

Child Network



Children's Advocacy Center Opens in Iroquois County

Child Network has opened a satellite Children's Advocacy Center to better serve the residents of Iroquois County.

The Kankakee County center opened in 1994, providing a child-friendly atmosphere for interviews and advocacy services to children of alleged sexual and physical abuse and their non-offending family members. All services are provided free of charge.

The new Iroquois County center opened July 1st and will provide more immediate and convenient access to services for investigative agencies and families. "In looking at the map and the

travel time involved, it was clear we could do better for children and families," commented Kristin Jackson, Executive Director of Child Network. It's our hope that by providing the services closer to home, the number of children served will increase significantly."

Working with a multidisciplinary team comprised of law enforcement, child protective services, the State's Attorney's Office and other victim assistance providers, we aim to reduce the incidence of child sexual and physical abuse, minimize trauma to the alleged child victims, and



promote healing for victims and their families.

The satellite office is located within the Iroquois Mental Health Center at 323 W. Mulberry St. in Watseka.

The center received start-up dollars from the National Children's Alliance through a competitive Development Grant and will be sustained through federal, state and local grants and fundraising.

Fall 2017



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Reebok Spartan Super Team Raises Funds for Child Network

Congratulations and a huge "Thank You" goes out to our team representing Child Network in the Reebok Spartan Super Race in June.

With each obstacle "The Protectors" overcame, they raised funds for Child Network while raising awareness of the thousands of abused and neglected children in the world who overcome their own obstacles of abuse and neglect every year.

The team was comprised of members of the Child Net-



work multidisciplinary team; members of agencies involved in the investigation and prose-

cution of child sexual abuse/serious physical abuse cases.

Child Network Board of Directors

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Purdue Senior Interns At Agency

Elena Green, a senior at Purdue University in Indiana, is completing her internship at Child Network as her final requirement before graduating in December. She will receive a BS degree in Human Services with a minor in Psychology.



Elena Green

Originally from Crown Point, Indiana, Elena now resides in Kankakee. She has plans to stay in the area following graduation to pursue a career serving the children of Kankakee County. Elena also became a newlywed this summer when she married Zakary Green in June.

"I'm filled with gratitude to work alongside such passionate, caring, and servant-hearted professionals at Child Network", stated Elena. "Learning how to better serve this population is incredibly exciting. I am learning so much about how CASA volunteers are organized, forensic interviews are conducted, families are cared for, and much more."

Executive Director Kristin Jackson stated, "Elena has already exhibited the passion and dedication that are a big part of working with families in need of our services. We know that she will excel in whatever is in store for her future."

What Parents Need to Know About Snapchat

As more parents and grandparents embrace Facebook, kids are weary of mom posting old photos of them, no matter how cute and adorable their parents think they are. To avoid those situations, teens seem to gravitate towards newer forms of social media.

A popular app among teens is Snapchat, a free photo and video sharing app. Teenagers love the ability to "share a silly moment" with their friends, and in less than 10 seconds it disappears; but is it really gone?

Some teens assume that because video and photo texts or "Snaps" disappear in just a few seconds, the app is totally harmless. However, photos can be saved as screenshots. This means that parents have no control over what comes across their child's screen at any given moment. It also could become fodder for cyber bullying.

When you send a Snap to someone, you give Snapchat a "nonexclusive, worldwide, royalty-free, sublicensable and transferable license to use, reproduce, modify, adapt, publish, create derivative works from, distribute, perform and display such user content in connection with the services.

Once you create a Snapchat account, you accept total responsibility for whatever activity occurs while you are logged on. One 15-year-old boy exchanged Snaps with a 14-year-old girl. At first, they were fun. Soon, she was sending photos of her wearing just her underwear. Eventually, she sent some Snaps showing her topless. The boy saved them. When his mother discovered the pictures, she was shocked and checked the state laws. Because the girl was 14, it was considered child pornography possession for her son to have those photos on his phone. The girl's parents could press charges, and he most likely would have to register as a

sex offender. As it turned out, this was handled between the families involved and a very serious situation was averted.

Even if kids are careful, the fact exists that once anything is posted online, it is public - even if the picture disappears in a matter of seconds. It's still possible for anything you post to catch up with you. Any time your device connects to the Internet, it associates 100% of your activity with your device. Every device has a unique identifier, like a fingerprint. When you buy and register it, that transaction is linked to you and everything you do with it is ultimately pointing back to you.



Some Snapchat users may be surprised that forensic experts claim any data can be retrieved from one's cell phone, even after the images have been deleted.

Snapchat recently introduced a new tracker in its most current update. This tracker allows users to view the exact location of their friends. It can give users the area, town, and street and if you zoom in enough, it shows the house on the street layout.

If your child uses Snapchat, please check to ensure that they have their location set to **Ghost mode**, so that no one can see where they are. To do this, make sure the app is the updated version and go to selfie mode on the camera. Then zoom out. It will give you the option of changing who can see your location.

Talk to your teens about Snapchat and all forms of social media. Today's teens are technologically savvy. Make sure teens realize that what they post now could surface later in life when they least expect it. One's online presence leaves a trail. Help them make smart decisions to keep themselves and their reputations safe.

Source: *Stephanie Abney FamilyShare.com*



Pacton Appointed CASA Volunteer Coordinator

Executive Director Kristin Jackson recently announced the appointment of Kayla Pacton to the position of CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) Volunteer Coordinator.



Kayla Pacton

Kayla's career with Child Network began in the spring of 2013 as the part-time CASA Case Manager. When the Volunteer Coordinator position became available, Kayla was

more than ready to take on the additional responsibilities of working so closely with the CASA volunteers stating, "I am so happy to be a part of the Child Network family. I have lived in the Kankakee area most of my life and am very excited to be in a position to make a difference in my community. I am very impressed by the strengths the individual volunteers

possess and look forward to continuing to assist them with their cases."

Kristin Jackson added, "I'm very excited about the new energy and renewed vision that Kayla brings to CASA. Her passion for community service is a wonderful asset that will help to grow our program and serve more children in foster care.

Kayla earned a Master's Degree from the University of Illinois Chicago where she developed a strong interest in community based organizing as well as maternal and child health.

Kayla and her husband Mike reside in Bourbonnais with their two daughters, Claire who is seven years old and Allie who is two.

CASA Welcomes New Advocates - Fall Classes Begin Soon

CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of Kankakee County recently completed a summer training course for three new advocates. Their swearing-in ceremony with Judge Leshen was held in August and we are proud to welcome Cindi C., Cheryl B. and Pam C. as our newest CASAs! Each of these ladies brings a passion for wanting to help children and families, and we are happy to welcome them to our family.

YOU Can Make A Difference

Would you like to make a difference in the life of an abused or neglected child? Every year, more than three million



children nationally are reported abused or neglected. Despite the states' attempts to help, many of these kids become trapped in the court and child welfare maze and can spend their childhood moving from one temporary shelter to another.

YOU Can Be The Voice of a Child

This is where you can step in by becoming a CASA volunteer. Training classes are being scheduled to begin by mid-October. The training consists of 30 hours of classroom and online coursework

utilizing a training manual containing content, objectives, and activities to develop advocacy skills. The cur-



riculum models values of respect and responsibility and focuses on knowledge, skills and attitudes to be a successful advocate.

Following training, volunteers can expect to spend an average of ten hours per month

on a case. Cases are considered complete when the child has found a safe and permanent home and the case is closed by the court.

The children CASA serves have many people involved in their lives and advocates strive to be a stable and constant presence in their lives. The advocate makes fact-based recommendations to the juvenile court for the best interest of the child. Advocates are known as the "voice of the child" in the court process and the "eyes and ears" of the juvenile judge.

If you are interested in being the Voice of a Child, contact Kayla Pacton by calling 815-936-7372 or send an e-mail to info@childnetwork.org.





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Child Network

Envisioning a nation
where children flourish free
from abuse and neglect

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CALENDAR OF _____ EVENTS

Wed., Sept. 27	Board Meeting - 12 Noon
Week of Oct. 16	CASA Volunteer Training Begins Held weekly thru mid-November
Wed., Nov. 15	Board Meeting - 12 Noon

Thursday
Nov. 23

*Happy
Thanksgiving*

www.childnetwork.org

The number of children needing our help continues to rise, and we need your help now more than ever to meet those demands. Consider making a year-end gift to Child Network to help restore a safe, happy childhood to young victims and forever change their lives.



NATIONAL
CHILDREN'S
ALLIANCE[®]

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CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN



United Way of Kankakee
& Iroquois Counties