

The Poshard Foundation for Abused Children

John A. Logan College - 700 Logan College Drive - Carterville, IL 62918 - 618-985-2828 ext. 8564



Jo Poshard
*Executive
Director*

Glenn Poshard
Founder

Frances Gilliam
Treasurer

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The Poshard Foundation, Carbondale Park District's Super Splash Park and Illinois DCFS Team Up to Promote Water Safety, Prevent Drowning

CARBONDALE, Ill. – The Poshard Foundation, the Carbondale Park District and Illinois DCFS team up at the brand new outdoor aquatic center, which officially opens Memorial Day weekend, to build awareness and educate the public on water safety.

The press conference is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. on Friday, May 27 at the Carbondale Super Block, 625 Lewis Lane, Carbondale, Illinois. Please gather at the main entrance of the bath house.

“The Carbondale Park District is honored to assist Illinois DCFS and the Poshard Foundation to provide the citizens of Southern Illinois with information about water safety,” says Kathy Renfro, executive director of the Carbondale Park District. Teaching people how to recreate safely is an integral part of the District’s mission.”

“We are honored to help support the aquatic center and Illinois DCFS with such an important message,” said Glenn and Jo Poshard. “We have dedicated our lives to building a stronger community in Southern Illinois and believe that the water park’s education series will teach children and their caregivers best practices that will save lives.”

“We are excited to partner with Super Splash Water Park to alert the public to always be vigilant about water safety,” said DCFS Director George H. Sheldon. “An alarming fact is that a child can drown in seconds, in silence and in as little as an inch of water, so that’s why it’s imperative that we work together to keep children and others safe around water.”

In 2015, 16 Illinois children under the age of 18 lost their lives due to accidental drowning: seven in pools; two in ponds; three in lakes; three in flood waters and one in a river. All of the children who drowned in pools were under the age of five. Self-closing, self-locking gates, alarms and other types of warning sensors can go a long way in protecting children, but are not a substitute for constant supervision. Toddlers have also been known to drown in large buckets used in home improvement projects so it is extremely important to empty buckets and turn them over when they are not in use.

To download the audio public service announcements in English or Spanish, click here: [Audio PSA](#)

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Media Contacts:

Veronica Resa

312-814-8436

Veronica.Resa@Illinois.gov

Jennifer Florent

217-524-1970

Jennifer.Florent@Illinois.gov

Media Note: If inclement weather, press conference will move inside with backdrop of pool.

The Poshard Foundation was chartered 16 years ago as an all volunteer-based public charitable organization with donations coming from individuals and businesses. The Foundation's vision is to heal abused children physically and emotionally and to stop the abuse of children. They provide funding for children in crisis when other funds were not available. Whether it is for car seats, counseling, or special medical equipment for the examination of sexually abused children, the Foundation bridges the gap when possible.

Illinois DCFS receives, investigates and acts upon a report of child abuse or neglect every five minutes. Tens of thousands of children are safer thanks to those who call our Child Abuse hotline, 1-800-25-ABUSE (1-800-252-2873) each year. Working together, we can ensure a safe, loving home and brighter future for every child.

The Super Splash Water Park is a member of the Illinois Association of Park Districts, a nonprofit service, research and education organization that serves park districts, forest preserves, conservation, municipal park and recreation and special recreation agencies. The association advances these agencies, their citizen board members and professional staff in their ability to provide outstanding park and recreation opportunities, preserve natural resources and improve the quality of life for all people in Illinois.

The Carbondale Super Splash Water Park will open for its inaugural summer season at 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 28, 2016. For more information about fees and passes, visit www.cpkd.org.

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