

THE ADVOCATE

CASA of Vermilion County, 101 W. North St., Danville, IL 61832
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Cookies from CASA

This April is Child Abuse Prevention Month, and CASA is planning to take this opportunity to thank all those who work towards the welfare of abused and neglected children. Throughout the community there are a number of agencies that consistently make a difference in the lives of children. The individuals working in these jobs are rarely recognized for their hard work and dedication to children.

To thank these dedicated people, CASA is asking for your help in making our first "Cookies from CASA" event a success. Here is how it will work. CASA advocates, board, and friends will bake or buy cookies and bring them to the office on the morning of April 6 from 8:30-Noon. In the afternoon we will package the donated cookies and deliver them to area agencies for their staff. We

need people willing to provide, package, and or deliver the cookies. If you are willing to help in any of these ways, or would like to nominate an agency to receive cookies, please let Barbara know via phone (217-446-5975) or e-mail, advcoor@casavermillion.org. We appreciate everyone's support on this project!



CASA's Annual Advocate Breakfast

CASA of Vermilion County is proud to announce our second Annual Advocate Breakfast in honor of our amazing advocates. The event will be at the Vermilion County Museum on April 16 at 8:30 - 9:30 AM. Invitations will be sent closer to the date, but we are asking all advocates and friends of CASA to mark this important date on your calendars.

Swearing-In Ceremony

Support our advocates as they take the oath of office, initiating them as officers of the court.
March 30, 2009, 9:00 AM, Vermilion County Courthouse, Courtroom 3B.

*April is Child Abuse Prevention Month
Thank you for making it your cause every month!*

300 Children Need our Help. Help us Grow!



CASA of Vermilion County is blessed to have the support of such an amazing group of advocates. We are excited about the advocacy we are providing and want to applaud the hard work of all of our advocates.

Unfortunately, there are still 300 children who are waiting for an advocate. It is essential that we continue to grow and we are asking for your help to find new ways to find more volunteers to serve as advocates. As a CASA insider, you know what it took to take the all-important first step to volunteer with CASA.

Please join us for a brown bag power lunch at the Township Building from noon to 1:00 PM on March 10 to share ideas on how CASA can expand its recruitment power and help serve more of Vermilion County's children!

**ADVOCATES ARE THE CORE OF EVERYTHING CASA DOES!
THEY ARE OUR FOUNDATION AND OUR STRENGTH!**

The Question of a Second Case

A couple of advocates have asked about the possibility of being appointed to a second case. These advocates found that their case is going well and does not fill the time they are willing to give to children through CASA. In response, the Board of Directors reviewed the policy limiting advocates to serving one child or sibling group at any given time and decided to make a change.

Advocates can now serve on two cases (two children or sibling groups), if they choose to do so, as long as they have served for at least 6 months on their first case before taking a second case. The hope is that the advocate will be well established in their initial case before taking a second case.

The Board of Directors and staff appreciate that every advocate's situation is different,

and that taking two cases is not feasible for many advocates. However, we are excited to open this option to volunteers who want to take on a new challenge.



Ask the Experts at AOK

Want to learn more about early childhood topics and local community resources? Then tune in every Tuesday morning at 8:09 AM on 1490 WDAN for Ask the Experts. Melissa Rome of the All our Kids Early Childhood Network (AOK), invites guests from around the county to provide insight to topics that effect children in our community. This brief segment can help you be in touch with your community and learn about what is available for families.

AOK is a community based collaboration committed to ensuring that expectant parents and those with very young children in Vermilion County have the opportunity to receive the services they need. CASA is a member of the AOK network.

New goals have been set for the next five years for the network. These goals are: to encourage the birth of healthy babies by sharing information with pregnant mothers about reducing health risks to the child and

the importance of prenatal care, address special concerns and obstacles faced by grandparents raising grandchildren, and to encourage parents to engage with the schools and community programs serving their children.

AOK provides two guides to resources for parents: the Parent Resource Guide and Family Yellow Pages. These are available through the CASA office. Additionally, the network distributes quarterly newsletters that are full of family friendly events and activity ideas, as well as safety tips and other important information for parents.

The AOK Network meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month at the Vermilion County Health Department from 1 PM - 3 PM. Everyone is welcome to attend!! Visit <http://www.vchd.org/AOK.ace> for more information about AOK and resources for parents in Vermilion County.



The F.O.C.U.S. Coalition Mandated Reporter Training Sponsored by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services

Everyone who suspects child abuse or neglect should call the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) Child Abuse Hotline to make a report, but Mandated Reporters are required by law to do so. The purpose of this course is to help all Mandated Reporters understand their critical role in protecting children by recognizing and reporting child abuse.

DCFS staff is presenting this training free of charge. Everyone is welcome. The training is being offered twice on April 9, 2009 at 11:00

AM and 3:00 PM at Danville Public Library.

Please consider attending either training and learning more about this important topic. You could learn something that could save a child's life. This training counts towards continued training for advocates.

If you ever suspect a child is being abused or neglected please call the Child Abuse Hotline at 1-800-25ABUSE or 1-800-252-2873.



CASA OF VERMILION COUNTY

Presents

Casablanca

An Evening of Elegance

Danville Gardens
1307 Cleary Ave, Danville, Illinois

5:30 - 8:00 PM
March 28, 2009

Guests are requested to dress in black & white.

This Evening of Elegance will include:

Live Entertainment

Food & Wine from ~
Applewood Foods Catering
O'Leary's Pub
Sleepy Creek Vineyard

Live and Silent Auctions



A preview of auction items and ticket purchasing is available online at www.casavermillion.org/casablanca.html.

Our Current Advocates

Julie Ahrens
Ellen Baxter
Barbara Bein
Doug DeBarba
Shalonda Foreman
Carrie L Garlick
Mary Janell Graham
Ken Green

Connie Huffman
Suzanne Ingram
Janice Kempe
Judy Mattis
Ella Miller
Michell Monroe
John Murray
Lawrence Nitzke
Alicia Pettigrew

Ron Pridemore
Susan Quick
Lloyd Randle
Nancy Russell
Ashlee Thomas
Juli Thornton-Busby
Wendy Wilder
Karen Wodetzki-Davis

Advocating for Students with Disabilities

Family Matters is a nonprofit organization whose mission it is to build upon families' strengths, empower parents, and professionals to achieve the strongest possible outcomes for students with disabilities. Family Matters is providing a number of trainings on advocating for students with disabilities. Advocates who are working with or interested in serving children with disabilities would benefit from these trainings. To register visit www.fmptic.org

Effective Participation in the Development of Individualized Education Programs

Agenda Includes: Maintenance, organization, and review of educational records * Parental agenda preparation * IEP meeting notices, scheduling, and team members * IEP meeting purpose and format and documentation * Development of goals and objectives

Date: Monday, April 13, 2009 **Time:** 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Location: Faith United Methodist Church, 1719 South Prospect Ave., Champaign, IL

Interventions and Environments That Leave No Child Behind

Agenda Includes: Response to Intervention: Three-tier delivery of research-based academic and behavioral interventions for struggling students * No Child Left Behind legislation and assessments that monitor progress * Highly qualified teachers for all students * Environments that allow for the achievement of all students and make the least dangerous assumptions * Modifications, accommodations, and assistive technology support

Date: Monday, August 10, 2009 **Time:** 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Location: Faith United Methodist Church, 1719 South Prospect Ave., Champaign, IL

Our New Space

Over the first couple weeks of January CASA moved to our new location in the Lower Level of the Township Building. Our new offices feature an office for advocates to work out of and private offices for the Executive Director and Advocate Coordinator. There is also a kitchenette space that doubles as amazing storage for program's materials.

We are continuing to work on making the space welcoming and reflecting of the important work of CASA. We are very grateful to everyone who has contributed through time and items to this new office space!

We are working to acquire donated computers for the advocates to utilize. Our hope is to tap into the full potential of our space as we continue to grow.

Please note that cell phone coverage in the lower level is very minimal. If you wish to reach staff during the day please call the office number (217-446-5975) first.

Silpada Jewelry, A Gift You Will Feel Great About

Juli Thornton-Busby, our local Silpada Representative, and a CASA has offered us a guilt free way to support CASA and spoil ourselves and those we love. In honor of Child Abuse Prevention Month, Juli will donate to CASA 25% of her April sales to anyone who tells her they want to support CASA.

Silpada jewelry is a unique jewelry line of elegant, high quality pieces that fit a variety of budgets. The mission of Silpada Designs is to empower women in their personal quest for success and in their desire to look and feel their very best.

Who in your life deserves a beautiful piece of jewelry, and do not forget yourself? What a great opportunity to pick a Mother's Day gift she will thank you for!

Help us by sharing this opportunity with your friends and family.

Visit the Silpada Design's website at mysilpada.com/juli.busby to see the great jewelry in the Silpada Designs line or drop by the CASA office to pick up a full catalog. To order please contact Juli Thornton-Busby at 217-474-8400.



Family Resource Committee – A Resource on Resources

The Local Area Network 25 invites you to take advantage of our weekly Family Resource Committee meeting to help develop resources on your case. The committee meets weekly at Project Success on Thursdays at 10:00 AM. The first half hour 10:00-10:30 AM will be set aside for general resource questions or brainstorming. You do not have to bring names, consents or any identifying information to bring a "situation" to the table for "staffing" from the multiple agencies which attend the meeting. Attend any Thursday meeting or call Barb Chatman at 217-443-3500 for more information.

CASA Networks Through Facebook.com

CASA is building our network through social networking giant, facebook.com. Do you have a facebook page? If so, you are not alone, our Director, Heather Fox, and Advocate Coordinator, Barbara Bein, both have facebook pages, and use this medium to share information about CASA. Join our networks and join the CASA of Vermilion County "cause" and help us to share the word about CASA!

If you do not currently have a facebook page, we invite you to visit www.facebook.com and join in the fun!