



# DECEMBER 2017

Dear Friends of Children,

With the holidays close at hand, we turn our attention to give thanks for the incredible journey CAC staff, MDTs and board members have chosen to take; making a difference each day for the children in Illinois. Everyday CACs take on some of the most heinous of all maltreatment cases. They do it with professionalism and competence and collaboration in their teams. Are there bumps in the way? Absolutely, but each day we at CACI, marvel at the incredible volume and activity of the CACs. We have seen almost 11,000 Illinois children thanks to those fine staff and team members who make that difference each day.

You will find in this newsletter information and a pictorial history of our activities and those of our partner CACs. From training and administration, to legislation and networking, CACI commits tremendous energy to capture all that we possibly can to assist the CACs and their efforts with children.

We thank you too, for your generous donations and time to CACI and to CACs. Most especially at this time of the year.

It is an effort by all of us to simply do what is right for the children of Illinois.

Billie Larkin  
CACI Executive Director



**DONATE TO CACI BY CLICKING HERE**

*Your support of our services will truly benefit the  
39 Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs) throughout*

*the state by training and working with MDT members.*

*Children's Advocacy Centers provide a bright light in a part of our society that is often dark and depressing. Let's work together to make sure that we reflect this light to others and continue to challenge ourselves and others to help child victims of abuse become thriving survivors.*

*The 11,000 children that CACs served were trained by our office in forensic interviewing and advocacy, as well as ongoing support to the MDT members.*

*Your one-time gift or monthly pledge is a charitable donation that is deductible.*



**Resumes will be accepted through December 20th, 2017.**

**The Board of Directors of the Children's Advocacy Centers of Illinois (CACI) announces a job search for the position of Executive Director.**

CACI, a membership organization comprised of 39 nationally accredited Children's Advocacy Centers (CAC), is seeking an Executive Director with CAC leadership experience, proven grant success, and business/personnel experience. Candidates with a master's level or above, experience with legislation development and passage, negotiating and networking skills, public relations and marketing skills will be given preference.

Position includes competitive salary, medical and dental insurance, vacation, sick time and retirement. Please send a complete resume, cover letter and the names of four business

# JOB OPENING

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Children's Advocacy Centers of Illinois  
leading • educating • collaborating



### 9th ANNUAL CHAMPIONS OF CHILDREN CONFERENCE REGISTER NOW

Children's Advocacy Centers of Illinois

CHAMPIONS OF  
CHILDREN  
CONFERENCE



If we don't stand up for  
children, then we don't  
stand for much  
-Marian Wright Edelman

March 5-6, 2018 Hyatt Lodge Oak Brook, IL

This two day MDT enrichment conference features

references with address, phone number and email included to [Billie@cacionline.org](mailto:Billie@cacionline.org).

For more information regarding CACI and to see a job description, visit our website by clicking [here](#).

highly regarded speakers in their fields representing each discipline, with four separate tracks for participants to choose from that will best meet their professional development needs.

EarlyBird pricing ends February 1, 2018!!!!

The full brochure, sessions descriptions and registration link can be found [HERE](#).



ON THE CACI STAGE WITH...



Shirley Johnson,  
Executive Director  
Sangamon County  
CAC



I was born and raised in the city of Chicago, 1 of 4 children with an extremely large extended and close knit family. As a teenager, I began getting involved in my community to make changes in policies that I felt did not serve our community well. I began a grassroots newsletter, The Probe, that was distributed (manually) throughout the city so that the residents of the community could stay informed on the laws and actions of our governmental leaders. I continued this activism throughout college and ran for alderman at the age of 23. While, I did not win the election, I learned many valuable lessons that I carry with me today. Following the election, I relocated to Springfield, IL to work for the Illinois Senate. I still had that passion for helping navigate people through the governmental red tape in my community

and saw this as a great avenue to accomplish this task. I loved the work, but was not as pleased with the minimal impact I was having on the lives of others and needed to change course. After completing my Master's degree, I decided that returning to my community roots was where I was meant to be and called to do.

In 2014, I received the privilege of serving as the Executive Director for the Sangamon County CAC and it has been by far the best decision that I have ever made. During my tenure at the CAC, we have survived many changes in staffing and team members, but all of the transition has made us better, stronger and more dedicated to the children and families we serve. In all that we have done, I would say that I am most excited to witness the advance changes that will result from new funding. The increase of resources to change the landscape of our CAC and transport us yet again to another level of excellence for our families.

### If your entire life was a movie, what title would best fit and who would play you?

*If my life were a movie, the title of the movie would be "**The Road Faith Traveled**" and **Deborah Joy Winans** is the actress who would play me in the movie. My entire life has been a faith walk, from losing my biological parents at a young age to the very work that I do right now. My aunt, who has been a mother since the day she stepped into the role, has taught me about the value of uncompromised faith. Each day, it is my faith that guides me and keeps me equipped to lead the most talented MDT in the State of Illinois.*

### What was your dream job when you were a child?

*When I was a child, my dream was to become a US Supreme Court Justice. I loved law and talking, but recognized I had a knack for settling disputes in a reasonable and non-biased manner; a skill that serves me well as the director of a CAC, working within a multidisciplinary team framework.*

### What are the top 3 qualities that draw you to someone new?

*Positivity. Kindness. Passion. I call this the "**Get Anything Done**" cocktail. I have found that working with passionate, positive people who operate out of kind heart can help accomplish any task. They bring an energy that accelerates the project at hand, while being flexible to changes and adjustments along the way.*

### Nachos....what do you put on yours?

*No plate of nachos is complete without a base of refried beans, chicken, steak mixed with lots of sour cream and guacamole.*

### Who is your personal hero and why?

*While it may sound cliché', my mother is my hero. Her strength, love and impeccable character are by far the most inspiring attributes of anyone that I know. My mother has raised us with a solid and unwavering faith that surpasses any other gift that she could give. She has also blessed me with the gift of helping others, despite how I feel about an individual or situation. She taught me to give to others; bless the lives of others and not to be afraid to move over for someone else, these principles guide me daily. She is my hero, my best friend and most trustworthy confidante, without whom I would be lost.*

**What words of wisdom would you pass on to your childhood self?**

*My words of wisdom to my childhood self would be, "trust your guts; you've got razor sharp instincts and a good sense of discernment," girl.*

**What is your go-to dance movie?**

*My go to dance movie is "Mary Poppins" followed up by "Anchors Aweigh" as a close second.*

**How would you describe your day job to a 6 year old child?**

*I am an undercover superhero that works with a group of other superheroes to keep children safe evil villains that try to hurt them. Kind of like Mr. Incredible, when he had to go into the Superhero Relocation Program. That's how I would describe my job to a 6 year old.*

**What is one word that you would use to describe your Sangamon County team?**

*"Superificing!" It may not be a real word to you, but you haven't seen them at work!*



# SAVE THE DATE

LEGISLATIVE DAY

# 04/19/18



grandmother's West Side apartment.

## Torture death of 8-year-old Gizzell Ford leads to \$48M jury award over doctor missteps

For five days, jurors heard how the state's child protection system had repeatedly failed Gizzell Ford, an 8-year-old girl found strangled, starved and brutally beaten inside her

They were "blown away" by crime scene photos and injury details, one juror said, so horrific the judge stopped opening statements in the Daley Center civil case last week after a juror began sobbing uncontrollably. [Continue reading here...](#)



Kim Mangiaracino  
Statewide  
MDT Coordinator



## MDT FACILITATOR TRAINING **DECEMBER 12-13, 2017**

The second session of the MDT Facilitator training just wrapped up! We were so happy to host 13 CAC professionals from Illinois for this two days of networking, learning, and fun.

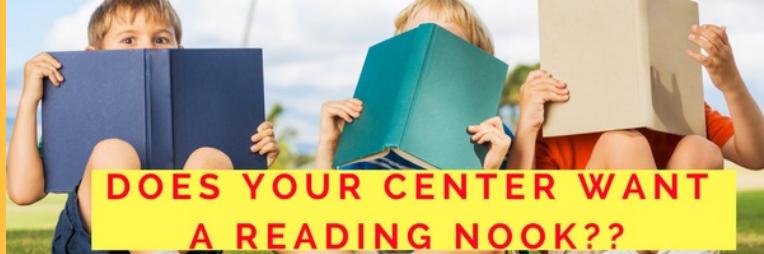
Thanks to Marcia Milliken (pictured below) from the

Minnesota Childrens Alliance  
for co-facilitating this  
important training.



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## 2018 Mystery Donor Reading Nook Request Form

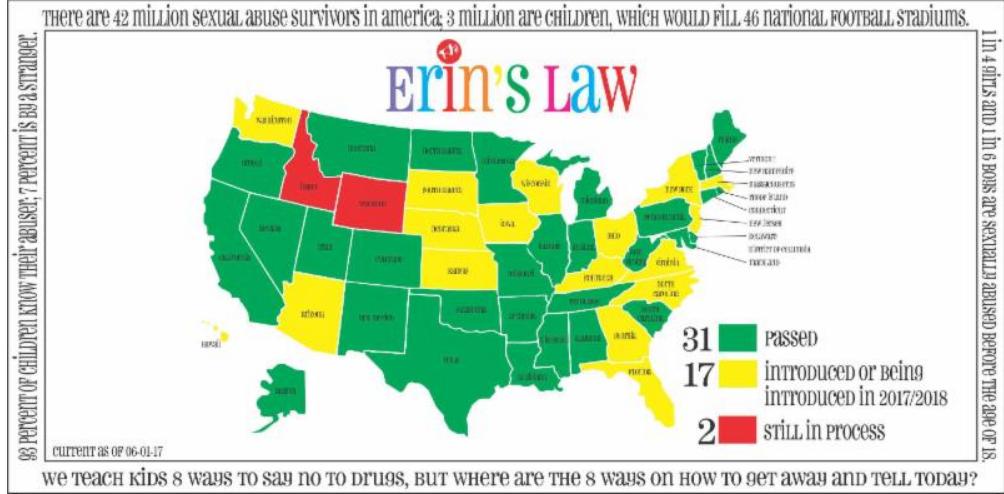


CACI has been contacted by a "mystery donor" who is graciously wanting to donate a reading nook space to a CAC in Illinois. This reading nook space would include books, comfortable seating, and cozy decoration - all to comfort and encourage reading while children and families are waiting at the CAC.

Simply fill out the form [here](#), and email this form to [cara@cacionline.org](mailto:cara@cacionline.org) no later than January 15, 2018.

CACI will pass along applications to the "mystery donor" and the chosen CAC will be notified by February 1.





**Erin Merryn author, activist, and founder of Erin's Law. A law passed in 31 states requiring students be taught personal body safety in school.**

**93% of the time children are sexually abused by someone they know and trust yet parents often only educate children about strangers.**

**Erin's Law has resulted in a Maryland man behind bars for 48 years and an Illinois man behind bars for 40 years due to children coming forward after being taught Erin's Law in school.**

**Erin, author of Stolen Innocence, Living for Today, and An Unimaginable Act, is also on the CACI Board of Directors.**

Please watch the new 5 minute PSA from Erin [HERE](#)



### **THINGS TO REMEMBER**

Monthly reimbursement forms are due by the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month. If the 10<sup>th</sup> falls on a weekend or holiday, reports are due THE FRIDAY BEFORE.

Please continue to use the temporary form until ICJIA provides a revised one.

Site visits have been going well! Thank you to all the CAC's we have visited. Keep up the good work. The new schedule for site visits will be out in January, 2018



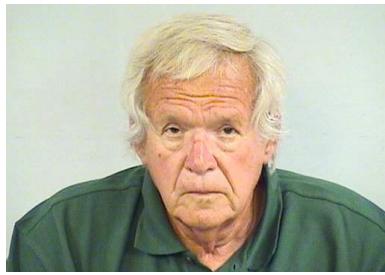
The Annual Advocate Training was held at the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel in Springfield, IL on November 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>.

Beth Olson, Executive Director of First Witness Child Advocacy Center in Duluth, Minnesota spoke on Crisis Intervention and Assessment. The Core Sexual Abuse Treatment Provider for River Bridge Regional Children's Advocacy Center in Glenwood Springs, Colorado Meghan Backofen shared on best assisting non-offending caregivers and Dr. Jennie Barr, Crisis Counselor from Austin, Texas spoke about working with teams. These three dynamic speakers provided phenomenal knowledge to the 53 advocates in attendance.

Thank you for all the CAC's who invested in their advocates for this learning opportunity. Pictures below!

Sincerely,  
Cara





## JUDGE BARS EX-SPEAKER HASTERT FROM BEING ALONE WITH MINORS

CHICAGO (AP) — A federal judge in Chicago on Tuesday ordered that Dennis Hastert never be left alone with anyone under 18 unless another adult is present who is aware of the former U.S. House speaker's conviction in a hush-money case that revealed he had sexually abused several high school students.

[Read more here...](#)



**Family Service Agency**  
*Strengthening Individuals & Families*

Family Service Agency and Children's Advocacy Center of DeKalb congratulate the new Acting Executive Director, Tynisha Clegg.



Tynisha has been with the agency for 10 years, most recently as the Director of Operations for the last 6 years.

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**Crisis Intervention Counselor Needed**

Master's degree in psychology, social work or related mental health field and 4 years experience working with children and/or families, with knowledge of child development, family and abuse dynamics, effects of trauma. This person must be able to work within a multidisciplinary team, and be available for occasional on-call response. Excellent listening, verbal and written communication skills a must. Duties include providing trauma informed response to children and family members as well as brief assessments and short term counseling to help individuals gain sense of safety and prevent further distress. The Crisis Interventionist will meet children and caregivers to determine need for longer term therapy and make appropriate referrals and linkage for those services. Call 422-6294!

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**NEW ADDRESS**  
**304 N. Scott Street, Joliet IL**  
**Phone: (815) 774-4565**

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**Defeat Vicarious Trauma With These 4**

# Crucial Tips for Self-care for CAC Staff

If you regularly work with traumatized children and youth, you will experience vicarious trauma. Full stop.

It's not a question of if it's going to happen, but when. The real question is — what will you do about it? Whether your role is director, program manager, advocate, counselor or office manager, you could experience negative thoughts, emotions and/or physical symptoms as a result of your work. These may come at you unexpectedly and may be crippling if you're not prepared. [Continue reading here...](#)

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