



"Standing Strong for Abused Children"

August 2025

HELP US SHARE OUR STORY

Between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025, our ten (10) county region CASA volunteers were a voice for nearly 650 children in the court system because of abuse or neglect. Our Children's Advocacy Center program coordinated nearly 420 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.



CHILD ABUSE NOTICE ACT (HB4350)

The Child Abuse Notice Act took effect in Illinois on January 1st. The law requires establishments frequented by minors, such as day care centers, elementary and secondary schools, bus stations, hospital emergency rooms, entertainment and sporting facilities and hotels and motels to display in their bathrooms multi-lingual informative posters designed by the Department of Children and Family Services. This law makes a difference by bridging the gap between silence and safety and ensuring that every child has access to help, and that every adult has the tools to be a protector. A copy of the poster is attached to this newsletter.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September

01 Office closed

October

13 Office closed

17 Annual 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 17, 2025** 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.

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.

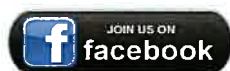
THANK YOU

Thank you to the Tracy Family Foundation for selecting our agency to be part of the inaugural WCIL Gives on-line event held June 9th-12th. This event supported local not-for-profit agencies to bring awareness and support to the agencies who are making a difference in supporting families, enhancing education, and ensuring access to vital services.

Our agency recently applied for funding from the Rotary Club of Quincy for a new laptop for one of our Adams County CASA Coordinators and was awarded funding. Pictured at the check presentation are Rotarian Grant Farmer and Associate Executive Director Danielle Buss.



Your thoughtfulness and support of our agency is truly appreciated!



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No One has the Right to Hurt You

NO GO ZONES



NO SHARING

NO PICTURES

NO BLAMING
YOURSELF IF
SOMEONE TRIES

NO SECRETS

NO TOUCHING

What is Abuse?

Abuse is when an adult hurts you on purpose. It is never an accident. It is never okay, and it is never your fault—no matter what happened. You deserve to feel safe and loved.

What Are the Different Kinds of Abuse?

- **Physical Abuse** means someone hurts your body by hitting, shaking, pushing, choking, or kicking you. Sometimes this causes bruises, cuts, or burns. You have the right to be safe in your body.
- **Emotional Abuse** means someone says or does mean things over and over to make you feel scared, sad, unloved, or like you are not good enough. You are important and worthy of kindness.
- **Sexual Abuse** means someone touches your private parts, asks you to touch theirs, or shows you pictures of people without clothes. Private parts are the parts covered by your swimsuit or underwear. You have the right to speak out if something makes you feel unsafe, and it's never your fault.

What Can You Do?

If someone is hurting you—even if it is a family member or someone you care about—tell an adult you trust. If you can't tell your mom or dad, tell a teacher, coach, school nurse, or a friend's parent. You are brave for speaking up.

Never keep it a secret, even if the person says something bad will happen if you tell. Your safety is the most important thing.

If you don't have an adult to talk to, or if no one helps after you tell, **call 911** or the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services at **1-800-25ABUSE** (1-800-252-2873).

People are there to help you for free, anytime—day or night. You are not alone.

<https://childabuse.illinois.gov>

NOTICE

Any person who knowingly transmits a false report to the department commits the offense of disorderly conduct under subsection (a)(7) of Section 24-1 of the Criminal Code of 2012. Violation of this subsection is a Class 4 Felony. (Source: P.A. 97-189, eff. 7-22-11; 97-1150, eff. 1-25-13.)

Reference **HB4350**
(CHILD ABUSE NOTICE ACT)



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