



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

CASA OF PEORIA COUNTY

April 2016

Vol. VIII, No. 1

CASA Voice

The Official Newsletter of CASA of Peoria County

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From the desk of the Executive Director

Join us for the Ninth Annual "Hands Around the Courthouse" to Recognize Child Abuse Prevention Month

Every child deserves to feel safe. Unfortunately many children in our great nation are not afforded this luxury. In fact, as of December 31, 2015 there were 872 cases of abuse and neglect on the Peoria County Juvenile Court docket. Sadly, Peoria ranks among the highest counties in Illinois in the *per capita* rate of abuse and neglect, and fourth statewide in raw numbers. In 2012-2014 the average rate of abuse and neglect was 18.4 per 1,000 children in Peoria County. These are staggering statistics.

Since 2008 the Youth Service Network Panel has been doing its part to raise awareness for Child Abuse Prevention Month here in Peoria by staging "Hands Around the Courthouse," which this year take place **Friday April 15, 2016 at noon at the Peoria County Courthouse Plaza**. We hope you can attend as we join hands in a moment of silence to recognize the challenges faced by Peoria County in protecting our children. We are overjoyed by the fact that this event has grown each year. This event includes speeches by local experts, musical performance by local children, and prayer.

Another great way to raise awareness is **Blue Sunday National Day of Prayer**. This event is held on **Sunday, April 24, 2016**. On this day, many churches will be requested to pray in their services for the victims of child abuse — and for those who rescue them. According to the Blue Sunday Child Abuse Prevention Initiative website, www.bluesunday.org, this day of prayer began in 1994 with twenty churches and has now grown to include over 70 million participants.

What can you do to help? Join us for Hands Around the Courthouse, **wear blue to show your commitment to preventing child abuse on Friday, April 8 for Wear Blue Day**, ask your church to participate in "Blue Sunday," become a CASA volunteer, or make a tax-deductible donation directly to CASA of Peoria County. You can also learn more at www.preventchildabuseillinois.org.

You have the power to help break the cycle of abuse and neglect in our community!

— Pamela Perrilles

CASA Welcomes February 2016 Volunteer Class



Front Row: Myra Hare, Sonia Townsend, Tenshar Farmer, Sherry Daly, Mary Zahner, Mary Grabenstetter, Mary Moore, Thomas Miller, Sharon Weiss, Mary Ward, Thomas Ward **Second Row:** Christopher Maushard, Janine St. Clair, Ginger Kruiswyk, Pamela McCasky, Marilee Tilly **Rear:** Honorable Kirk Schoenbein
Not Pictured: Rebecca Christensen, Mindy Gudat, Sarah Luthy

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CASA Volunteer

Appreciation

4.27.16 *Event*

CASA 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 27 at 6:00 p.m. **Par-A-Dice Hotel, East Peoria**

RSVP Advocate Supervisor Lisa Brinker lbrinker@peoriacounty.org or 309-669-2939



CASATime with Dr. Lourdes Delgado-Serrano, M.D.



Hampton Inn and Suites, February 24 – We were privileged to have **Dr. Lourdes Delgado-Serrano** take time out of her busy schedule to join us for CASATime this month. Dr. Delgado-Serrano (*pictured, at left*) works for the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria as an Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatrics. Dr. Serrano treats many children that our CASA volunteers serve. Many CASA volunteers were on hand to learn about psychiatric and behavioral disorders that are seen in children in DCFS care, the drugs that are prescribed, and the side effects that may occur. This information will not only help the volunteers better understand the behaviors they may see in the children they serve, but it will also help them better advocate for children's needs.

CASA Welcomes Advocate Supervisors Sherry Dailey & Kelli Carlyle and Office Manager Angela te-Nuyl



Sherry Dailey has over 10 years experience working in Court Services at Peoria and Tazewell Counties as a Probation officer. In 2010 she became a licensed State of Illinois casework and has served in the Peoria County and surrounding areas in Social Services.

Sherry earned her Bachelor's of Science Degree at Western Illinois University with a Major in Psychology and a Minor in Sociology. She has since continued to develop her skills working in different capacities of Social Service and Court Service fields in the Peoria County and surrounding communities. Sherry is a single mother of one son, Keenan, who is currently a junior at the University of Illinois, Champaign, IL. Sherry enjoys spending time gardening and at family gatherings.



Kelli Carlyle comes to CASA with 8 years of experience working with the Child Care Assistance Program through the Department of Human Services. The mission of CASA drove Kelli to the organization, since she has a passion to make a difference in children's lives.

Kelli has two children: Alex is 8, and Karissa is 5. She enjoys spending time with family, shopping, drinking coffee and watching football



Angela te-Nuyl came to Peoria, IL to attend Bradley University in 2005. During her time there she volunteered with CASA of Peoria County to fulfill volunteer hours for her Fellows Scholarship. After volunteering in the office and growing passionate about the mission of CASA she was hired part time as an intern and spent the remainder of her time at Bradley with CASA. She graduated with an Elementary Education degree with a concentration in mathematics. She spent 1 year teaching math in District 150 at Lincoln Middle School and then returned to Pleasant Valley, where she student taught, to teach for the next 4 and a half years.

She is excited about all the growth at CASA of Peoria County and is ecstatic to return to such an incredible organization as the Office Manager.



Volunteers' Court Calendar

April 1 — July 30, 2016

APRIL 2016

| | | |
|------|-----------|-------------|
| 4-4 | 9:00 a.m. | Jeff |
| 4-5 | 2:30 p.m. | Cathy D. |
| 4-6 | 1:30 p.m. | Deb D. |
| 4-7 | 2:15 p.m. | Phil C. |
| 4-8 | 1:00 p.m. | Karla |
| 4-12 | 1:30 p.m. | Tricey |
| 4-12 | 1:45 p.m. | Christopher |
| 4-13 | 9:00 a.m. | Connie |
| 4-13 | 9:30 a.m. | Nicholas |
| 4-13 | 1:30 p.m. | Georgeanne |
| 4-13 | 1:30 p.m. | Debbie |
| 4-13 | 1:45 p.m. | Donna |
| 4-14 | 1:15 p.m. | Haley |
| 4-15 | 1:00 p.m. | Joe |
| 4-18 | 9:00 a.m. | Irene |
| 4-19 | 2:00 p.m. | Chidu |
| 4-21 | 1:30 p.m. | Jim |
| 4-22 | 1:00 p.m. | Patrice |
| 4-26 | 1:30 p.m. | Bertha |
| 4-27 | 1:15 p.m. | Deb |

MAY

| | | |
|------|-----------|---------------|
| 5-6 | 1:30 p.m. | Bryson |
| 5-11 | 9:00 a.m. | Marti |
| 5-12 | 1:30 p.m. | Emily & Karin |

| | |
|------|-----------|
| 5-12 | 1:45 p.m. |
| 5-19 | 1:45 p.m. |
| 5-19 | 2:15 p.m. |
| 5-19 | 3:00 p.m. |
| 5-20 | 1:00 p.m. |
| 5-23 | 9:00 a.m. |
| 5-24 | 1:30 p.m. |
| 5-25 | 9:00 a.m. |
| 5-25 | 1:00 p.m. |
| 5-26 | 1:30 p.m. |
| 5-26 | 2:15 p.m. |

JUNE

| | |
|------|-----------|
| 6-1 | 9:30 a.m. |
| 6-1 | 1:15 p.m. |
| 6-1 | 1:45 p.m. |
| 6-2 | 1:15 p.m. |
| 6-2 | 1:30 p.m. |
| 6-2 | 1:45 p.m. |
| 6-2 | 2:00 p.m. |
| 6-6 | 9:45 a.m. |
| 6-9 | 1:30 p.m. |
| 6-9 | 1:45 p.m. |
| 6-13 | 1:15 p.m. |
| 6-14 | 1:30 p.m. |
| 6-14 | 2:30 p.m. |

| | | |
|-------------|------|-----------|
| Mary A. | 6-15 | 1:30 p.m. |
| Sue A. | 6-16 | 1:45 p.m. |
| Sharon W. | 6-17 | 9:30 a.m. |
| Reithel | 6-21 | 1:30 p.m. |
| Elizabeth | 6-22 | 1:45 p.m. |
| Rodney L. | 6-23 | 1:15 p.m. |
| Judy J. | 6-23 | 2:15 p.m. |
| Greg | 6-23 | 2:30 p.m. |
| Kathy M. | 6-24 | 1:00 p.m. |
| Kimberly K. | 6-27 | 1:00 p.m. |
| Mandy | | |

JULY

| | | |
|------|-----------|----------|
| 7-6 | 1:30 p.m. | Tammy |
| 7-11 | 9:00 a.m. | Linda |
| 7-11 | 9:30 a.m. | Tom B. |
| 7-12 | 2:00 p.m. | Connie |
| 7-13 | 2:45 p.m. | Kathy M. |
| 7-15 | 1:00 p.m. | Karlene |
| 7-19 | 1:15 p.m. | Russ |
| 7-21 | 1:15 p.m. | Kay |
| 7-21 | 1:30 p.m. | Lois |
| 7-21 | 3:00 p.m. | Ed |
| 7-22 | 1:15 p.m. | Heather |
| 7-25 | 1:15 p.m. | Emma |
| 7-26 | 1:15 p.m. | Leslie |
| 7-28 | 2:00 p.m. | Cathy D. |

SAVE THE DATE



Peoria County Courthouse Plaza

Friday, April 15, 2016
Noon



**Announcing
CASA of Peoria
County's
April 2016
Training Class**

**April 9-18 at the classroom
facilities of
AMT**

(Advanced Medical Transport)

**1718 N Sterling
West Peoria**

Class Schedule

Saturday April 9 9:00 am — 5:00 pm
Monday April 11 5:30 pm — 8:30 pm
Tuesday April 12 5:30 pm — 8:30 pm
Wed April 13 5:30 pm — 8:30 pm
Thurs April 14 5:30 pm — 8:30 pm
Saturday April 16 9:00 am — 5:00 pm
Monday April 18 5:30 pm — 8:30 pm

(Note: Meals are provided for all classes.)

Swearing-In Ceremony

(Date and time to be determined)

Juvenile Abuse & Neglect Courtroom
Peoria County Courthouse
324 Main St
Room 424

For more information, or to apply to be a volunteer, please contact:

Lisa Brinker

Advocate Supervisor

LBrinker@peoriacounty.org

309-669-2939

Speak up for a child!

Morton Jr High School Student Stages Talent Show to Raise Funds for CASA of Peoria County

Morton Junior High School student **Claire Hawks** was assigned a project for her Language Arts class, tasking Claire to make a website on a personal goal, hold a fundraiser, or collect information about a topic. Claire has gone above and beyond by choosing to host a Talent Show — with all proceeds going to CASA of Peoria County.

While organizing this event, Claire has discovered that the process of putting on an event like this is a lot of work. She says, “When I heard about CASA, I got so excited. It made me happy to think I could help kids in Peoria find a safe and permanent home faster. Part of what makes the work of this project seem like not-so-much work is the excitement I feel about not only donating to CASA but also telling people about its importance.”

The show will take place **April 7, 2016 at Morton High School**. Tickets will be sold at the door and the event is open to the public. Claire’s goal is to fill Bertha Frank Theater, which holds 400 people. Please join us in supporting this young philanthropist’s goal of helping CASA serve abused and neglected children in our community!



Claire Hawks

Website: <http://claires4thquarterprojecttalentshow.weebly.com>
Event: Talent Show to benefit CASA of Peoria County
Date: April 7, 2016
Time: 6:00 pm
Location: Morton High School
350 N Illinois Ave
Morton, IL 61550

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:



Illinois Attorney
General
Violent Crime Victim
Assistance 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.



Granite City Food and Brewery, Mar. 18 – Granite City in East Peoria was gracious enough to host a “Dine to Donate” event on Friday, March 18. The restaurant donated 20% of a person’s check if they mentioned CASA to their server. The event ran from 11am to 11pm. We were also able to set up an information table and have staff and Board Members share a bit about CASA’s mission as customers were waiting to be seated. As we were greeting customers, we were happy to see several familiar faces come in to support our cause. Thank you to all who attended and helped spread the word about this event!

Pictured: Granite City Staff with CASA Board Member Mark Criss

Blue Sunday Prayer

Lord, thank you for our children,
For them we kneel and pray.

Help us teach them of your kindness,
of your mercy and your way.

Help us show them of your love,
your strength and safety, too.

Help us show them who you are.
Help us treat them like you do.



Let’s pray, educate ourselves, and volunteer for the children of our nation until black and blue are just colors in their crayon box.
J Magee, founder

Home of National Blue Sunday Day of Prayer

PRAYING FOR ABUSED CHILDREN SINCE 1994

BLUE SUNDAY DAY OF PRAYER

April 24, 2016

The day when churches take time in their service to pray for the victims of child abuse and for those who rescue them.

We pray because they shouldn't have to pray alone.

Won't you ask your church to join in this life-changing effort?

CASAblanca

an evening of *Dancing with the Local Stars*

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, November 5th, 2016

Par-A-Dice Hotel Ballroom

21 Blackjack Boulevard, East Peoria, IL

6:00 p.m.

Save the Date!

Par 3 Challenge &

\$1 Million Hole-in-One Shootout

September 29, 2016

Country Club of Peoria

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

**Bob Evans[®]
COMMUNITY
FUNDRAISER**

Dine to make a difference

**CASA
Peoria County**

**Apr 1 - 3, 2016
6:00 A.M. - 9:00 P.M.**

Bob Evans will donate 15% of sales when you present this flyer* to

Bob Evans[®]

Pekin, East Peoria, 8821 N Allen Road in Peoria, IL

www.BobEvans.com/BEkind

*Flyer must be presented at time of check out.

#448

**Bob Evans[®]
COMMUNITY
FUNDRAISER**

Dine to make a difference

**CASA
Peoria County**

**Apr 15 - 17, 2016
6:00 A.M. - 9:00 P.M.**

Bob Evans will donate 15% of sales when you present this flyer* to

Bob Evans[®]

Pekin, East Peoria, 8821 N Allen Road in Peoria, IL

www.BobEvans.com/BEkind

*Flyer must be presented at time of check out.

#448



Couples Date Night Dance Lesson/Social Dance

Friday, April 15

Body Fitness, 3060 N. University, Peoria

Lessons — 7:30 to 9:00 pm

Social Dance — 9:00 to 10:00 pm

Social Dance — \$20.00 per couple

Proceeds from this event for the benefit of CASA of Peoria County

Have you ever wanted to go out dancing on a Friday night? Learning dance styles for a fun night out on the town? The come out to our couples date night and learn some ballroom dance styles. We will teach you the BASIC dance styles of Waltz, Fox Trot, and East Coast Swing. Two-time "CASAblanca: Dancing with the Local Stars" Dance Instructor Jon Young will be your teacher. We will spend about 30 minutes teaching each dance style. Then we will have a social dance for the last hour.

Questions or to sign up for the class: Jon Young, 309-660-3534 or jpjeep75@yahoo.com