



"Standing Strong for Abused Children"

January 2026

ABOUT OUR CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER PROGRAM

In 1999, the agency expanded from having one CASA program 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
19 Office closed
February
12 Office closed
16 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

STAFF NEWS

Jamie Peek resigned from the agency to be effective January 2, 2026. Jamie was the CAC Coordinator in Morgan, Scott, and Cass counties and with the agency for almost 19 years. We wish Jamie the best in her new endeavors.

Chelsea Crowder accepted the open position. Chelsea was previously the CASA Coordinator in Morgan County. The agency is currently working on filling the open CASA Coordinator position.

NEW CASA VOLUNTEER SWORN IN

Schuyler County CASA swore in its newest CASA volunteer. Savannah Caputo was sworn in by Judge Mark Vincent at the Schuyler County Courthouse on December 1st. Welcome Savannah and thank you for your dedication and service to the children in our community.



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.

WINTER BREAK AND KIDS SAFETY

Winter break brings more free time, later nights, and often new devices or games. It is the perfect moment for adults to pause, check in, and make sure children are navigating online spaces safely. When we do this openly, collaboratively and with care, we show them that digital safety isn't about control, it's an expression of love, responsibility and our commitment to their well-being.

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who made a donation to our agency in 2025. 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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