

# CASA VOICE



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## A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PAMELA PERRILLES

### Grant Helps Older Youth Prepare for Adulthood and Independence



Every July 4th, our nation celebrates our independence. We gather with family and friends around camp fires and fireworks. And we pause to appreciate what independence means for our country—and for ourselves.

However, for older youth who “age out” of the foster care system, “independence” carries an entirely different meaning. Left without support and adult guidance, these youth are often ill-prepared for success in the adult world.

To help combat this reality, CASA of Peoria County was awarded a grant from National CASA Association. The grant enables us to build better tools to assist children between the ages of 14-17 by “Fostering Futures” through additional training for volunteers serving this age group. To fully capitalize on the grant and fulfill its mission, we need additional CASA volunteers to help older youth navigate the challenges related to affordable housing, educational/vocational opportunities, financial stability, as well as encouraging the attitudes and behaviors required to be successfully independent.



Please consider volunteering for the “Fostering Futures” program. Your hands-on support will make a difference by helping these at-risk youth find independence as a productive adult!

**Pamela Perrilles**, Executive Director



## Welcome to the April 2017 Volunteer Class



*Pictured from left to right:  
John Truhan,  
Megan Pfister,  
Darice Bolden,  
Judge Gorman,  
Kandyce Blocker,  
MaryKay Pilat,  
Karolina Wonzny.*

## CASA Staff, Board Members and Volunteers Attend Illinois CASA State Conference

The annual Illinois CASA State Conference is a daylong event that presents leading experts in child welfare and advocacy. The conference is open to the entire Illinois network of CASA stakeholders (Volunteers, Directors, Staff Members and Board Members), attorneys, service providers, foster parents, and other professionals who work together to serve the best interests of abused and neglected children.

This year, 21 representatives from CASA of Peoria County attended the conference hosted June 9th at the Par-A-Dice Hotel and Casino in East Peoria. Our representatives spent the day attending various workshops, including:

- Advocating in Child Welfare
- Advocating in a Complex System, Garbage Bag Suitcase
- A Survivor's Guide to the Long-Term Effects of Children in Care
- The Cost of Caring: When Their Circumstances Become Your Stress
- Successful Co-Parenting: Perspectives from Birth and Foster Parents
- Darkness to Light: Child Sexual Abuse Prevention and Response Training
- And many more

Attendees also enjoyed insight from the Judges' Panel.  
**We look forward to the 2018 IL CASA State Conference!**



## CASA of Peoria County's October 2017 Training Schedule



### OCTOBER 7 - OCTOBER 16

Advanced Medical Transport  
 1718 N. Sterling (at Nebraska)  
 Peoria, IL 61604

(Note: Meals are provided for all classes.)

### Class Schedule Attendance at every class is mandatory.

Saturday, October 7 ..... 9:00 am - 5:00 pm  
 Monday, October 9 ..... 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm  
 Tuesday, October 10 ..... 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm  
 Wednesday, October 11 ..... 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm  
 Thursday, October 12 ..... 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm  
 Saturday, October 14 ..... 9:00 am - 5:00 pm  
 Monday, October 16 ..... 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm

### CASATime info:

**August** ..... Tour of Family Advocacy Center  
**September** ..... First Stay; Putting Children First with guest speaker Dr. Deneca Winfrey  
**October** ..... Training Refresher



## JOIN US AT CASA CABALLOS!

Visit [FirstGiving.com/89101/casa-caballos2017](http://FirstGiving.com/89101/casa-caballos2017) to learn more and RSVP!

**Benefiting CASA of Peoria County**  
Hosted by Travis Weaver and Chris Jackson

**When**  
Saturday, August 19, 2017  
Gates Open at 2:00 p.m.  
Polo Starts at 4:30 p.m.  
(Rain date: August 20)

**Where**  
Weaver Angus Farm  
5806 W. War Memorial Drive  
Peoria, IL

**Contact**  
Angela te-Nuyl  
309-669-2939  
[casa@peoriacounty.org](mailto:casa@peoriacounty.org)

### Sponsors



### Media Partner



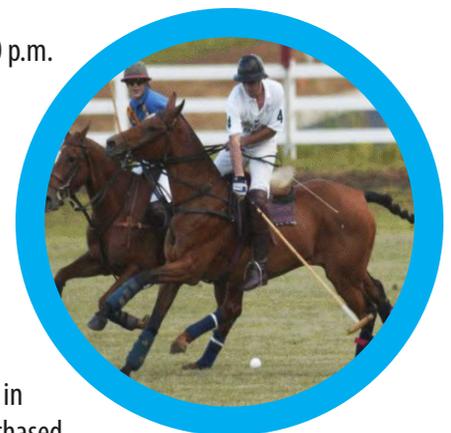
**Bring your family, friends and jazzed-up picnic baskets to Weaver Angus Farm on August 19, 2017, for a tailgate party unlike the Peoria area has ever seen!**

- Enjoy family-friendly games and a beautiful afternoon of polo on the farm.
- Host your own party in a 12 x 20 ft. tailgate spot.
- Compete for bragging rights and various tailgate awards including, best appetizer, best dessert, best overall spread and the "Ultimate Tailgate" award.
- Participate in activities, such as the Ultimate Polo Shot and finding the Golden Cork to receive further opportunities for great prizes!

Kona Ice will be joining the party from 2 to 4:30 p.m. So be sure to enjoy a refreshing snow cone before the match!

**Cost**  
**\$20** per general admission: Entrance fee for open viewing area or to join a friend in their tailgate space.

**\$200 per tailgate spot:** Reserves a 12 x 20 ft. tailgate spot and covers the cost of those riding in the vehicle. Note: Friends at the event who purchased a \$20 general viewing ticket are welcome to join your tailgate spot.



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

October 4, 2017

Registration: 1:45 to 2:15 p.m.

Shotgun start: 2:30 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!  
**I am for the child**



Putting Sponsor

### Details & Prizes

#### EIGHTEEN HOLE, PAR 3 CHALLENGE

- Country Club of Peoria is converting the entire course to Par 3 play
- Field limited to first 20 teams comprised of four golfers per team. Parent-child teams welcome!
- \$250 per golfer.

#### HOLE-IN-ONE SHOOTOUT

- Top 10 teams 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!

- Hor d'oeuvres, drink tickets, and a cash bar
- Team putting contest as you come off the course
- Raffle and other prizes awarded at the event
- Invite guests to join you at the hole-in-one party for only \$30/person

For more information or to become a sponsor, contact: CASA of Peoria County at 309-669-2939 or [casa@peoriacounty.org](mailto:casa@peoriacounty.org)

[www.casapeoria.org](http://www.casapeoria.org)



Hospitality Sponsor

Michael Bork  
Morgan Stanley  
Cart Sponsor



A fundraiser to benefit CASA of Peoria County

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

### Brett Melton

- 30 years old
- Currently lives in Peoria, IL
- Raised in Washington, IL
- Enjoys fishing, golfing and helping kids
- Helps businesses by designing and developing websites as CEO of Cocrele

### Volunteer Advocacy

#### Why did you decide to become an advocate?

I decided to become an advocate for CASA once I realized the benefits of helping amazing children throughout the world find a better and safer environment to love, learn, and grow.

#### Do you have any advice for other volunteers?

As a CASA volunteer, my advice would be to pursue and commit to these amazing children because without us, they may never be able to reach for the stars.

#### What has been one of your most memorable moments as a CASA Volunteer?

One of my most memorable moments as a CASA volunteer was the first time I met all three children who were four, three, and one at

the time and within the first 10 minutes, they were excited to show me their new toys and play with me. Because of the facts within the case, I could tell instantly that their new environment would help them love, learn, and grow, possibly for the first time.

#### What keeps you motivated on your case?

These amazing children help me stay motivated because without a CASA volunteer, there may never be someone who remains a constant in their lives as well as a voice that helps them stay safe, healthy, or even happy.

#### What are your challenges as a CASA?

Even though my case is 8 hours round trip, I wouldn't consider it a challenge but more like a privilege to be a part of these children's lives.

#### Is there anything else you would like to share?

If you've never heard of CASA or love helping children, feel free to reach out to some of the most amazing people throughout the Illinois area by visiting <http://www.casapeoria.org> or by calling (309) 669-2939.

**Never miss an opportunity to invite your family members, friends or co-workers to step up and be the Voice for a Child. There is nothing more satisfying or fulfilling.**



## LEAVE A LOVING LEGACY



### 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 a simple, effective way to make a lasting impact on the lives of vulnerable children. All you need to do is specify the amount (or percentage) you wish to give by including language in your will 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. Additionally, please let us know if you have included CASA of Peoria County in your estate planning.



## 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.

## DID YOU KNOW?

### The CASA of Peoria County "Impact" Story

CASA of Peoria County is not state funded and relies on individual donations, corporate sponsorships, and grants to implement our direct services. The average cost per child placed outside of the family home costs taxpayers approximately \$5,700 per month. CASA involvement reduces the time children spend in foster care by an average of 8 months. A case with a CASA volunteer provides a potential savings to taxpayers of \$45,591 (8 months of foster care) per closed case.

## CASA of Peoria County Gives Special Thanks To:



Heart of Illinois  
United Way



Violent Crime Victim Assistance Grant



## Click on the Links Below to Stay in Touch!

-  [CASA of Peoria County Website](#)
-  [CASA on Facebook](#)
-  [CASA on Twitter](#)

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: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Security 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!**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Save the Dates



**CASA Caballos**  
**August 19, 2017**  
**Gates Open at 2 p.m.**  
**Polo Match starts at 4:30 p.m.**  
Weaver Farms

Bring your family, friends and jazzed-up picnic baskets for a tailgate party unlike the Peoria area has ever seen! Enjoy family-friendly games and a beautiful afternoon of polo.



**CASA Golf Event - Par 3 Challenge & \$1 Millions Hole-in-One Shootout**  
**October 2017, Shotgun**  
**Start 3:30 p.m.**  
Country Club of Peoria

Enjoy a day of golf—and earn the opportunity to win \$1 million!



**CASAblanca Dancing with the Local Stars**  
**Saturday, November 4, 2017, 6 p.m.**  
Par-A-Dice Hotel and Casino

CASA's primary fundraising event of the year is a fun-filled evening of entertainment. Join us for great food, cocktails, live auction and dancing.

## Thanks to our volunteer training meal sponsors...



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



**Advanced Medical Transport**  
of Central Illinois

*Save Lives. It's what we do*

## Newsletter design provided by:

