

# The Guardian Bulletin

Published quarterly for the Guardian ad Litem Volunteers of the 29<sup>th</sup> Judicial District of North Carolina  
Fall 2010



## From the Administrator's Desk....

*It's hard to believe fall has arrived, most of the year is behind us, and it is already time for us to begin working on our annual Santa Star project. Despite the craziness involved in collecting and distributing the gifts for Santa Star, it is a project we love and enjoy doing. I hope each of you participate by filling out the forms, returning them on time, and get to enjoy bringing your clients their Christmas gifts. Having had the pleasure of delivering some gifts the past few years, I can assure you the looks on our children's faces when they receive their gifts is worth every minute of your time that goes into the Santa Star project! For many of these children, it will be the best Christmas they have ever had.*

*I am so appreciative of all you do for the children of our District and hope you realize how special each of you are for being an advocate for a child. To be sure, the work is frustrating, and most often quite sad, but it can also be very rewarding when we see a child gain permanence and safety in their lives at such an important time in the developmental process.*

*I hope everyone has a wonderful fall season and as always, please do not hesitate to contact us here in the office if we can help with anything at all.*

*Michael Gilmore*

***"The destiny of all of us is, the keeping of each of us."***

***Jim Casey***

## **New Volunteers** \_\_\_\_\_

We welcome the following new volunteers who were sworn in during the month of October

### Polk County

Ernest Gianini

Robert Orr

Jim Wright

Jurgan Forester

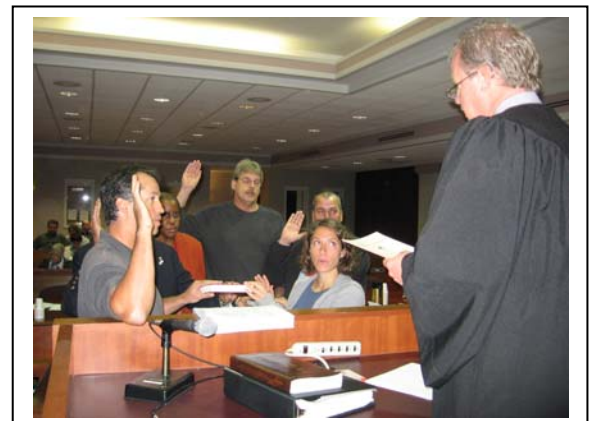
### Henderson County

Laurie Nebiker

Michael White

Audrey Yatras

Ron Wagner





## **GAL SPOTLIGHT**

### ***JIM GENSCH***

In 2004, while attending the Apple Festival in Hendersonville. I came upon a booth displaying Guardian Ad Litem information, which peaked my interest. I spoke with the people there and asked a lot of questions. Needless to say, I joined, went to class, started in November.

As I look back at my time with GAL, it has been very rewarding. I feel I have had a positive effect on the lives of many children. It is always beneficial, when possible, to be assigned to a case at the 7 day hearing when the process begins. The most important job of a GAL is the investigation. The more you know, the better insight you have into the family.

We are the impartial voice in the court system. We speak for the child. The greatest satisfaction I have felt is in seeing a child placed in a secure, safe environment. That is worth all the frustration you sometimes feel.

Jim Gensch  
Transylvania County

*We have several cases in Henderson County who need a Guardian ad Litem Volunteer. Please contact Melissa or Stephanie if you have time and would be willing to take another case.*



### SANTA STAR 2010

It's hard to believe but Christmas is just around the corner! The Guardian ad Litem Program is gearing up now to make this years Santa Star Program the most successful ever. We need you, our volunteers, to help in making sure that each of the children we serve has the most memorable and joyful Christmas ever! Below are some important dates that you need to know to help make sure that we can make Christmas a wonderful time for our children:

November 12, 2010- All Santa Star "Wish Lists" due back in the GAL Office

November 17, 2010-"Santa Stars" can start being picked up in the Guardian ad Litem Office

December 8, 2010-All gifts due back in the Guardian ad Litem Office

December 10, 2010-Guardian ad Litem Wrapping Party at the Guardian ad Litem Office starting at 10:00. Lunch will be provided for all who help!!

December 17, 2010-All gifts to be picked up and delivered.

While we try to teach our children all about life,  
Our children teach us what life is all about.

~Angela Schwindt

### Upcoming Court Dates

#### Henderson County

November 4<sup>th</sup>  
November 10<sup>th</sup>  
November 18<sup>th</sup>  
December 2<sup>nd</sup>  
December 9<sup>th</sup>  
December 16<sup>th</sup>

#### Transylvania County

November 15<sup>th</sup>  
November 17<sup>th</sup>  
December 13<sup>th</sup>  
December 15<sup>th</sup>

#### Polk County

November 2<sup>nd</sup>  
November 16<sup>th</sup>  
December 7<sup>th</sup>

As some of you may know one of our beloved Henderson County GAL's, Joe Vojtanek, was diagnosed with colon cancer during this past summer. Joe had a very successful surgery but still required chemotherapy. All of Joe's family reside in Chicago and knowing that he would need help during his chemo Joe decided it best to return to his "home" in Chicago. Joe keeps in contact with us here at the office on a regular basis and he tells us that he would love to hear from everyone here. He said he would love to receive cards, letters and emails. Please drop him a line if you have time.

Joe Vojtanek  
5753 West 129<sup>th</sup> St. Apt. 6  
Crestwood, IL 60445

His email address is:

UnkleJoe51@comcast.net

### *October and November Birthdays*

Helen Ver Strate  
Virginia Reis  
Kim Cathers  
Martha Sexton  
Bill Folwell  
Michael Gilmore  
Miriam Plexico  
Laurie Nebiker  
Ron Wagner  
Gail Muir

*Happy Birthday to each of you!*

The Guardian ad Litem Office will be closed  
On November 11<sup>th</sup> for the Veterans Day  
Holiday and also on November 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>  
for the Thanksgiving Holiday.