



Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

CASA OF PEORIA COUNTY

April 2015

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CASA Voice

The Official Newsletter of CASA of Peoria County

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From the desk of the Executive Director

Please Join Us at the Eighth Annual “Hands Around the Courthouse” Marking Child Abuse Prevention Month

In 1983, Child Abuse Prevention Month was declared to be April of each year by presidential proclamation. During this time, concerned citizens across the country are asked to recognize the vital importance of the need to work together to prevent child abuse. As of December 31, 2014, there were 1,098 cases of abuse and neglect on the Peoria County Juvenile Court docket. Unfortunately, Peoria ranks among the highest counties in Illinois counties in the *per capita* rate of abuse and neglect, and third statewide in raw numbers.

And so, here in Peoria, each year since 2008, the Youth Services Network Panel stages “Hand Around the Courthouse” — this year at **noon on Friday, April 17 at Peoria County Courthouse Plaza**— to help raise community awareness of the serious problem in our own backyard. This ceremony, which includes speeches by local experts, musical performances by area children, and prayer, is both solemn and hopeful. As concerned citizens form a circle and join hands in a moment of silence to recognize the challenges faced by Peoria in protecting our children, we are heartened by the increasing numbers of people from all walks of life that appear at Courthouse Plaza each year to support this cause. We at CASA of Peoria County hope you will gather with us on April 17th.

The journey to lowering dramatically the rate of child abuse in Peoria and the nation begins with awareness of this grave threat to our children’s future — but, of course, it does not end there. It can only move forward through the combined, relentless effort of all citizens, including our professional and volunteer communities. Until the scourge of child abuse and neglect is contained, we cannot rest.

— Pamela Perrilles

CASA Welcomes March 2015 Volunteer Class



Left to right: Selena Furr, Kim Furness, Emily Wilcox, Lyndsay Thomas, Robert Allen, Samantha Robinson-Clayton, Alan Minks, Jill Minks, Tricia Archibald, Elizabeth Snow, Marcus Fogliano (front), Peter Masters (rear), Ellen Tallon, Bryson Smith, and Edward Schraeder.

Standing: Judge Albert Purham

Not pictured: Kate Swise

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CASA Volunteer

Appreciation

4.22.15 *Event*

Active volunteers and one guest are cordially invited to attend CASA of Peoria County's Annual Volunteer Appreciation Event (Additional guest fee \$25 per person) **Dinner and Awards** on Wednesday, April 22 at 6:00 p.m. **Par-A-Dice Hotel, East Peoria**

RSVP by 4.15.15 to Dominique 669-2939 or dalexandre@peoriacounty.org



Volunteer Advocate Britta Jost Wins Distinguished New Engineer Award

In November 2014, The Society of Women Engineers (SWE) honored volunteer advocate Britta Jost at its annual conference *WE14*, in Los Angeles. Britta was proud to receive the SWE Distinguished New Engineer Award.



Britta became a CASA volunteer in April 2008 and is now on her second assigned case, in which she is advocating for three children.

Britta graduated in 2004 from Michigan Technological University with a master's degree in mechanical engineering. She is currently a senior design engineer with Caterpillar.

The SWE award recognized Britta for her "inspiring and leading by example, and for the ability to bring [people] together on the job and in the community." To that we add, "Well done Britta!"

CASA of Peoria County Announces June Training Class

at the classroom facilities of

Advanced Medical Transport

1718 N. Sterling

Saturday, June 13 9:00 am — 5:00 pm

Tuesday, June 16 5:30 — 8:30 pm

Wednesday, June 17 5:30 — 8:30 pm

Thursday, June 18 5:30 — 8:30 pm

Saturday, June 20 9:00 am — 5:00 pm

Monday, June 22 5:30 — 8:30 pm

Tuesday, June 23 5:30 — 8:30 pm

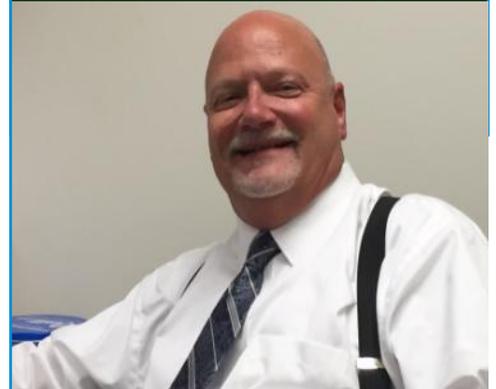
For more information, contact Michael Zerneck:

mzerneck@peoriacounty.org

or call 309-669-2939

Please welcome our newest staff member!

Scott Williams joins CASA of Peoria County as fourth Advocate Supervisor



Because of CASA of Peoria County's growth in children assigned to us by Juvenile Court, we are pleased to add to our staff an additional volunteer advocate supervisor, Scott Williams. In his own words:

"I joined the CASA staff on January 5, 2015. Your first question may be, how did I arrive at CASA? I have been following CASA for a couple of years and the timing was never right to become a volunteer. My opportunity arrived in late 2014, so I enrolled in the November training class to become a volunteer. Shortly after being sworn in and assigned a case, I heard about the staff opening and decided to apply.

"I retired from the East Peoria Fire Department in February of 2009. I continued to serve the public as a volunteer firefighter with the Northern Tazewell Fire Department. I am retiring from the fire service on April 1, 2015 after proudly serving for 34 1/2 years. I've been married for 32 years to my wonderful wife Vickie; we have three grown children and one grandson. Our grandson lives with us and we are raising him. I have been warmly welcomed to the staff and look forward to meeting our CASA volunteers. Together, we will continue to impact positively the lives of the children for whom we advocate."

SAVE THE DATE FOR

CASAblanca

an evening of *Dancing with the Stars*

A fundraiser to benefit CASA of Peoria County

Saturday, November 7th, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.
at the Par-A-Dice Hotel Ballroom

21 Blackjack Boulevard, East Peoria

This is your opportunity to make a difference in
the life of an abused or neglected child.

For more information, please call the CASA office
at (309) 669-2939.

Or visit our website at www.casapeoria.org.
Check out the videos from last year's event!



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

CASA OF PEORIA COUNTY



Sponsor A Child 2015



Dear Friends,

Did you know that there are over 800 children in our community suffering through abuse and neglect in our court system without the needed support provided by CASA? During this fiscal year, we have advocated thus far for 256 children through grants and the generous donations of our supporters. But our goal is to provide *every* child in the system with a CASA, because every child has a right to be treated with dignity, to learn and grow and thrive in the security of a loving home.

You can make an investment in our most valuable resource: our children.

It takes about \$1,200 per year (excluding in-kind contributions) to cover the costs for CASA to advocate for one child of abuse and neglect in Peoria County. In 2014, it cost Illinois taxpayers \$5,939 per month to support a child of abuse and neglect. Research shows that children who have a CASA advocate average eight months less time in the court system, thus saving taxpayers over \$47,512 per child.

Go to CASA of Peoria County's Sponsor-A-Child website and please give what you can:

<http://www.firstgiving.com/casapeoria/sponsor-a-child-2015>

With your support, CASA will:

- Fight for the safety and well-being of these children
- Stand up for these innocent children, when no one else will
 - Be an advocate for these children
 - Give these innocent children hope
- Connect resources for these children in hope for a better life
 - Help prevent future abuse and neglect
 - Help keep our children out of foster care

Please join our team by donating to this worthy cause — and enlist your family and friends too!
Thanks for being part of the CASA team!

<http://www.facebook.com/CASAPeoriaCounty>

<http://www.casapeoria.org>

Leave a Loving Legacy

Planned Giving through your will: You can create a legacy of hope for vulnerable children through a planned gift to CASA of Peoria County.

Bequests Through Your Will

A bequest to CASA of Peoria County is one of the most effective and simplest ways to make a lasting impact on the lives of vulnerable children. You may specify a specific amount or a percentage you wish to give. If you would like to make such a gift to CASA of Peoria County, you may include language similar to the following:

"I, [name], of [city, state, ZIP], give, devise and bequeath to CASA of Peoria County a nonprofit public benefit corporation having its principal office at 324 Main Street, Room 215, Peoria, IL 61602, [written amount or percentage of the estate or description of property] to be used for the furtherance of its charitable purposes in the discretion and at the direction of its Board of Directors for its unrestricted use and purpose."

If you are considering making a gift by bequest, please meet with your attorney to discuss the ramifications and, if appropriate, to update your will. Please let us know if you have included CASA of Peoria County in your estate planning.

CASA of Peoria County
324 Main St. Room 215
Peoria, IL
61602
(309)669-2939

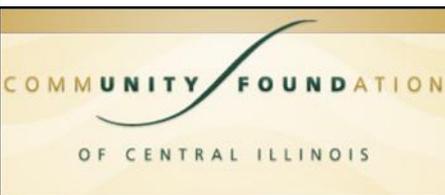
We're on the Web!
www.casapeoria.org
www.casaforchildren.org

CASA of Peoria County gives special thanks to:



City of Peoria
Community
Development
Block Grant

Member of the National
CASA Association



Bring A Voice to a Child

Yes, I would like to support a CASA Child for one year @ \$100 per month.
 I would like to make a one-time gift:
 \$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1,000 Other \$ _____

I am interested in learning more about CASA.
 I would like to give of my time. Please contact me about being involved:
 Board Member
 CASA volunteer
 Other volunteer
 Help with Special Events
 Other: _____

Name: _____
Phone # (____) _____
Address: _____ City: _____, IL
Zip: _____
Email Address: _____
The best time to reach me is during ____ day or ____ evening.
Method of Payment:: Visa _____ MasterCard _____ Check # _____
Account Number: _____
Expiration Date: ____/____/____ Sec. code: _____
Name as it appears on card: _____
Signature: _____

Make checks payable to: CASA of Peoria County
Return to: 324 Main Street, Room 215, Peoria, Illinois 61602
THANK YOU.

Make A Difference!

Our Mission

The mission of CASA of Peoria County is to advocate for abused and neglected children in Peoria County through the services of specially trained community volunteers.

Thanks to our volunteer training
meal sponsors ...



... and to the classroom facility
at Advanced Medical Transport



**Advanced
Medical Transport**
of Central Illinois

Save lives. It's what we do.



Save The Date

CASA Human Foosball Tournament June 5 & 6, 2015 Peoria Riverfront

Gather your team and join the fun while
supporting a great cause!

Register in Advance! \$150/Team

(6 Players per Team)

The Team Captain must submit the registration form, payment and waiver for each player by May 25th. Play times will be emailed to team captains. 1st Place will receive a team trophy and bragging rights!

*A great team-building experience
for businesses and organizations!*

For more information, visit:

www.casapeoria.org

Nine Hole, Par 3 Challenge & \$1 Million Hole-in-One Shootout

September 24, 2015

Registration: 2:30 to 3:15 p.m.

Shotgun Start: 3:30 p.m.

\$1 Million Shootout: Approximately 6:30 p.m.



Country Club of Peoria
4700 Grandview Drive, Peoria Heights

Support a great cause, enjoy a day of golf—and earn the opportunity to win \$1 million!

Details & Prizes

NINE HOLE, PAR 3 CHALLENGE

- Country Club of Peoria is converting the entire course to Par 3 play
- Field limited to first 25 teams comprised of four golfers per team
- \$250 per golfer

HOLE-IN-ONE SHOOTOUT

- Top 5 teams with lowest scores from front nine and back nine (10 teams total) will select one individual from their team to compete in the shootout
- \$1 million grand prize awarded to the first finalist who sinks a hole-in-one

EXTRAS!

- Free hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar at the club house (Plus, invite guests to join you at the hole-in-one party for only \$30/person)
- Putting contest as you come off the course
- Raffle and other prizes awarded at the event

For more information or to become a sponsor, contact: Jeff Doeden at 309-453-3633 or JeffDoed@hotmail.com

www.casapeoria.org



CASA
Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

A fundraiser to benefit CASA of Peoria County

PARADISE
HOTEL-CASINO
EAST PEORIA, ILLINOIS
Putting Sponsor