

captured 4/30/14

CASA of Williamson County

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Service Stats

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>
New Children Assigned to CASA	63	64	55	50	79	61
Total Children Served by CASA	156	152	171	147	170	165
New CASAs Sworn-in	34	27	26	18	33	24

More children were taken into protective custody and assigned to CASA in 2012 than any prior year. Meeting the needs of this wave of children in crisis required more CASA advocates to be trained. Volunteers answered the call and CASA of Williamson County continues to assign all children entering the local courts due to abuse and/or neglect to a trained CASA advocate to be their voice in court.



You Can Make a

Difference!

To Date in 2013,

**83 CASA Advocates are serving
144 local children--
More than any other time in our
history!**



Story in the Stats

* The Illinois Department of Child and Family Services receives and investigates a report of suspected child abuse or neglect every five minutes, and a report of child sexual abuse every two hours

*In Williamson County, there were 1066 reports of child abuse and/or neglect made to the Illinois Child Abuse Hotline in 2012

*Other than a parent, the paramour (live-in boyfriend/girlfriend) is the most likely indicated perpetrator of child

abuse and/or neglect

*In 2012, Williamson County had the 5th highest number of child abuse and/or neglect reports in Illinois based on population

*Child abuse and neglect reports increased 5% statewide in Illinois in 2012

*CASA of Williamson County is assigning three times more children in crisis to trained CASA advocates every year than ten years ago

*** ILLINOIS CHILD ABUSE HOTLINE ***

800-25-ABUSE

DCFS Reports . . .

Child deaths caused by neglect or abuse skyrocketed in 2012, according to end-of-year analysis by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. Neglect or abuse was indicated in the deaths of 90 children in 2012, according to investigations already completed by DCFS, with more than 60 recently reported deaths still under investigation. Indicated child deaths occurred in equal numbers in Chicago, the suburbs, and downstate Illinois; 69 percent of victims never saw their first birthday.

NEW CASA ADVOCATE TRAINING TO BEGAN MARCH 4, 2014

Class began for new advocates March 4, 2014. With the increased numbers of children coming into care we are again needing new volunteers. We are very thankful for each and everyone of our CASAs! Picture of the new CASAs will be posted soon.

New CASAs Fall 2013



Front row from L to R: Vicki H., Retta P., Brad H. Back Row from L to R: Richard B., Logan P., Lonnie M.

Six new CASA advocates were trained on Tuesday and Thursday nights in October and were sworn-in as officers of the court in September. All are ready to take their first case in serving a locally abused or neglected child in need. Throughout their training, they were educated on several important topics to become effective CASAs. Topics

included: domestic violence, poverty, mental illness, substance abuse, the needs of children and families, report writing, juvenile law and more. "CASAs have many responsibilities, but the most important is to help ensure the child is in an appropriate and safe foster home from the start of the case," states CASA Director Cheri Fitts. "We are very fortunate to have these CASAs ready to be assigned to do just that." New CASA Advocate Training will again be offered this spring, and new recruits are currently being sought. Please call the CASA office at 618.998.2291 for information, or check out our website at www.casawilliamsoncounty.com

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