



June 1, 2009

Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm Systems
1701 E. Main Street
Urbana, IL 61802
ATTN: Mr. Jim Young

Dear Jim:

I am writing to thank ILEAS for supporting the **2009 Champions for Children Walk**. Because of your generosity, we were able to provide bottled water to the six walk sites around the state of Illinois.

The Walk began on Thursday, May 14th, at three sites around Illinois. Seventy-five walkers joined me and our Case Manager, Elaine Carter, in Charleston that morning. At the same time, walks were held in Belleville and Quincy. We were blessed with abundant sunshine throughout the 8-mile trek in Charleston.

The weather on the second day of the Walk appeared ominous, but the skies cleared just in time for the kick-off at the State Capitol. Following a welcoming speech by Department of Children & Family Services Director Erwin McEwen, we were given a rousing send-off by a children's choir from Springfield's Lincoln Magnet Middle School.

Among the 100 walkers in Springfield were Champaign County Court Reporter Joni Markel and her friends, Peg Loop of Sidell and Kim Cochrane of Pawnee. Joni, Peg and Kim wore shirts emblazoned with "**Miles for Macey**" in honor of Joni's great niece, Macey Duewer, who died in February 2004 at the age of 10 months as a result of child abuse. Following her niece's death, Joni went to Springfield to fight for legislation to require education in junior high schools regarding Shaken Baby Syndrome and for enhanced penalties for those who harm children under 10 years of age. **A special "Thank You" to Joni, Peg and Kim!**



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201 W. Kenyon Road, Suite 1 • Champaign, IL 61820 • Phone: 217.384.1266 • Fax: 217.344.1214

On Saturday, May 16th, we gathered under cool, sunny skies in Dixon for the third stage of the Walk. The Shining Star Children's Advocacy Center did an amazing job – putting together a team of over 300 walkers and raising more than \$50,000!

The Walk concluded in Chicago on Sunday, May 17th. We were joined by Governor Pat Quinn at DePaul University and walked 8 miles along the beautiful north shore of Lake Michigan. Again, we were blessed with abundant sunshine.

If you would like to see photos from the Walk, please visit our website at www.co.champaign.il.us/cac.

I had a great time walking again this year and I am already looking forward to next year. The Walk is a tremendous opportunity to highlight the important work done by Children's Advocacy Centers around the state and to support the amazing work being done right here in our own community. Because of everyone's generosity, we raised over \$3,800 to support the work we do with abused children and their families at the Champaign County Children's Advocacy Center.

Since 2002, more than 1,600 children have been interviewed at the Champaign County Children's Advocacy Center in connection with investigations of child abuse. Without the Children's Advocacy Center and the work of our partner agencies, those children and hundreds more of their family members might not have received the healing, supportive services they needed.

Again, thank you for supporting the *2009 Champions for Children Walk* and the Champaign County Children's Advocacy Center. ILEAS is truly a *Champion for Children!*

Sincerely,



Michael B. Williams
Executive Director