Special points of interest:

Harvey County In-service
March 11 @ noon at the Harvey County Courthouse.

McPherson County In-service
March 25 @ noon
At the CASA Office.

Inside this issue:

National Child Abuse Statistics 2
CEU Options 3
March Calendar 3
Volunteer Statistics 3

You can now complete CEU’s online! Check out our new and improved website to find out how! www.9thcasa.org

Please remember that there are required continuing education hours each year in order to maintain your certification as a volunteer within the CASA and CRB programs: CASA’s need 12 hours & CRB volunteers need 4 hours. Please contact your program coordinator to make arrangements to fulfill these requirements.

Speaking For The Child

The child has no voice
In a world without ears.
So I write about the tears;
I speak for the child.

The child has no choice
In a world that does no choosing.
So I write about the losing;
I speak for the child.

The child lives with loneliness
In a world teaming with night,
So I write about the fright;
I speak for the child.

The child lives with hopelessness
In a world that ransoms learning,
So I write about the yearning;
I speak for the child.

Mary C. Myers

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our new Executive Director Eric Litwiller. Please swing by the CASA office to meet him!

CRB Happenings
CRB held 1 hearing, involving 1 child in February

Find us on Facebook & Twitter!

Facebook.com/9thCASA  Twitter.com/9thCASA
Volunteer Statistics for January

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Busiest CASA’s</th>
<th>Nancy Billings</th>
<th>12 Hours</th>
<th>20 Minutes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Most Miles Driven</td>
<td>Nancy Billings</td>
<td>422 Miles</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Time Spent on Cases</td>
<td>19 Hours</td>
<td>30 Minutes</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Miles Driven:</td>
<td>607 Miles</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Continuing Education Options

Book: A Brother’s Journey: Surviving Childhood Abuse by Richard Pelzer

In this gripping, deeply troubling memoir, a follow-up to his brother David’s bestselling A Child Called It, Pelzer reveals the unyielding suffering he says he experienced at the hands of his depraved mother growing up in the 1970s. Once David, the elder of the two, was removed from the household, the author, by this account, became the target of their mother’s alcohol-induced rage. As Pelzer details his outward struggle to survive—learning to fall asleep with his eyes open, for example—and his internal efforts to understand and rise above his circumstances, he assaults readers with the graphic facts, told in surprisingly matter-of-fact language, about being beaten bloody for falling asleep when he was supposed to be awake, and being forbidden to bathe and forced to eat scraps from a dog bowl. Family members (including Pelzer’s father), neighbors and teachers were aware of the abuse but did nothing to help, and Pelzer credits outsiders, especially his friend Ben, with finally “allowing” him to see himself more clearly.

Movie: White Oleander

White Oleander chronicles the life of Astrid (Alison Lohman), a young teenager who journeys through a series of foster homes after her mother (Michelle Pfeiffer) goes to prison for committing a crime of passion. Set adrift in the world, Astrid struggles to become her own person while coming to terms with the challenges of living life on her own.

Both are available in the CASA Office!

March Calendar

11 Harvey County In-service @ noon with Guest Speaker Duane Graham
14 Pick up CRB Notebooks in Harvey County
17 **St. Patrick’s Day**
19 CRB Hearing Harvey County
25 McPherson County In-service @ noon with Guest Speaker Duane Graham
31 **Easter**
National Child Abuse Statistics

Child Abuse in America
Children are suffering from a hidden epidemic of child abuse and neglect. Every year 3.3 million reports of child abuse are made in the United States involving nearly 6 million children (a report can include multiple children). The United States has the worst record in the industrialized nation – losing five children every day due to abuse-related deaths.

General Statistics

- A report of child abuse is made every ten seconds
  - *More than five children die every day* as a result of child abuse;
  - Approximately 80% of children that die from abuse are under the age of 4;
  - It is estimated that between 50-60% of child fatalities due to maltreatment are not recorded as such on death certificates.
- More than 90% of juvenile sexual abuse victims know their perpetrator in some way.
- Child abuse occurs at every socioeconomic level, across ethnic and cultural lines, within all religions and at all levels of education.
- About 30% of abused and neglected children will later abuse their own children, continuing the horrible cycle of abuse.

http://www.childhelp.org/pages/statistics/
Becoming a CASA or CRB volunteer is an investment of time, energy, and heart. Our volunteers are extraordinary individuals. They are warm, compassionate people who care deeply about the future of children and our society. Even if they have never worked with children or the court system before, our volunteers make a tremendous amount of difference in the lives of children and their families.

A Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) is a trained adult who is appointed by the judge to represent the best interests of a child in court. Most of the children helped by a CASA volunteer are victims of abuse and neglect and are considered “children in need of care”. They provide the judge with a carefully researched view of the child’s current situation to help the court make a sound decision about the child’s future. CASA’s work closely with social workers, attorneys, and other professionals on each case. They also take the time to get to know the child they advocate for and they inform the court how the child feels about the situation and what the child’s wishes are.

The Citizen Review Board (CRB) is a group of concerned, trained citizens who serve as advisors to the judge on selected cases regarding children and juveniles. The CRB periodically reviews the progress of cases where youth have been placed outside of their homes for their own protection (abuse/neglect) or for other reasons (minor offenses or family problems). They review cases, determine the progress that has been made to acquire a permanent home for a child, suggest alternate goals for cases if progress is insufficient, and make recommendations to the presiding judge regarding further actions on the cases.

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a CASA or CRB volunteer, please contact our office for more information.