



Press Release

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Lacing up for 10,500 Reasons

2nd Annual Children's Advocacy Centers of Illinois State Walk

DeKalb, IL – In one month, walkers from across the state of Illinois will lace up for a statewide walk in support of Family Service Agency's Children's Advocacy Center and the Children's Advocacy Centers of Illinois (CACI). The Family Service Agency's Children's Advocacy Center of DeKalb County provides support and advocacy services to children and their non-offending family members who are involved in child abuse investigations. To increase awareness, knowledge, and education, the Children's Advocacy Center is proud is participating in the second annual **Champions for Children Walk**.

"Each walker-each supporter- is a true Champion for Children," explained Billie Larkin, Executive Director of CACI. The 2nd Annual **Champions for Children Walk**, sponsored by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois, will be held on May 14-17, 2009 and will bring awareness to child abuse issues. Additionally, **Champions for Children Walk** will increase knowledge about the services of local Children's Advocacy Centers and the difference these services make in a child's life. The walk will help raise funds through pledges and sponsorships, for the 38 Children's Advocacy Centers in Illinois, which serve 85 of the state's 102 counties.

Walkers are encouraged to lace up and make a difference for our children! In the past year alone, Illinois' Children's Advocacy Centers provided support and service to over 10,500 children. The Children's Advocacy Center of DeKalb County is participating in the **Champions for Children Walk** in order to bring awareness of child abuse to the community and the importance of the services provided at the center as well as the plight of dwindling funds and increasing services.

The **Champions for Children Walk** begins on May 14, 2009 and will conclude on May 17, 2009 in Chicago. With six different walk sites over four days, there is an opportunity for everyone to lace up for children! Numerous walkers are planning on attending each day of the walk as they navigate across the state in support of the Children's Advocacy Center of DeKalb County, CACI and the children of Illinois.

Governor Pat Quinn will serve as the 4-Day Walk Grand Marshall and Erwin McEwen, director of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, serves as honorary chair for the **Champions for Children Walk**. For more information and to register for this exciting event, please visit www.cacionline.org.

Family Service Agency of DeKalb County is a premier social service agency, providing support to

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individuals and families throughout the lifecycle. Family Service Agency is comprised of five distinct departments – Big Brothers Big Sisters, Center for Counseling, Child Life & Family Education, Children’s Advocacy Center and Senior Services Center. A host of programs are available through these departments, and all services are provided by experienced professionals.

Family Service Agency of DeKalb County accepts insurance, and scholarship and reduced fees are available for those who qualify. In some instances, services can be provided at no cost to the client. Family Service Agency’s main office is located at 14 Health Services Drive, and satellite offices are located in DeKalb and Sandwich. Family Service Agency is a Kishwaukee United Way Agency. For more information about the services at Family Service Agency call 815-758-8616, 815-786-7079 in Sandwich, or visit their website at www.realsolutionstoday.org.

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