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## A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PAMELA PERRILLES

### Touch a Child's Life

Recently I heard a quote that has held in my mind. It goes, "If you want to touch the past, touch a rock. If you want to touch the present, touch a flower. And, if you want to touch the future, touch a child." This is exactly what CASA of the Tenth strives to do every day. The children for whom we advocate have indeterminable futures at best. To afford them better opportunities, we endeavor to provide some stability and a constant voice advocating for them when no one else will.

This is what we ask of our CASA Volunteers and Advocate Supervisors and why we ask for support, both in-kind and monetarily, from our ever-generous community. Our community's future is our community's children. Let's tap into our future by touching a child's life and, consequently, **CHANGE A CHILD'S STORY™**.

Warmly,

**Pamela Perrilles**, Executive Director



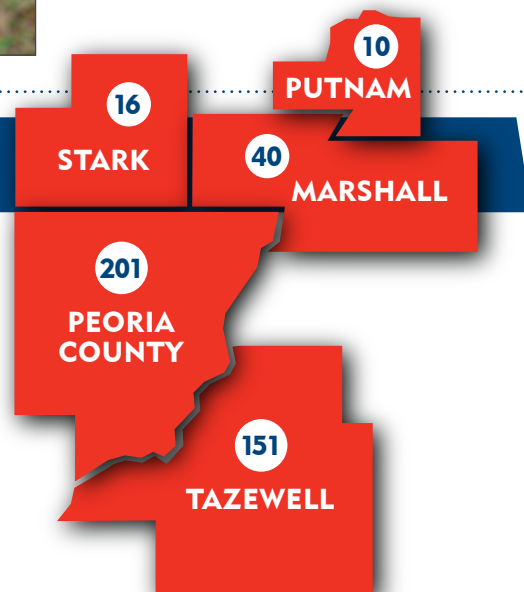
## CASA By the Numbers

### Fiscal Year 2024

### Number of Active Children Served: 418

Marshall: 40  
Peoria: 201  
Putnam: 10  
Stark: 16  
Tazewell: 151

### Active Volunteers: 155



## CASA Awarded Grant from Impact Central Illinois to Increase Number of Volunteers

We are thrilled to announce that Impact Central Illinois awarded us a \$100,000 Impact Grant. This significant grant will fund a robust CASA Volunteer Recruitment Campaign, in partnership with Central States Marketing, aimed at increasing the number of CASA volunteers and enhancing CASA's ability to serve more children who have experienced abuse and neglect.

The mission of CASA of the Tenth Judicial Circuit is to ensure that every child who has experienced abuse or neglect is placed in a safe and permanent home by utilizing specially trained community volunteers who advocate for children going through the court system.

The Impact Central Illinois Grant will fund the launch of a dynamic, strategic, and robust CASA Volunteer Recruitment Campaign with the goal of 100 new CASA Volunteers serving 300+ new children.

With the expertise of a local marketing firm and longstanding partner, Central States Marketing, CASA will be able to expand its reach, sharing the CASA mission and need for volunteers with a greater audience.

We need more CASA volunteers! Learn more at [www.casaofthetenth.org](http://www.casaofthetenth.org) on how you can Change a Child's Story™ by becoming a Court Appointed Special Advocate for children.

Impact Central Illinois is a philanthropic organization comprised of women committed to making a significant difference in Central Illinois through collective giving. Members pool their resources to provide high-impact grants to local non-profits, fostering positive change and addressing critical community needs. For more information about Impact Central Illinois visit [www.impactcentralillinois.org](http://www.impactcentralillinois.org)



(Pictured left to right: Brian Buralli, Kimberly Geno, Pamela Perrilles and Ryan Lacerna)



# \$100,000

## IMPACT Grant Recipient

In the category of  
Social Services and Basic Needs



## New CASA Volunteers Sworn In!

After thoughtful training with the indomitable Cathy Dare as their leader, these three dedicated Volunteers were sworn in by Judge Cusack. Alfredo, Lisa and John will be front and center in a young person's life, making sure the child's wishes are heard by the court. Congratulations, Alfredo, Lisa and John!

(Pictured left to right: Alfredo, Lisa, Judge Cusack and John)

## Out and About at Cocktails for CASA!



Cheers to a night of fun and friends at the Cocktails for CASA fundraiser and volunteer-raiser hosted by CASA of the Tenth in May 2024.

Guests had the opportunity to learn from Sam Heppard, Owner and Co-Founder of [Clink Bar and Events](#) as he gave a master class on the art of cocktail making.

Thank you to VIP Sponsors Sun Collectors, Sam, Traci, and event chair, Andrew Barra, for making this event possible.

Thanks, also, to all who joined us for this annual event. Without your support, our critical work for children in our community would not be possible.

**Special thanks to those who signed up to become a volunteer that night!**

**Enrollment is open for our next volunteer training. Comment, message us, or email [casa@peoriacounty.org](mailto:casa@peoriacounty.org) to save your seat!**



## Up and Coming Informational Sessions

### CASA's Informational Sessions

Not able to make one of our in-person informational meetings? Log in to one of our virtual informational meetings and learn how you can Change a Child's Story™! Become a Court Appointed Special Advocate today.

### Every 2nd Tuesday of the Month Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81136032795...>

Meeting ID: 811 3603 2795

Passcode: 673684

### Tuesday, August 13, 2024

Virtual CASA Informational Session  
4:00 PM to 5:00 PM

### Tuesday, September 10, 2024

Virtual CASA Informational Session  
4:00 PM to 5:00 PM

### Tuesday, October 8, 2024

Virtual CASA Informational Session  
4:00 PM to 5:00 PM

### Tuesday, November 12, 2024

Virtual CASA Informational Session  
4:00 PM to 5:00 PM

### Tuesday, December 10, 2024

Virtual CASA Informational Session  
4:00 PM to 5:00 PM

## CASA Time Held at Mended Hearts Therapeutic Center

CASA Time for May was held at Mended Hearts in Metamora. Founded in October 2001, Mended Hearts provides and supports equine-specialized interventions in the area of therapy and education. It promotes the emotional, cognitive and social well-being of people with emotional, behavioral, social and physical disorders.

From the Mended Hearts website, horses:

- Provide unconditional friendship
- Provide immediate, honest and observable feedback
- Mirror our own, sometimes subconscious, thoughts by reacting to body language, tone of voice and overall presence.

You can learn more at [www.mended-hearts.org](http://www.mended-hearts.org)



## PNC Worldwide Day of Play



Ryan and Sue offered information about CASA as well as free books and water bottles, koozies and more at the **PNC Worldwide Day of Play** on May 11 at Glen Oak Park. The all-day event included face painting, a rock wall, bounce houses, carnival games and more. Thank you, Ryan and Sue, for representing CASA!

## Thank You, Kiwanis Club of Pekin for Supporting CASA Kids!



We're incredibly grateful to the **Kiwanis Club of Pekin** for packing 100 backpacks and donating essential items to benefit the children served by CASA of the Tenth Judicial Circuit.

Thank you to Sherry Semonis for leading the project and to all the Kiwanians who participated in this service project.

Also, many thanks to Dana Giovannianna and Amazon WIL1 in North Pekin for donating the 100 backpacks.

## Volunteers Recognized at Annual Appreciation Dinner

In April, we celebrated the incredible dedication and selfless service of our CASA volunteers at our **Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner**. The evening was filled with recognizing the work of our CASAs, hearing from our guest speaker and best-selling author, Steve Pemberton, and connecting and sharing with one another. We're grateful and honored every day to have such a wonderful team of champions who tirelessly advocate for the rights, well-being and best interests of children in need.



Check out this great-looking group of people: CASA's mighty Volunteer Advocates. They are the heart of CASA of the Tenth! Thank you!



## Sip-Savor-Smoke Fundraiser a Big Success

Sip-Savor-Smoke 2024 was held June 13th and was presented by Stratus Networks and co-chaired by James Kemper and Dr. Mark Plunkett. Thank you to all of our sponsors and guests.



## There's Still Time to Sign Up for Our Par 3 Golf Challenge!

Next up is the Par 3 Challenge & \$1 Million Hole-In-One Shootout to be held on October 1, 2024! Grab some friends and make your way to the Country Club of Peoria to have a great day and "change a child's story" at the same time. Learn more on the [CASA website](#) and [register your team](#).

### PAR 3 CHALLENGE & \$1 MILLION HOLE-IN-ONE SHOOTOUT

**1<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 2024**

**Country Club of Peoria**  
4700 Grandview Drive  
Peoria Heights

Registration: 12:45 to 1:15 p.m.  
Shotgun Start: 1:30 p.m.  
\$1 Million Shootout:  
Approximately 6:30 p.m.

**DETAILS & PRIZES**

**EIGHTEEN HOLE, PAR 3 CHALLENGE**

- Converts the entire course to Par 3 play
- Field limited to first 20 teams of four golfers
- \$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!**

- Food, drink tickets and a cash bar
- Team putting contest as you come off the course
- Raffle and other prizes awarded at the event

**14th ANNUAL**

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

**CASA**  
Court Appointed Special Advocates  
FOR CHILDREN  
CASA OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
[www.CASAOftenth.org](http://www.CASAOftenth.org)



## Make Sure You've Saved the Date for CASAblanca: Saturday, November 2

CASA's primary fundraising event of the year is a fun-filled evening featuring local celebrities dancing with local dance instructors and competing against each other. Local celebrity judges rate each couple's performance, and with audience votes added in, determine the "Critics' Choice Award" winners. Sponsorships, ticket sales, online votes and Sponsor A Child donations determine the "People's Choice Award" winners. The event not only offers a dance competition but good food, drink and music.

**When:** Saturday, November 2, 2024

**Time:** 6:00 p.m. (doors open at 5:30 p.m.)

**Where:**

Par-A-Dice Hotel Ballroom  
21 Blackjack Boulevard  
East Peoria, IL 61611

Learn more [here](#).

## OUR MISSION

Ensure that every child who has experienced abuse or neglect is placed in a safe and permanent home, by utilizing specially trained community volunteers who advocate for children abused or neglected going through the court system.

## Keep Up with CASA



## Newsletter design provided by:

