



November 30, 2016

## Peoria Riverfront Museum Opens Doors to Children in Care of Illinois DCFS Thanks to Generous Donor

**WHEN:** Saturday, December 3, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. (doors open at 5:15 p.m.)

**WHAT:** Children and youth in care are invited to a private viewing of the Holiday Classic: The Polar Express 3D

**WHERE:** Peoria Riverfront Museum  
200-248 SW Washington St, Peoria, Illinois

**Contact:** Pamela Perrilles  
On-site cell number: 309-370-3047

Approximately 160 Peoria-area CASA children and their caregivers, youth in care and children from the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Peoria are invited a free private viewing of The Polar Express at the Peoria Riverfront Museum, thanks to a generous donation from Greg and Lori Birkland. Hot chocolate will be provided and Santa will make a special appearance to visit with the children, who will be dressed in their PJs or favorite Polar Express character.

“CASA of Peoria County is excited to partner with Illinois DCFS to kick off the holiday season and challenge the local community to consider becoming a foster parent or CASA Volunteer,” said Pamela Perrilles, executive director, CASA of Peoria County. We served over 300 children last year and we could use everyone’s help in 2017 to make lives better for area abused and neglected children.

“It’s times like this when we realize we all have something to offer to make life better for area youth in care, whether that be mentoring, helping with homework or becoming a foster parent for a child who is longing for a forever family,” said Cathy Smith, DCFS regional administrator.

**Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Peoria County** is a nonprofit, volunteer organization that has been advocating for the best interests of abused and neglected children within the juvenile abuse and neglect court system since 2005. Its existence is based on the belief that every child has the right to a safe and permanent home allowing them the chance to reach their full potential in life. CASA volunteers provide consistency to the children during their case, submit reports to the judge prior to all court hearings and make certain that the child's best interests are represented. These volunteers are every day heroes; people just like you who have chosen to speak up for a child. To find out more, visit: [www.casapeoria.org](http://www.casapeoria.org).

**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 (252-2873) each year. Working together, we can ensure a safe, loving home and brighter future for every child. To learn more, visit [www.DCFS.illinois.gov](http://www.DCFS.illinois.gov).

**This event is presented by CASA of Peoria County in partnership with Illinois DCFS**

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