

By KANE COUNTY CHRONICLE

Executive director runs in marathon for CASA

Gloria Bunce, executive director of CASA Kane County, ran in the inaugural Fox Valley Marathon last Sunday to raise awareness and money for CASA Kane County.

CASA is a local nonprofit organization whose mission is to advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children within the juvenile court system. Last year, 215 Court Appointed Special Advocate – CASA – volunteers represented 538 abused and neglected children throughout Kane County.

There are more than 1,000 CASA programs nationwide, and CASA Kane County ranks among the top 10 percent of those programs in terms of the number of children served each year, according to a recent news release.

Last month, Bunce sent letters to her family, friends and colleagues asking them to support her participation in the marathon by helping to raise money for CASA. To date, she has raised more than \$5,000 and the checks are still coming. CASA Kane County does not receive state or federal funding, and must rely on donations from local foundations, businesses and individuals.

"I have always loved running," Bunce said in the release. "It gives me a great sense of peace and serenity. When I chose to run this year's inaugural marathon in St. Charles, I had a greater purpose to do it for the organization that I represent, CASA Kane County.

"My wish and hope after this race was to encourage others who have passion within them to do a little something more to make a difference. Everyone can do something, and regardless of how little or big you may think it is, the important thing is that you did it."

Several members of the CASA staff were at the race to cheer on their boss as she crossed the finish line.

"Watching all of these runners cross the finish line has inspired me to start challenging myself," said Courtney Lavery, CASA Kane County's manager of annual giving, in the release.

If you are interested in learning more about the CASA program in Kane County, including how to volunteer, visit www.casakanecounty.org.

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