

Guardian ad Litem News

October 2008

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New Program Supervisor's Focus is Recruitment

Laura Meeks Elmore joined the Guardian ad Litem (GAL) staff on June 23, 2008. Laura grew up in Harnett County and still has family here. She began her career 21 years ago at Harnett County Department of Social Services as a Child Protective Services Social Worker. Laura's main focus will be recruitment. She will be working in all three counties to increase the number of volunteers for each county. Laura attended "12 Steps to Successful Volunteer Recruitment" with GAL Program staff from other districts in Raleigh on August 5th and 6th to learn many successful strategies for recruitment.

The most important thing she learned is that "word of mouth" is the most successful tool for promoting anything. That makes the current volunteers our best asset for endorsing the GAL Program. So please, encourage anyone that you feel would be an advocate for our children to contact the GAL Program at 910-814-4690. Also, if you are aware of any opportunities in your communities that we could use to promote the GAL Program, please make us aware of them.

Please calculate your mileage at \$.505 a mile.



And remember travel forms are due no later than 30 days after the end of the month.



Back row: Laura Elmore, Heather Phillips. Middle row: John Lewis, Rene Singletary, Kelly Andrews and Mickey Skipper. Seated: Jean Harwell, instructor, and Cynthia Scruggs.

Court Dates



Please note the following court dates on your calendar. Remember – Court Reports are due 2 weeks prior to the court date. This is crucial in order to give office staff time to review reports in case of clarification needs or questions, especially in case you will not be able to attend court.

Johnston County -	10/8, 10/15, 10/16, 10/22, 10/29, 10/30 11/5, 11/12, 11/13, 11/19, 11/26 12/3, 12/4, 12/10, 12/17, 12/18, 12/31
Harnett County -	10/10, 10/17/ 10/24, 10/31 11/7, 11/14, 11/21 12/5, 12/12, 12/19
Lee County -	10/7, 10/21 11/4, 11/18 12/9

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!!



September

<i>Cara Domer</i>	2
<i>Ricardo Jimenez</i>	6
<i>Pamela Beck</i>	23
<i>Sara Messer</i>	16
<i>Janice Allen</i>	18
<i>Karen Benson</i>	18
<i>Mary George Narron</i>	18
<i>Chevonne Wallace</i>	20
<i>Lynn Chamberlin</i>	20
<i>Dana Harris</i>	21
<i>Bill Stephens III</i>	24

October

<i>Wes McGee</i>	1
<i>William Hillman</i>	4
<i>Tammy Thompson</i>	9
<i>Marcella Schelhammer</i>	24
<i>Shanekqua Gill</i>	25
<i>Sara Moerbe</i>	31

November

<i>Daciah Jones</i>	7
<i>Cameka Currie</i>	28

December

<i>Jennifer Little</i>	8
<i>Adam Cheatham</i>	9
<i>Holly Lockamy</i>	22
<i>Ann Holmes</i>	23
<i>Holly Little</i>	25
<i>Joyce Oliver</i>	30

GAL SPOTLIGHT



Congratulations to Ricardo Jimenez for being interviewed by *Carolina del Norte* about his volunteer work with the GAL Program. *Carolina del Norte* is one of the largest Spanish periodicals in North Carolina. Great job, Ricardo, keep up the good work!

Congratulations to Lynn Oliver for serving as our representative on the NC GAL Volunteer Advisory Committee and for all her positive feedback.

If you know of any GAL volunteers that deserve to have the spotlight shown on them, please let us know.

WELCOME ABOARD!



The following GAL Volunteers were sworn in:

Linda Froiland
 Margie Howell
 Ursula Jones
 Beverly Lee
 Josephine Lee
 Holly Little
 Sara Moerbe
 Joan Richardson
 Candi Schiller
 Meera Al-Henaey
 Harvey Blanchard
 Lynn Chamberlin
 Wes McGee
 Marcella Schelhammer
 Maria Tyndall
 Larry Upchurch

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

Volunteer Appreciation celebrations were held throughout our district in the month of September in recognition of volunteers' hard work throughout the year. The volunteers were presented with a meal and gift for their dedication to the children. We want all of our volunteers to know how important you are to us and to the children we represent. We cannot do this job without you.

A Special thanks to Chief Judge Albert A. Corbett, Jr. and Judge O. Henry Willis for attending the GAL Volunteer Appreciation and offering words of support and advice to the volunteers. Thank you to First Presbyterian Church in Smithfield for the use of the Parlor Room for Volunteer Appreciation and for training.



Lee County: Denese Morris, Adam Cheatham and Laura Elmore, Program Supervisor. Not Pictured: Herman Morris, Pamela Beck and Martha Lucas



Johnston County: 1st row: Tom Lee, Patricia Harris, Lanie Woodard, Barbara Steiner, Donna Pierce, Jo Lee, Linda Froiland, Joan Richardson, Beverly Lee. 2nd row: Chief Dist. Court Judge Andy Corbett, Cara Domer, Karen Benson, William Hillman, Bill Stephens, Julia Stephens, Meg Scovil, Shanekqua Gill, & John Webster, Program Supervisor. Not pictured: Ann Holmes



Congratulations to John Webster! Judge Resson Faircloth presented John with his 10 year award on 9-24-08. John actually has 17 years of work experience but unfortunately only 10 years were recognized by AOC. Many thanks to John for his excellent work.



Harnett County: Lynn Chamberlin, Peggy Thomas, Elaine Miller, Joyce Oliver, Larry Upchurch, Judge Willis, Harvey Blanchard, Marcella Schelhammer and Vivian Holmes, Program Assistant.



Congratulations to Marie and Dustin Mobley who are expecting a son on December 26, 2008.

Marie is our Attorney Advocate in Johnston County.

Congratulations to Martha Lucas, GAL volunteer on the upcoming birth of her second child.

Our deepest sympathy to Shirley Thomas Bain and children Neil Bain II and Elizabeth Hollowell on the loss of Rev. Dr. Neil H. Bain. Neil served as a GAL volunteer since 4-11-03 and he will be greatly missed by all of us.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

First, if you have a group home that is being considered for one of our child clients, you may want to review their violations history (and you may wish to monitor the group home while the child is placed there). Here is the web site for the agency. It has a new name, now called the Division of Health Service Regulation, formerly called the Division of Facility Services:
<http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dhst/>

You can call 919-855-3795 and let the person who answers the call, anyone can help you, know the specific group home you wish to know about. Ask for the Violations report for that group home and they will tell you. If you need an email copy, ask them to email you the copy. This web site also has the information if you wish to file a complaint about a group home and has a list of facilities that are locked facilities (commitments) and a host of other good information.

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