

CASA VOICE

CHANGE A CHILD'S STORY.™



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A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PAMELA PERRILLES

Off to a Great Start in 2024!



Hello All!

Just two months ago, we said goodbye to 2023, we look back with gratitude on what a wonderful year it was! While there were a few challenges we had to maneuver through, there were many, many more accomplishments. The commitment of our Board, Advocate Supervisors, Volunteer Advocates and our exceptional supporters made this possible.

The fundraisers, we are proud to say, were a success in their monetary gain and, just as importantly, in raising awareness of the plight of the children in our community for whom we advocate. They are the singular reason why we are all so committed to CASA of the Tenth Judicial Circuit.

We also want to share our profound gratitude for our incredibly generous sponsors, our contributors in time, talent, and/or treasure, our remarkable volunteers, and those who participated in our events throughout the year. You have all collectively contributed to changing a child's story. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

As we look forward to 2024 and what the new year promises, we are focused on increasing our goals, exceeding last year's aspirations. We want to reach new audiences to share what CASA is all about and its importance in our area. And continue to strengthen our ongoing relationships with sponsors, volunteers and the community at large.

As in every year, we count our many blessings and thank our many contributors for making 2023 a brilliant year.

Together, we can **CHANGE A CHILD'S STORY™**.

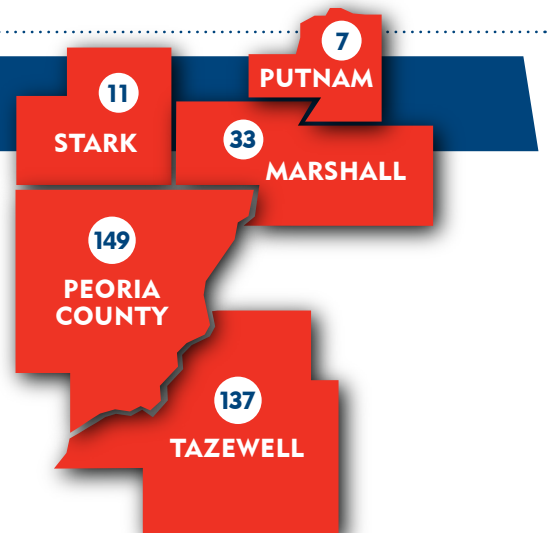
Warmly,
Pamela Perrilles, Executive Director

CASA By the Numbers

YTD Number of Active Children Served: 337

Marshall: 33
Peoria: 149
Putnam: 7
Stark: 11
Tazewell: 137

Active Volunteers: 152



CASA in Action!



Information Meetings Far and Wide

Ryan Lacerna, CASA's Director of Recruitment, Marketing & Compliance, has held Informational Meetings in Peoria County, Tazewell County and Stark County—with plans to expand the other counties in which CASA advocates.



Ryan representing CASA in Washington.

Calendar of Events

Information Meeting – Pekin

February 29, 2024
Pekin Area Chamber of Commerce
402 Court Street, Pekin IL 61554
5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Information Meeting – Peoria IL

March 6, 2024
First Wednesday of the Month
Creve Coeur Club @ The River Station
5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Information Meeting – Pekin

March 28, 2024
Pekin Area Chamber of Commerce
402 Court Street, Pekin IL 61554
5:00 – 6:00 p.m.



CASA Time is Time Well Spent

Cathy Dare, CASA's Training Coordinator and Volunteer Advocate, held monthly CASA Time meetings for Volunteer Advocates. Each CASA Time session covers a variety of topics, all with the intention to enlighten and embolden the attendees and secure the mission of CASA.



Spreading the News About CASA's Mission

Executive Director, Pam Perrilles, as well as Ryan and our other Advocate Supervisors, have spent countless hours in morning breakfast meetings, afternoon lunch meetings and evening events representing CASA, networking and communicating with others what CASA is, explaining the mission of CASA and how each person they meet can assist in advocating for the children in our community.



Always Learning and Growing

All Advocate Supervisors put in hours upon hours of training—learning new advocating tools and building upon those already established. CASA's Volunteer Advocates go through rigorous ongoing training, as well. After weeks of training, the Volunteer Advocates are newly minted at an official swearing-in ceremony. (See pictures to the right.)

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you and Congratulations!



New Home for Tazewell County CASA Advocates

In late November, Tazewell County Advocates were able to move into the Tazewell County Resource Centers (TCRC) located at 33 South 4th Street, Pekin IL.



Volunteer advocates at the Nov. 27 swearing-in ceremony. From left to right, Randilyn, Jeffrey, Judge Brown, Shelley and Teri.



Judge Brown and David at a swearing-in ceremony.

Par 3 Challenge & \$1 Million Hole-In-One Shootout

The 12th Annual Par 3 Challenge & \$1 Million Hole-In-One Shootout was held on September 27, 2023. It was beautiful day, perfect for a fun-filled afternoon at the Country Club of Peoria. Led by financial analyst, Jeff Doeden along with Pam Perrilles, the golf event proved to be a wonderful success. The game was said to be great, many golfers stating that they didn't play very well but they had a lot of fun. That says it all. We're already looking forward to our 2024 event, making it bigger and better!



Executive Director Pam Perrilles, Advocate Supervisor Sally Stevenson and Financial Advisor & Chairman of the Golf Outing, Jeff Doeden.



CASA's Training Coordinator and Volunteer Advocate, Cathy Dare at the information table.



Raffle prizes galore!



Participating in the putting contest was loads of fun.



Sponsor Altorfer Cat provided a Booze Cooler for an exclusive raffle!

Kappa Alpha Theta Presents CASA's Tea Party

Leading women's group, Kappa Alpha Theta, joined CASA and event coordinator and Advocate Supervisor, Sally Stevenson, in hosting CASA's first annual Tea Party in honor of Joan French. The children for whom CASA advocates and their foster family's children who attended the tea party learned etiquette lessons, created fun crafts and learned about the history of tea parties. We hope the event will grow with each year!





Executive Director Pam Perrilles with Media/IT Director of CASAblanca 2023, and Pam's daughter, Marie Morris.

CASAblanca 2023

CASA's wonderfully successful fundraiser, CASAblanca, has done it again, with thanks to an army of people behind the scenes and our consummate supporters! The event was led by Honorary Co-Chairs Tim & Peggy Crane and Adam & Laura Hawks, CASAblanca Co-Chairs Teri Cook & Karoline Seitz-Goddard, along with Executive Director Pam Perrilles.

CASAblanca 2023 was wildly entertaining with remarkable talent. The dancing novices, along with their sage coaches/dance partners, swayed and bopped through several genres of dance, drawing a record number of tickets sold, and, without question, fun was had by all. Another win? As in every past year, CASA's mission was imparted to over 700 attendees: some who knew our mission well, some who learned of CASA for the first time, and everyone in between. A huge "thank you" to our sponsors and volunteers, CASA staff and Par-A-Dice's incredible team!



One of Our Dance Pairs Showing Their Skills



Judges!



Honorary Co-Chairs Tim & Peggy Crane



Honorary Co-Chairs Adam & Laura Hawks



Co-Chair and Theta Award Winner Teri Cook



Co-Chair Karoline Seitz-Goddard and her son Mitchell

Getting to Know New Advocate Supervisors Sue Gordon & Maddy

Sue Gordon
Tazewell County Advocate Supervisor



I am a lifelong Illinois resident. My husband, Paul and I have 6 children, 24 grandchildren, and our Schnoodle/Shih Tzu, Olive. In my spare time (haha), I love to shop, do crafts, cook, go out to dinner and spend time with my grandchildren.

What have you liked most about working at CASA?

My passion has always been to work with kids, and CASA fulfills that dream! Our children are our greatest assets, and we need to protect and nurture them. CASA helps our children be the best they can be and allows them to overcome some difficult obstacles. If you're not a volunteer, I encourage you to learn more about CASA and become one. You will never regret it!

Maddy
Tazewell County Advocate Supervisor



Hi, I'm Maddy. I only have about 4 months of experience within this industry, but I went to school for criminal justice for four-and-a-half years, and I'm finding that background very helpful.

My boyfriend is the definition of a goofball; he never fails to put a smile on my face. My mom is truly my best friend, and I don't know what I'd do without her.

I love listening to music, mostly R&B and rap, and watching sports. I played basketball for 15+ years, including collegiately at three different colleges and in a semiprofessional league in Dallas, Texas.

My favorite movie will forever and always be The Little Mermaid. And my dream vacation would be to Fiji.



Thank You, Grifols, Macy Manier and Jenny Shively for Your Kind Donations!

Once more, we were gifted with bags and hygiene products like toothpaste, combs, brushes, body wash, etc. from Grifols. The Advocate Supervisors are happy to share these brilliant bags and goodies with their Advocate Volunteers and the CASA kids for whom they advocate. Thank you, Grifols!

In addition to the much-needed bags and products from Grifols, CASA was also gifted with adorable stuffed toys from Macy Manier of Morton. Macy conducted a toy drive and found herself with more stuffed animals than she had ever hoped to collect, and CASA came to mind. We are so very grateful to Macy and her mom, Jenny Shively, for thinking of CASA! The plush toys bring a certain joy to adults and children alike.



Sun Collectors Provides Shopping Sprees for Children



This past holiday season, CASA had an extra incentive to be thankful for the many gifts and opportunities bestowed upon our organization. We were blessed with kind and generous Christmas Elves from Sun Collectors, who invited the children for whom CASA advocates, their guardians, and any additional children in the household, for a shopping spree at their local Walmart and Casey stores, just in time for Christmas!

Sun Collectors... we are immensely grateful for all your wonderful work and sincerely appreciate your contributions to CASA and these very deserving children!

CASA is a Nationwide Movement with a Local Need

LEND YOUR VOICE.

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) and guardian ad litem (GAL) volunteers advocate for the best interests of children who have experienced abuse or neglect. Volunteers work with child welfare professionals, educators and service providers to ensure that judges have the information they need to make the most well-informed decisions for each child.

There are 939 state organizations and local programs in 49 states and the District of Columbia with 97,900 volunteers nationwide.

More volunteers are needed.

Contact CASA of the Tenth Judicial Circuit by writing casa@peoriacounty.org or call us at 309-669-2939. We'd love to talk to you and answer any questions you may have.



Visit our website to learn more!

Founder of CASA/GAL Movement Has Passed Away

Article and Photo Courtesy of National CASA

We are deeply saddened to share with you that Judge David W. Soukup, the founder of the court appointed special advocate/volunteer guardian ad litem (CASA/GAL) movement, has passed away.

Judge Soukup was a giant of a man in the CASA/GAL network and around court and child welfare innovation.

When he started the first CASA program in King County (Seattle), Washington in 1977, the number of children in foster care topped half a million nationally, and a new phrase, "foster care drift," became a way to describe the increasingly long time many children spent in foster care.

Concerned over making decisions about abused and neglected children's lives without sufficient information, Judge Soukup conceived the idea of using carefully screened and trained community volunteers to speak for the best interests of children in court. In 1977, he created a legacy that continues to flourish today throughout the country and with the dedicated efforts of almost 100,000 volunteers, serving nearly a quarter of a million children annually.



We celebrate the life of Judge Soukup and are extraordinarily grateful for his vision, leadership, and remarkable support of the CASA/GAL mission at the local, state and national levels for over 40 years. We look forward to honoring Judge Soukup's incredible work and legacy.

Our deepest sympathies go out to Judge Soukup's family and all who were fortunate to cross paths with him in life.



Our Profound Gratitude to Our Many Generous 2023 Sponsors

Sip-Savor-Smoke 2023

- Presenting Sponsor:** Stratus Networks
- Wine Sponsor:** Demonica Kemper Architects
- Table Sponsor:** Cyr Financial Group
- Champagne Sponsor:** Alcast Company
- Champagne Sponsor:** RLG Consulting Engineers
- Champagne Sponsor:** Dr. Mark & Mrs. Tara Plunkett
- Champagne Sponsor:** OSF Healthcare
- Friend of Churchill:** Terra Engineering
- Friend of Churchill:** Keith Engineering
- Friend of Churchill:** Plattner Asset Management
- Friend of Churchill:** Pearl Insurance
- Friend of Churchill:** Muir Omni Graphics

Par 3 Challenge & \$1 Million Hole-In-One Shootout 2023

- Presenting Sponsor:** Connor Co.
- Annual VIP Partners:** Sun Collectors
- Deluxe Sponsor:** Brett Tilly, Caterpillar
- Hospitality Sponsor:** Prairie Home Alliance
- Mission Sponsors:**
 - Altorfer Cat
 - Jeff Doeden, Financial Advisor LPL
 - Lynch Aluminum
 - Mid-State Terrazzo & Tile Co.
 - Millennia Professional Services
 - PNC
 - Stratus Superior Solutions



Special shoutout to Sun Collectors, our VIP Sponsor for all three events! We appreciate you so much!

CASAblanca 2023

- Presenting Sponsor:** Tim & Peggy Crane
- Champion Sponsors:** Dr. Jason & Ms. Chaille Becker and Orthodontics, Ltd.
- Annual VIP Mission Partner:** Sun Collectors

- Amy Braet
- Hall Rustom, LLC
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- Zach Oyler
- Par-A-Dice Hotel & Casino / Boyd Gaming
- Dr. Miguel Ramirez of Great Plains Orthopedics
- RLI
- Altorfer Cat
- Dr. Mark & Ms. Tara Plunkett
- Strong Law
- John Bearce Companies
- Los Cabos Cantina & Grill
- Matt Campen
- CEFCU
- Country Financial by Chris & Katie Kappes
- Country Financial by Michael Flynn
- EIA

- Friendship House
- Jamie Harwood
- Adam & Laura Hawks
- JIMAX
- Regan & Sarah Jones
- Craig Kliethermes
- Miss Laura's School of Dance
- Jonathan & Sharon Michael
- Oberhelman Foundation
- Leslie Paulson & Steve Pierz
- Peoria Ice Cream Company
- Philippi-Hagenbuch, Inc.
- Fortner Insurance
- Dr. John Shuler of Orthodontics, Ltd.
- Kevin & Summer Sletten
- Lisa McShane
- Tyler Smith
- Emily West
- Aupperle Construction
- DCS Copiers
- John Graham & Associates



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



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