

Aurora

Batavia

Big Rock

Blackberry

Kaneville

Sugar Grove

Virgil

INC LINKS

South Kane County Townships Working Together

AGENCY HIGHLIGHT – CASA Kane County

CASA Kane County has been serving abused and neglected children since 1988. From the beginning, our mission has been to advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children within the Juvenile Court system. Last year, our 220 Court Appointed Special Advocate/Guardian ad Litem (CASA/GAL) volunteers represented 523 children.

Children in the child welfare system commonly experience changes in their caseworkers, foster homes, schools, etc. The CASA program prevents these children and their needs from falling through the cracks of the system by providing one consistent figure who is solely focused on that child’s case, and remains appointed to the case until it is closed.

The CASA program was designed by a judge who wanted a third-party, objective opinion from a member of the community. All CASA/GAL volunteers go through an intensive 40 hour training program to learn the intricacies of child abuse and neglect, the court process, information gathering and interviewing, and report writing. Four case managers oversee our advocates and each new advocate has a mentor (an experienced CASA) to help guide them with their case.

CASA Kane County believes that all children have the right to a safe, nurturing, permanent home and deserve the support and involvement of their community to make this possible.

Courtney Laverty
Annual Giving Manager

CASA can be contacted at 630-232-4562. You can also visit their website at www.casakanecounty.org.

LYLE E. ONCKEN AWARD PRESENTED



Bruce Conley was presented with a 2009 Lyle E. Oncken Community Service Award on April 25th at a Conley Farm Work Day. Surrounded by his family and friends, Bruce graciously and humbly accepted the honor.

2009-2010 Budgets & Allocations Approved

At its May 18th meeting, the INC Board approved the preliminary Operating and Building Fund budgets for 2009-2010. These will be revised at the July INC Board meeting when year-end figures are available. Program funding to 21 community agencies totaling \$1,270,257 was also approved. The allocations will be available on INC’s website after July 1st at www.incboard.org or by contacting INC staff by phone at 630-892-5456.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Bettye De Ramus and Family Counseling Services Consumer Credit Counseling Program were awarded the President’s Award for the Midwest for their foreclosure prevention efforts. Way to go, Bettye, program staff and Family Counseling Service!

A Balanced Approach

The current fiscal problems, which continue for our nation and state, have also impacted local mental health, developmental disability and substance abuse service systems. Waiting lists, due to increased demand as well as static or reduced funding, are a fact of life. With more people seeking help despite limited resources, unless you or your family members are in crisis, you have to wait.

We have urged our local state legislators to properly fund needed services. Community mental health boards are doing what we can to support our local systems of care. We have advocated for system changes, as well as looking closely at how we choose to use local resources. Every provider and almost every service and program relies on multiple sources of revenue.

Your local mental health authority must take a balanced approach to addressing the needs of the community. In response to local needs, resources are directed to either the most urgent or most numerous of service requests. Often these needs or requests are not, or cannot, be top priorities for other funding entities. Your local 708, 377 or 553 boards fulfill this purpose.

Another major function of your local board is to coordinate and plan for services. In this effort, we get involved in regional and statewide planning, reformation and advocacy on behalf of our residents. This balancing act of function and policy guidance is seldom neat and clear cut. Our roles as your mental health authorities must be flexible enough to accomplish a balanced approach on behalf of the citizens of South Kane who count on us.

We invite you to be part of this process by contacting us to let INC staff know what you think and by taking an active role on one of our seven community mental health boards or the INC Board.

INC ELECTIONS, RENEWALS AND THANKS

INC Board officers were elected on May 18, 2009, as follows:

President - Patricia Kahl (Virgil Township)
Vice President - Mary Speers
Treasurer - Robert Borchert
Secretary - Gayle Wolf

Also elected to the Executive Committee were Kathleen Hooey (Kaneville Township) and James Feece (Blackberry Township).

Pamela Bradley and Patricia Beebee renewed their terms as Directors.

We sincerely thank these and other members of the board who are all residents of south Kane for volunteering their time and expertise.

Ben Limbaugh, a Director since May 2002 and president for the last two years retired from the board. We thank Ben for his participation and leadership and wish him and his family well.

Applications are now being accepted for an at-large vacancy on the INC Board. Please contact Jerry or Marti at 630-892-5456 for details.

RESOURCES

VETERANS: The Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs has an office in the Senior Services offices at 900 N. Lake Street, Suite 205, Aurora. Hours are 8:30 to 4:30 Monday through Friday. Contact Wesley Yi at 630-801-3565.

ADVOCATES NETWORK: Support and advocacy group for families with persons with developmental disabilities. Check them out at www.advocatesnetwork.net.