

Hands Around the Courthouse

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month, and this year, in addition to our annual Hands Around the Courthouse ceremony, CASA volunteers and staff created a pinwheel garden consisting of 500 blue pinwheels on the front lawn of the courthouse. The pinwheels were meant to draw attention to the issue of local child abuse and neglect. Each pinwheel symbolized one child who was represented by a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteer in 2010.

This year's Hands Around the Courthouse event was the most well-attended to date. We are grateful to the Exchange Club of the Tri Cities for sponsoring the event, and to Pockets in Aurora for providing lunch for over 100 people. Read more about Pockets on page 6.

During the ceremony, Chief Judge Keith Brown and CASA Kane County Executive Director Gloria Bunce addressed the crowd, speaking about the plight of local children who are living in the foster care system and in need of safe, permanent homes. Afterwards, 13 new CASA volunteers were sworn in by Juvenile Court Judge Clint Hull, who commented that the CASA reports are the first that he reads when preparing for a case.

Over 500 children throughout Kane County rely on their CASA volunteer to provide consistency and to advocate for their best interests. We call our volunteers "everyday heroes" because of the impact that they make in the lives of children. If you are interested in volunteering, please visit www.casakanecounty.org and click "Volunteer".