

**CHANGE A
CHILD'S STORY.™**



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CASA OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Each year, nearly 408,000 children in the United States experience abuse or neglect, ushering them into the dependency court and foster care systems. A child in foster care, on average, will move into multiple homes and attend multiple schools. All this chaos and inconsistency has long-term effects.

CASA of the Tenth Judicial Circuit supports and promotes court-appointed volunteer advocacy so every child who has experienced abuse or neglect can be safe, have a permanent home and the opportunity to thrive. CASA provides highly trained volunteers to advocate on behalf of children and youth in the courtroom. For the past two years, CASA of the Tenth Judicial Circuit volunteers across Peoria, Tazwell, Marshall, Putnam, and Stark Counties have remained committed throughout the COVID-19 pandemic to providing best-interest advocacy for children who have experienced abuse or neglect. As a consistent, caring adult in the child's life, CASA volunteers help these five county judges make the most informed decisions for the well-being of the child. These volunteers also help identify resources for the child and their families to help strengthen families and prevent crises before they occur. Currently we are only able to serve 45% of the children in care, in our community. How amazing would it be for every child to have a person advocating for what's in their best interest?

Will you become a volunteer to help Change a Child's Story, today?

CASA of the Tenth Judicial Circuit is hosting a series of informational meetings in April to explain just what it takes to be a CASA volunteer and how you can make an impact in your community. Thanks to the support of our local Chambers of Commerce, The Riparian Club, Minority Business Development Center, and our friends at Avanti's we will be holding the following meetings and providing food and drinks.

Tuesday, April 12th from 4:30pm-5:30pm at the Pekin Area Chamber of Commerce, 402 Court St, Pekin
Tuesday, April 19th from 4:30pm-5:30pm at the Morton Chamber of Commerce, 415 W Jefferson St, Morton
Tuesday, April 26th from 4:30pm-5:30 at the Minority Business Development Center, 2139 SW Adams St, Peoria

Don't let April be just another month, where you hear about how child abuse affects the nation. Let April be the month you decide to help Change a Child's Story.

About CASA of the Tenth Judicial Circuit:

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of the Tenth Judicial Circuit is a 501(c)3 non-profit, volunteer organization that advocates for the best interests of children within the Juvenile Court system who have experienced abuse or neglect. Its existence is based on the belief that every child has the right to a safe and permanent home allowing them the chance to reach their full potential in life. The organization has been in existence since 2005, serving children who have experienced abuse or neglect. CASA is supported by Heart of Illinois United Way, VCVA IL Attorney General, Illinois Court Appointed Special Advocates, and generous donors. CASA is a Member of the National CASA/GAL Association.