Team for its donation of \$300.00 from proceeds raised during the annual Trunk or Treat held on October 29th. Funds will be used to support the Adams County Children's Advocacy Center.

Your thoughtfulness and support of our agency is truly appreciated!



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