



For immediate release
April 28, 2021

Media Inquiries:
Pam Perrilles, CASA Executive Director
(309) 669-2939
pperrilles@peoriacounty.org

HEARTS Around the Courthouse on April 30

Peoria County – As of year-end 2020, the number of pending child abuse and neglect cases in Peoria County was 1,198. The Youth Services Network Panel in partnership with Peoria County invites you to “**HEARTS** Around the Courthouse” on Friday, April 30 at 12 p.m. in the Peoria County Courthouse Plaza as we join **HEARTS** to raise awareness and draw attention to these cases of child abuse. CDC guidelines will be posted and followed.

The event, hosted by the Youth Services Network Panel, is held annually during April for Child Abuse Prevention Month. Advocacy and front-line officials will speak on the unfortunate pending cases and the importance of child abuse prevention. Speakers include Chief Judge Katherine Gorman, State’s Attorney Jodi Hoos, Jeff Gress of Crittenton Centers, Stephanie Johnson of Pediatric Resource Center, Felicia Jackson of DCFS, Anthony Rush of Children’s Home, Pastor Mike Womer from Relevant Faith Church, and Kitty Yanko of Peoria Humane Society. Thank you to Cumulus Radio for their media partnership and providing the sound system.

“**HEARTS** Around the Courthouse” participants are encouraged to wear blue to show their support of Child Abuse Prevention Month. Mask will be required. To find out more about Hearts Around the Courthouse contact CASA of the Tenth Judicial Circuit, at (309) 669-2939.

###