



"Standing Strong for Abused Children"

January 2025

FEATURED PROGRAM: CAC

In 1999, the agency expanded and started its first Children's Advocacy Center in Adams County. Since then, programs have been added in Pike, Scott, Morgan, Hancock, McDonough, Brown, Cass and Schuyler counties.

Children's Advocacy Centers are child-focused centers that coordinate the investigation, prosecution and treatment of child abuse while helping abused children heal. There are 9 fully trained forensic interviewers on staff and our advocates provide the child and non-offending caretakers with care and compassion during the investigation and court process. CAC staff work with a multidisciplinary team that consists of law enforcement, DCFS, prosecution, mental health providers, and medical providers.

Without a CAC, a child may end up having to tell the worst story of his or her life over and over again. They may have to talk about that traumatic experience in a police station where they think they might be in trouble, or may be asked the wrong questions by a well-meaning teacher or other adult that could hurt the case against the abuser.

The program is accredited through the National Children's Alliance and state chapter of Children's Advocacy Centers.

While all accredited Children's Advocacy Centers share common elements, each is unique and designed to meet the needs of its particular community.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Our offices will be closed on January 1st. The staff of Advocacy Network for Children wish you all a safe and healthy new year!



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- January
- 01 Office closed
- 09 CASA noon networking
- 20 Office closed
- February
- 12 Office closed
- 13 CASA noon networking
- 17 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

CAN WE TALK?

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 our new employee, Amber Sarnes. Amber is the CASA Coordinator for our newly expanded CASA programs in Mason and Menard Counties. Amber started on December 2nd and will be based in Havana, IL. Welcome to the team Amber!

DARKNESS TO LIGHT STEWARDS OF CHILDREN PROGRAM

Darkness to Light Stewards of Children program is a revolutionary sexual abuse prevention training program that educates adults to prevent, recognize, and react responsibly to child sexual abuse. The program believes and teaches that child safety is an adult's job.

Stewards of Children is designed for any group, business or organization that serves children and youth. Those who could benefit from this program include service groups, church groups, school faculty, daycare providers, foster parents or anyone who volunteers working with youth.

Our agency has two fully trained facilitators to present this program, Jamie Carroll and Amber Range. If you would like more information or would like to schedule a presentation, please call the office at 217-223-2272.

THANK YOU

The agency was recently awarded a \$32,000.00 grant from The Tracy Family Foundation. As stipulated in the grant, funds will be used for expanded mental health services in our Children's Advocacy Center programs.

Thank you to everyone who made a donation to our agency in 2024. Whether it was a monetary donation, a donation of supplies or snacks, or you volunteered your time to help us with an event, your support of our agency means the world to us. We could not continue our mission of helping abused and neglected children without it.



Your thoughtfulness and support of our agency is truly appreciated!



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