



2025 YEAR IN REVIEW

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GOAL OF THE AGENCY

The goal of Advocacy Network for Children is really quite simple – to protect and uphold the rights of children when wrongs have been committed against them, to help abused or neglected children have safe permanent homes where they can thrive, to act as a powerful voice in these children's best interests, and to educate the public about the plight of abused children.

From the Executive Director



The agency opened its doors 35 years ago to help abused and neglected children. This past year, we advocated for nearly 1,100 children in our two core programs, CASA and CAC. Fortunately for these children, we have amazing and dedicated team members who work together to end the abuse and start them on the road to recovery.

We have been blessed with a number of private and community grants to support our agency, its programs and staff to help broaden the services provided and to make sure we can continue to provide the services these children need during the most difficult time of their life.

Community support has again been overwhelming and we couldn't do what we do without it. From our awareness events in April during Child Abuse Awareness & Prevention Month to our annual fundraising dinner in October, the support of our community has truly been amazing.

We have a truly dedicated board of directors who take their role very seriously. Their leadership, commitment, and passion is second to none.

You can be a part of our team too. Please consider a donation to the agency or consider becoming a CASA volunteer. For more information, call us at 217-223-2272.

Todd Shackelford



STANDING STRONG FOR ABUSED CHILDREN

DINE TO DONATE, DRINK TO DONATE, PROCEED DAYS AND DRIVE TO DONATE RAISE AWARENESS AND MONEY

The agency held several "Dine to Donate" fundraising and awareness events in April. Area restaurants included Platt Daddy BBQ and Raising Cane's in Quincy, Pizza Unlimited in Rushville, Babe's in Havana, Hy-Vee in Jacksonville, Jersey's in Mt. Sterling, Haymaker's in Pittsfield as well as a proceeds day at TCBY in Quincy. "Drink to Donate" events were held at The Drink Shop in Mt. Sterling, Camp Point and Jacksonville, Carter's Coffee in Quincy and Mahoney's Coffee in Carthage. A "Drive to Donate" was held at the KC Range in Quincy. Jill Havermale from Crafts n Creations designed and sold crew sweatshirts throughout the month. A portion of proceeds from all these events were donated to the agency and together raised nearly \$8,400.00. Thank you to these local businesses for coming on board and supporting our agency. We would also like to thank everyone who showed their support and made a purchase during these events.

CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH

In addition to the Dine to Donate, Drink to Donate and proceeds days, the agency held other events to honor child victims of abuse and neglect throughout the month of April. A flag raising was held in Quincy, pinwheel plantings and community events were held in Hancock, Morgan, Pike, Brown and Schuyler Counties and the Quincy Bayview Bridge was lit blue the week of April 7th. We would like to thank everyone who attended these events. It is so important that communities come together and play an active role in preventing child abuse and neglect.

FUNDRAISING DINNER A HUGE SUCCESS

The annual fundraising dinner was held on October 17th at The Ambiance in Quincy. The "Tailgate to Celebrate" themed dinner raised over \$44,500.00. We would like to thank the fundraising committee for all their hard work. Members included Whitney Mintert (Co-Chair), Gina Wolf (Co-Chair), Brooke Hunsaker, Kylee Straube, Kori Griffin, Angie St. Clair, Lisa Theurer, Diane Disseler, Shawna Quinn, Stacy Melton, Heather Hoffman, Diane Pieper (Staff), and Danielle Buss (Staff). Congratulations to Julia Vincent, this year's recipient of the "Clairice Hetzler Advocacy for Children Award" and to Bopi, recipient of the "Advocacy Network for Children Business Award".

WELCOME NEW CASA VOLUNTEERS

Adams County: Emily Hendrickson, Kelley Arnold, June Otte, Elizabeth Harness, Steve Meckes, Maryann Cornwell, Cindy Whiston, Cassie Epperson, Juliet Hubbard, Nicole Mason, Cathy Shanks, Kerri Bennett.

Hancock County: Brittany Bavery, Kennedy Morgan.

Pike County: Nancy Boone.

Scott County: Contina Savage.

Schuyler County: Samantha Jones, Savannah Caputo.

Menard County: Joni Churchill, Marlee Hillemeier.

Mason County: Britney Holtman, Ryley Bridges, Randi Cowell, Cindy Noll, Amanda McDaniel.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Advocacy Network for Children works closely with other area organizations to bring awareness to abuse and neglect. Staff participates and attends monthly United Way meetings and takes part in the Adams County AOK program.

For pictures from our various events, visit our Facebook page or website at www.advonet.org.

AGENCY CELEBRATED ITS 35TH ANNIVERSARY

This past year marked the agency's 35th anniversary. The agency opened its doors in January 1990 as CASA of Adams County. Its mission was and still is to serve abused and neglected children. In 1999 the first Children's Advocacy Center was opened. Since then, the agency has expanded its CASA program in nine additional counties and its Children's Advocacy Center program in eight additional counties. A lunch celebration was held on April 11th at the Kroc Center. Thank you to Mercantile Bank and First Bankers Trust for sponsoring the celebration luncheon for staff, CASA volunteers, community partners and MDT members, to Refreshment Services Pepsi for their donation of soda and water, and to TCBY for its discount on the frozen yogurt.

DARKNESS TO LIGHT STEWARDS OF CHILDREN PROGRAM

This 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. Our agency has two fully trained facilitators to present this program, Jamie Carroll and Amber Range.

AWARDS PRESENTED AT THE ILLINOIS CASA CONFERENCE

A number of staff attended the Illinois CASA Conference earlier this year. Carol Hudgens was nominated by CASA staff and was awarded the Presidential Volunteer Service Award. Carol has advocated for 11 children since becoming a CASA volunteer in March 2023. In addition to being a CASA volunteer, Carol is currently the CASA Coordinator Assistant in Adams County.

Todd Shackelford, Executive Director, was nominated by Danielle Buss and Brittany Durst and was awarded the Staff Partner of the Year. Since joining the agency in 2016, the CASA program has expanded in nine additional counties, staff has increased and the agency budget has tripled.

Congratulations to Carol and Todd!

INCLUSIVE LEADERSHIP TRAINING

With a grant from the Tracy Family Foundation, three of the agency leaders, Danielle Buss, Jamie Carroll and Brittany Durst, joined Latonya Brock and Tahanna Jenkins for an inclusive leadership training. They explored self-awareness, tackled biases, and built skills to foster collaboration, psychological safety, and inclusive cultures.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

Advocacy Network for Children could not continue its mission of advocating and protecting children without YOUR help. You can help with a monetary donation to the operating agency or Foundation or with an office supply donation. We also have a need for volunteers to help with Happy Bear presentations, fundraising and mailings.

HUMAN ADVOCACY COMMITTEE SUPPORTS AGENCY

The Illinois Probation and Court Services Association held their Spring conference in Quincy this past Spring. The Committee chose the agency to be the recipient of a portion of proceeds from their Sip N Paint event and 60% of the proceeds were donated by the Budding Artist. Members could also purchase items from the agency's Amazon wish list and a number of items were donated to the agency. Staff members Jamie Carroll and Kristan Miller also spoke at their event on May 7th.

For pictures from our various events, visit our Facebook page or website at www.advonet.org.

COMMUNITY GRANTS AWARDED

The agency was blessed to be the recipient of several private community grants this year. In addition, grant funds are received from Adams County United Way, McDonough County United Way, Prairieland United Way and Great River Region United Way.

Thank you to the various grantors for their support:

- The Stamerjohn Family Fund through the Community Foundation, \$2,000.00 for general support;
- J.W. Gardner II Foundation, \$20,000 for forensic interview equipment;
- Rotary Club of Quincy, \$1,000 for a new computer for the Adams County CASA Coordinator;
- Tracy Family Foundation, \$2,025 for Inclusion Leadership Training; \$4,887.60 to send nine staff members to the Prevent Child Abuse Conference in Naperville, IL; \$3,075 for Mental Health Matters Group Trainings;
- Keokuk Area Community Foundation, \$1,500 for Hancock County CASA;
- Health and Wellness Foundation of Pike County, \$12,500 for Pike County CASA;
- Adams County Opioid Settlement Fund, \$57,719 to hire a full-time Adams County CASA Coordinator Assistant;
- Mason County Opioid Settlement Fund, \$22,600 to hire a part-time CASA Coordinator Assistant.

STAFF NEWS

Anniversaries: Danielle Buss, Associate Executive Director, 10 years on February 9th.

Chelsea Crowder started on February 20th as the new CASA Coordinator for Morgan County; Carol Hudgens on April 14th as the CASA Coordinator Assistant for Adams County; Emily Rettenmeier on May 5th as a new Adams County CASA Coordinator; and Jessilyn White on September 8th as the CASA Coordinator Assistant for Mason and Menard Counties.

With new funding from National Children's Alliance, the agency was able to hire a forensic interviewer in the Eastern Region. This position was accepted by Amber Range who is also a CASA Coordinator in Morgan County.

Staff attend trainings and conferences throughout the year to comply with continuing education requirements as well as State and National conferences for both the CASA and CAC programs.

STATISTICS

	FY 2025	FY 2024
-Children's Advocacy Center Activity		
Cases Referred		
All 9 counties	419	524
-CASA Activity		
All counties		
Children Served	644	583
# of Volunteers	98	106
Adams County		
Children Served	290	309
# of Volunteers	48	57
Hancock County		
Children Served	44	40
# of Volunteers	14	15
Morgan County		
Children Served	104	100
# of Volunteers	12	16
Pike County		
Children Served	57	78
# of Volunteers	5	8
Brown County		
Children Served	21	14
# of Volunteers	4	4
Cass County		
Children Served	38	25
# of Volunteers	2	1
Schuyler County		
Children Served	17	17
# of Volunteers	4	5
Mason County		
Children Served	41	0
# of Volunteers	6	0
Menard County		
Children Served	26	0
# of Volunteers	2	0
Scott County		
Children Served	6	0
# of Volunteers	1	0
Prevention Program Activity		
Presentations Made	63	73
# of Children Reached	2762	2748

*Programs of
Advocacy Network for Children:
Court Appointed Special Advocates*

Adams County Menard County
Brown County Morgan County
Cass County Pike County
Hancock County Schuyler County
Mason County Scott County

Children's Advocacy Centers

Adams County
Brown County
Cass County
Hancock County
McDonough County
Morgan County
Pike County
Schuyler County
Scott County

Advocacy Network for Children Staff

Karolina Anton-Mumma
Jessica Bullard
Danielle Buss
Jamie Carroll
Chelsea Crowder
Brittany Durst
Lexi Goehl
Anita Hanke
Carol Hudgens
Mandy Humphry
Kristan Miller
Jamie Peek
Diane Pieper
Amber Range
Emily Rettenmeier
Amber Sarnes
Todd Shackelford
Susan Tode
Jessilyn White

*Advocacy Network for Children
Board of Directors*

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Rick Halter, Vice President
Eric Niemann, Treasurer
Stacy Melton, Secretary
Brooke Stokes, Past President
William Spear
Jana Hattey
Tracy Genenbacher
Sharon Lewis
Dan Trower
Ashley Steadman
Shelby Clinging
Kent Snider

*Advocacy Network for Children
Foundation Board of Directors*

Kent Snider, President
Lowell Yates, Vice President
Kristie Chevalier, Treasurer/Secretary
Bob Daly
Denette Kuhlman
William Spear



NATIONAL
CHILDREN'S
ALLIANCE[®]
ACCREDITED
MEMBER



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Quincy, IL 62301
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www.advonet.org



Thank you to the following individuals and businesses for their generous donations and in-kind gifts for our 2025 Fundraising Dinner & Auction

Denise Albsmeyer	Brooke & Bryan Stokes	Savemore Carpets and Rug Gallery
Bob Bergman	Farm & Home Supply	Mr. K's Fabric Shop
Nancy Bernhardt	Niemann Foods, Inc.	Fish Window Cleaning
Vicki Blackwell	Quincy Community Theater	Divine Shine & Detailing
Jim & Marian Bland	Gem City Gymnastics & Tumbling	Breakthru Beverage
Greg & Becky Campbell	Pam Sunderland	Emerald City Jewelers
Ross & Sherry Centanni	Hy-Vee	Relax Quincy Spas
Kent Dean	Lee Lindsay	Four Points Land Surveying & Engineering, Inc.
Mandar & Laura Dighe	Creative Gardens/Carol Rakers	Hy-Vee Wine & Spirits
United Community Credit Union	Hansen-Spear Funeral Home	Quincy Park District
Matt & Kathy Entrup	Ron Snider Auto Sales	Quincy Police Department
John & Debbie Ernst	Dan & Cindy Trower	Quincy Fire Department
Jamie Fischer	Derek Zahm State Farm Agency	Quincy Brewing Company
Terry & Jo Lynn Gibson	Christine's Salon Thairapy	Domestics, etc.
Barbara Gorman	Tim Stewart	Loyd's
Dennis Grimm	Quincy Police Department	Mona Fischer/Tupperware
Terry & Joyce Hollenberg	Juvenile Investigations	Spring Lake
Richard & Joy Jurens	First Bankers Trust/First	Neighborhood/Eagle Trace
Joe & Denette Kuhlman	Investment Services	Condos
Steve & Sharon Lewis	Mercantile Bank	Spring Lake Country Club
Anne Mays	Freddy's Steakburgers	SIU Medicine
Steve & Cathy Meckes	Quincy Cleaners	Shirley Stokes
Carolyn Pond	Carl's Shoes	Advocacy Network for Children
Stephanie Reyburn	Buff City Soap	Staff
Kohl Wholesale	Sam's Club	Blue Daisy
Don & Sue Schwartz	JJ's Kitchen Catering	Quincy Country Club
Signe Oakley	Udry Jewelry	Bopi
Sue Tode	R&R Golf	Michele Pickett
Rosalinda Campos	Cedar Crest Country Club	Jeff & Gina Wolf
Steve & Debbie Coulson	TCBY	Diane Pieper
Eric Niemann	Designer's Edge Day Spa Salon	Diane Disseler
Montebello Gardens Florist and Gifts/Angie St. Clair	Heartland Bank & Trust Co.	Kylee Straube
Lavender Jewel Interiors	Quest	Kori Griffin
Alpha Dog Training Center	W.I.S.E. Firearms	Whitney Mintert
Brooke Hunsaker	Megan Vahle	Shawwna Quinn
Adriana Hunsaker	Tracy Whicker	John Melton
Mindy's Designs	The K.C. Range	Mitch Webster
Kraves Cakes	Clean Eatz	JWCC Cheerleaders
Danny & Barb Woodyard	Shottenkirk Toyota	WGEM SportsRadio
Amy Goehl	Yellow Kiss Boutique	
	Platt Daddy BBQ	

Fundraising Dinner Sponsors

Mercantile Bank	Carter's Coffee Bar	Barney's Tavern
Knapheide Mfg. Company	Gully Transportation	Benson Financial Group
Quincy Medical Group	Refreshment Services Pepsi	First Bankers Trust Company
Hansen-Spear Funeral Home	Schmiedeskamp, Robertson, Neu & Mitchell	Central State Bank
Titan International	Lowell Yates	United Systems, Inc.
Quincy Recycle	TI Trust, Inc.	State Street Bank
Hilbing Autobody	Hope & Healing NP Services	SIU Center for Family Medicine
Memorial Hospital	Sally Westerhoff	Thrivent
Blessing Health System	Blue Cross Blue Shield of IL	
Heartland Bank & Trust Co.	Entrup Drywall & Paining	
Freiburg Insurance Agency		

Thank you to the following individuals for volunteering their time to work on our 2025 dinner invitation mailing

Mary Wilson	Diane Meyer	Nancy Feathergill
Donna Fuller	Cathy Becks	Debbie Coulson

Thank you to the following individuals and businesses for their generous donations and in-kind gifts throughout the year:

Appeal Letter Monetary Donations

James & Mariann Bland
Dennis Cashman
Gem City Gymnastics &
Tumbling/Katie Cernea
Dan & Kristie Chevalier
Bob & Lynn Daly
Gloria Davis
Kent & Amy Dean
Kathy Entrup
Donna Foley
T-Force Marketing/Tracy
Genenbacher

Deborah Gorman
James & Rachel Hansen
Joe & Jana Hattey
Terry & Joyce Hollenberg
Richard & Joy Jurrens
Don & Nancy Kelly
Linda Kestner
Midwest Service
Enterprise/Chris & Kim Larson
Jeff McClean
Donna McVeigh
Jeff & Anne Meyer

Mary Oakley
Signe Oakley
Patricia Pennell
Carolyn Pond
Stephanie Reyburn
Bryan & Brooke Stokes
Kenneth & Shirley Stokes
Jeff & Sharon Twedell
Scott & Robin Walden
Lance & Jo Wiemelt
Cynthia Wort

Appeal Letter Monetary Donations – Advocacy Network for Children Foundation

Pat Dillon
Joe & Denette Kuhlman

Hal & Kathy Oakley
Bill & Fattie Paxton

Will & Kristin Spear
Lowell Yates

Agency Monetary Donations

Salem Evangelical United
Church of Christ
Alan & Carol Nichols
Jerry & Marilyn Shackelford
Megan Costigan
Tracy Family Foundation
Will Spear
Hayley Jones
Matthew Fessler

Trinity Lutheran Church
Jim & Jil Tracy
Quincy Service Club
Unitarian Church of Quincy
S & D Developers
Sarah Lucey
Joe & Jana Hattey
Bethany United Church of
Christ

Good Samaritan Home
Employees
Gary Ellis
Bo & Erin Knapheide
Laura Cook/LC Accounting &
Payroll Solutions, PLLC
S&D Developers
Anonymous Donor

Advocacy Network for Children Foundation Monetary Donations

Laura Timmerwilke

In Support of Adams County CASA Program

Giving Together

In Support of Hancock County CASA Program

Harmony Township Fund Drive
Carthage Township

Chili Community Fund
St. Albans Township Fund

In Support of Morgan County CASA Program

Grace United Methodist
Church/United Methodist
Women

In Support of Mason/Menard County CASA Programs

Havana United Women in Faith

In Support of Adams County CAC

Adams County Courthouse & Sheriff's Office Employees

In Memory of Robert Orr

Kial Young
Lois Molloy
Dennis & Katherine Venvertloh
Delores Ringenberg

Robert & Ann Zimmerman
Ted & Tammy Vahle
Robert Bergman

Hancock County Senior and
Childcare Services
Kathleen Pomerenk
Lois Bobbett

Ross & Sherry Centanni
Delmer & Barbara Mitchell
Dan & Kristie Chevalier
Louis & Jan Quintero
Louis & Theresa Quintero
Marilyn Maiers
William & Pattie Paxton
Kevin & Barb Reed
Will & Kristin Spear
Robert & Cindy Lamb
Beth Lamb
Grant & Ana Cole
Bo & Erin Knapheide
Jeff Hickerson
Mark & Carol Drummond
Darren Sabino
Dennis & Debra Burkhardt
Kelsey McMullen
Sarah Meehan

In Memory of Jessica Hetzler

Richard & Barbara Newman
Tom, Betsy, Abigail & Isabel
Rush
Stephen & Marilyn Meyer
Marcia Heitz
Petty Litt
Deb Cain
Susan Saathoff
Terry & Joyce Hollenberg
Gary & Jo Ann Kirlin
Greg & Bonnie Doellman
Travis & Andrea Peters
Paul & Barbara Lewis
Ann Boland
Gary & Emily Peterson
Tim & Amy Morrell
Jill Arnold Blickhan
Sherry, Michelle, Brian, Kevin &
Mark and Families

Aurie & Mary Beth McGee
C. David Nuessen
Gary Hendrick & Kathi Dooley
Mike & Nancy Bernhardt
Darlene Stevenson
Lavonne Brenner
Sonia Brink
John & Kathy Ridder
John & Candy Scott
Janie Fischer
SSI Foughkeepsie Team
Aleen Ott & Family
Lori Kruse
Hal & Kathy Oakley
Scott & Robin Walden

Martin & Marilyn Gabriel
Jammie, Sarah, Jenna & Families
c/o Jenna Crabtree
Paul & Mary Ann Duesterhaus
Will & Kristin Spear

In Memory of Jerry Shackelford

Theresa Spear
Lynn Niewohner
Dawn Whitcomb
Steve & Carol Nudo
Kim Tuley

Jamie Carroll
Dan & Victoria Hayden
Joe & Denette Kuhlman

In-Kind Donations

WGEM
KHQA

In Support of our Happy Bear Prevention Program and Volunteers

Quincy Cleaners

Bob Daly

Donation of Supplies, Beanie Babies, Kids Toys, Gift Cards, Services

Quincy Service Club

Joan Delany

Jacksonville Police Department

United Way Day of Caring Volunteers from Quincy Medical Group

Leah Murfin

Charity Greenwood

Erica Douglas

Kristie Kemner Schoen

Shari Lofton

Thank you for your support

We apologize for any errors, omissions or failure to recognize anyone who has supported our agency.