



The mission of the Guardian Ad Litem program is to provide trained independent advocates to represent and promote the best interest of abused, neglected or dependent children involved in the court and work toward a plan that ensures that these children are in a safe permanent home.

# GUARDIAN AD LITEM NEWSLETTER

## *GAL Celebrates Al Harrell 10 years service!*



Al Harrell has been a Guardian ad Litem volunteer for 10 years as of September 2003. Al, a retired Coast Guard Base Commander after 33 years of military service, has always been involved with community service. While very active with GAL – he currently is appointed to 22 children between New Hanover and Pender counties – Al has also sat on the Coastal Horizons Advisory Board, was a founding member of our local GAL Association, has mentored numerous new GAL volunteers and assists with training. Al has been instrumental in achieving permanence for easily over 75 children over these 10 years. He has remained a stalwart advocate for services, permanence and stability among our community children. As his supervisor (Liz) I must say that Al never loses sight of the children; I have known of teens who have called him when they are thinking of running away. In addition, anyone who has spent time with Al appreciates his great sense of humor, which he readily shares. For all his many skills and talents, District 5 is well served in having the commitment of Al Harrell. A special GAL Salute to you Al! Thanks!!

### **GAL - New Office- Open House**

As you all now know the GAL office moved into space at the courthouse during the week of October 6<sup>th</sup>. We are planning an open house on Monday, January 12<sup>th</sup> from 2-4 p.m. Please come by to see and enjoy our new space. Light refreshments will be served.

We are very pleased with our new space for numerous reasons, not the least of which is access to an elevator to get our suitcase to court on Thursdays. Many people—including our judges – were instrumental in helping make the space all we've needed it to be. Max Maxwell, county engineer, spent a lot of time discussing our needs and working to meet them. Jane Stearns designed the office layout. And, astounding, generous and irrepressible volunteers: Wendy Smith and Suzanne Barham, helped us organize, pack and unpack! We appreciate this support of our program and are very happy to be in our home!

Please note the move required that we change phone and fax numbers. You can now reach us at:

**Pat (public line) 341-1515**

[patricia.s.wilhite@nccourts.org](mailto:patricia.s.wilhite@nccourts.org)

**Liz – 341-1516**

[liz.k.jones@nccourts.org](mailto:liz.k.jones@nccourts.org)

**Leslie – 341-1517**

[leslie.wilder@nccourts.org](mailto:leslie.wilder@nccourts.org)

**Laura – 341-1518**

[laura.wallace@nccourts.org](mailto:laura.wallace@nccourts.org)

**Frannie – 341-1519**

[frances.sweeney@nccourts.org](mailto:frances.sweeney@nccourts.org)

**FAX: 341-1510**

The e-mail addresses have not changed.

**Remember –  
Visit and speak to  
your children  
each and every month.**

### **Gingerbread Tree for Foster Children In GAL Office**

The Guardian ad Litem Association (GALA) has coordinated efforts with GAL staff and DSS to allow a gingerbread tree to be placed in the GAL office. The tree dons paper gingerbread children with the first names, ages and wish lists of foster children of New Hanover County. By Thanksgiving, all children's names had been selected off the tree. Thanks to everyone who participated in this event with us.

Live so that your children can tell their children that you not only stood for something wonderful, you acted on it. Dan Zadra

### **Training News**

**Next volunteer training begins in January 2004. If you know of interested people, have them call us please.**

**Upcoming In-Service Training "Confidentiality: Knowing your Limits" with Attorney Advocates coming soon in 2004.**

## GAL 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference Celebrate the Stars That means YOU!

Twenty-one District 5 volunteers and staff attended the Celebration Anniversary Conference in Durham, NC on October 24-25. Our district was proudly represented among districts with high attendance for the event. Newly -appointed and 10-year veteran volunteers of our local program joined to together to occupy two full tables at the conference with approximately 550 attendees overall. Our very own Laura Wallace handmade the exquisite table decorations with Durham supervisor, Melissa Love. The banquet was a meteor shower of beautiful stars recognizing all the volunteers around the state.

With 42 different workshops to chose from over a mere day-and-a-half, there was more than plenty to absorb on topics from: the impact of trauma on the child's brain; reactive attachment disorder; substance abuse; domestic violence; and working with teens.



Above: Frances Parker, Jan Meads, Rosemary Davino, Laura Wallace, Dot Spencer, Kaye Dickey, Betsy Riviere, Denny Smith



Below: Ruthe Sublett, Heather Wren, Helen Marotto, Liz Kachris-Jones, Linda Warden, Nina McGee, Judy Hartz, Staci Averv, Shirlev Hart Berry

Q. How should I respond when a parent asks me if they need an attorney and who should they call?  
A. GAL volunteers don't want to be in the position of offering legal advice, others could then turn blame on you if the case outcome isn't what they wanted. This holds true for recommending a particular attorney as well. The volunteer's role is to promote the best interest of the child; legal questions should be left to the court.

Q. Should I tell the child's foster parent about issues being addressed in therapy if the foster parent intends to adopt?  
A. No, sharing any information you obtain through confidential means, remains confidential. The therapist should decide with the child-client what, when and if any issues should involve the foster parent.

Q. My child's mother has already had her parental rights terminated, the therapist asked me to help with the process of locating the mother, should I do this?  
A. No, if the therapist feels this is appropriate for therapy then that is service provision, which is not the GAL role. Also, the GAL is to promote achieving a permanent plan: finding a parent who has already had rights terminated is not consistent with this mission.

Q. What should I do if I am served with a subpoena for civil or criminal court hearing regarding my involvement in a GAL case?

A. First, call the GAL office and talk to your program supervisor. We need to be informed of the subpoena, due to your role as a GAL, regardless of whether the case is open or closed. Civil and criminal cases are held in open court and therefore testimony is not protected by confidentiality. You do not want to be in a position of violating the confidentiality required in a GAL case, even if it closed. The program staff and attorney advocate can instruct you how to respond in these court situations.

### New Multiple Response System (MRS) to Bring Changes to New Hanover DSS

North Carolina has the highest child abuse and neglect substantiation rate in the nation. This has caused state leaders to adopt what is being referred to as "a new, old way" of addressing CPS reports and subsequent services throughout the state. The process is called Multiple Response System (MRS). It is intended to focus on family strengths and involve families and community more comprehensively in addressing issues of neglect. New Hanover County is in the next group of counties to implement MRS before the entire state is on board by 2005. New Hanover County, with the third highest rate of children in DSS' legal custody will begin full implementation in January 2004. As MRS is initiated the structure and staffing of cases will likely change. GAL staff has participated in an introductory meeting regarding the MRS initiative. We plan to offer in-service training early (Feb- Mar) 2004 to learn about how the changes at DSS affect GAL efforts and the children we serve.

### Questions? Answers.



## COURT ROUNDUP

### GAL Statistics Jul - Oct 2003 (four month period)

#### **New Hanover County:**

- 53 new petitions representing 76 children, of these 27 have now been assigned to volunteers.
- 7 petitions on 12 children were dismissed.
- 57 cases closed representing 92 children.
- 8 TPR hearings representing 11 children were scheduled. 7 were completed.
- 5 TPR petitions were filed.
- 10 adoption petitions were filed for adoption of 16 children.
- 88 adjudications/ dispositions were scheduled; 54 were completed.
- 443 court hearings were scheduled, 375 were completed (~85%).
- 12 new volunteers were sworn in

As of October 31, 2003 there were 265 GAL cases representing 441 children. Of these, 175 cases (this number is down) representing 302 children (this number is up) are represented by volunteers.

#### **Pender County:**

- 9 new petitions representing 20 children, all have been assigned to volunteers.
- 3 petitions representing 9 children were dismissed.
- 5 cases closed representing 14 children.
- 1 TPR hearing representing 3 children was scheduled and completed.
- 2 TPR petitions on 6 children were filed.
- 0 adoption petitions were filed.
- 11 adjudications/ dispositions were scheduled; 8 were completed.
- 41 court hearings were scheduled, 33 were completed (~80%).
- 0 new volunteers were sworn in.

As of October 31, 2003 there were 28 GAL cases representing 45 children. All children are represented by Pender volunteers in the GAL program.

### Court Report Update

Once your case has had a Permanency Planning hearing, all subsequent hearings are now called *Permanency Planning Review* hearings, please label your reports accordingly. Previously, these hearings were simply called "Review" hearings. Also, if a case has had a *Termination of Parental Rights* (TPR) granted, the file number changes to the number on the TPR petition. Please use this new number on your court report.

*A child's life is like a piece of paper on which every passerby leaves a mark*  
-Chinese Proverb

### GAL On-line News

Please remember to inform Pat if you change your email address.



### Info on the Web

[www.preventchildabusenc.org](http://www.preventchildabusenc.org)

Prevent Child Abuse NC  
1-800-354-KIDS

[www.preventchildabuse.org](http://www.preventchildabuse.org)

Prevent Child Abuse America

[www.childrensdefense.org](http://www.childrensdefense.org)

Children's Defense Fund

[www.childadvocacy.org](http://www.childadvocacy.org)

National Association of Child Advocates

[www.ncchild.org](http://www.ncchild.org)

NC Child Advocacy Institute

[www.cwla.cn](http://www.cwla.cn)

Child Welfare League of America

[www.nccourts.org/citizens/GAL](http://www.nccourts.org/citizens/GAL)

GAL Home Page. Also case summaries can be located at the above address by clicking on the heading resources for attorneys.

[www.davethomasfoundationforadoption.org](http://www.davethomasfoundationforadoption.org)

Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption

[www.adoptuskids.org](http://www.adoptuskids.org)

website sponsored by National Adoption Center and US Department of Health and Human Services

[www.nccovenant.org](http://www.nccovenant.org)

legislative lobbying for NC children

[www.dhhs.state.nc.us/dss/onlinemanualsandforms](http://www.dhhs.state.nc.us/dss/onlinemanualsandforms)

DSS manuals and policies can be found on this NC Department of Health and Human Services website.

### Understanding LINKS

#### Fall 2003 In-service

On September 8<sup>th</sup>, 32 GAL volunteers participated in an in-service training to

learn about the efforts being made to assist teens in developing independent living skills through the LINKS funding program. DSS Supervisor Linda Huffman, social worker Mary Daunais, along with three young people who served as panelists, served as presenters in the program.

The synopsis below highlights the discussion. More information is available from GAL Program Supervisors.

- LINKS is available to youth aged 13-21
- Assists with networking for families, mentors,
- Funds can be accessed for employment readiness, education, financial assistance, and life skills
- Eligibility criteria: child was in foster, group, or relative care for at least 1 day after age 13.
- All counties have access to LINKS funds
- Adopted youth are also eligible
- Counties receive allocation based on the number of children in DSS care.

LINKS is outcome-based. It is intended to provide economic resources to meet daily living needs of young adults through: job readiness skills, vocational testing and training, job coaching, driver education, budget training, personal safety, accessing housing, accessing social resources, tutoring, incentives for school success, school mentors, establishing personal support systems through cultural, volunteer experiences and re-exploring birth families are some of the examples given. Also avoidance of illegal or high-risk behavior; youth postponing parenthood and providing access to physical and mental health services.

There is no referral process, just inform the child's social worker about a need and situation.

Among the most compelling part of our evening were the words of the young panelists. When asked, "What can a GAL do for you?" A resounding and emphatic reply: LISTEN to what teens have to say. These young people expressed that kids have problems and think that adults don't care. Further it was suggested that teens be allowed to have input and give feedback on a plan for them, check-in [with them] - foster kids put up walls, be willing to wait (to get responses and rapport). Let them [teens] know you volunteer and that you keep confidentiality. And most importantly – Be Truthful.

We owe it to our soon to be adults to follow this sage advice given from experience.

*Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home - so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any maps of the world... Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere - Eleanor Roosevelt*

**Always check with staff and attorney advocates before speaking with other attorneys in or about GAL cases.**

#### Like to Read?

Here's a Reading List on issues related to abuse and neglect or Guardian ad Litem work. Some of these titles are in our lending library.

#### Memoirs

A Child Called It – Dave Pelzer  
A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius – Dave Eggers  
Blackbird – Jennifer Lauck  
Still Waters – Jennifer Lauck  
Finding Fish – Antwone Fisher

#### Novels:

White Oleander – Janet Fitch

#### Nonfiction:

I Speak for This Child – Gay Courter  
Childhood: It Should Not Hurt –  
By Claire R. Reeves

Please share your suggested reading with us for this space.

#### **Guardian ad Litem Billboard**

See the new GAL billboard on Carolina Beach Road, heading south between Legion Stadium and Shipyard Boulevard. The billboard is the result of a project initiated by statewide recruiter, Jean Harwell. 14 billboards were secured for nominal cost in 14 areas of the state. Billboard companies have donated the space for one year and the vinyls were produced at low cost. District 5 was a beneficiary of a billboard due to the generosity of our GAL Association (GALA) who provided the cost of the vinyl. Thanks GALA and Jean!

**Children's Developmental Services Agency (CDSA) has moved** to 3311 Burnt Mill Drive, in Burnt Mill Business Park on Randall Drive. Phone number 251-5817. CDSA is the agency you've known to provide developmental evaluations for children up to age 6.

## The Thank You Pages

Guardian support of the program comes in many ways. Your continued involvement is the most valued and most visible show of your support. There are many other actions that Guardians and friends of our program have undertaken in support of the program and the children. We appreciate all of them. Any omission of individual support and effort is not deliberate and purely a mistake. If an omission occurs please let staff know. As many as we are aware of, we have tried to list below.

**Thank you & Welcome to new Guardians sworn in since the last newsletter: Seph Bartholomew, Bob Bullers, Paula Cosby, Kimberly Hulon, Bernie Malman, Althea McMillian, Ursula Ortega, Linda Russ** all in September. **Staci Avery, Danielle Carr, Jessica Holland and Alan Pratt** all in October. These 12 volunteers have taken 21 cases.



September 13, 2003



October 16, 2003

### Thanks to:

- Thanks to Linda Anthony, Marian Connelly, Kaye Dickey, Cynthia Male, Helen Marotto and Dot Spencer for accepting new Pender cases in the period between July 1 and November 30.
- Thanks to Linda Anthony, Marian Connelly, Kaye Dickey, Al Harrell, Cynthia Male, Helen Marotto, Joyce Miller, Dot Spencer and Heather Wren of Pender for writing court reports and appearing in court for their cases in this period.
- Thanks to Staci Avery, Seph Bartholomew, Tyler Baucom, Shirley Hart Berry, Ken Burda, Bob Bullers, Danielle Carr, Aggie Chamberlin, Paula Cosby, Lynn Downing, Mary Dunn, Rosalind Fuller, Mike Haas, Al Harrell, Judy Hartz, Jessica Holland, Bill Lampe, Mary Ann Lewis, Susan Lewis, Bernie Malman, Althea McMillian, Joyce Miller, Ursula Ortega, Frances Parker, Alan Pratt, Melissa Richardson, Betsy Riviere, Linda Russ, Denny Smith, Ruthe Sublett, Stephanie Woodard and Heather Wren who have accepted new New Hanover cases in the period between July and November 30.
- Linda Anthony, Gary Atwell, Staci Avery, Sallie Austermann, Seph Bartholomew, Tyler Baucom, Shirley Hart Berry, Monica Bolick, Sally Brauer, EJ Brooks, Billie Browne, Bob Bullers, Ken Burda, Sue Burda, Tom Carnes, Aggie Chamberlin, Anne Craven, Dorothy Coleman, Paula Cosby, Rosemary Davino, Bob Dennis, Jeanne Denny, Lynn Downing, Mary Dunn, Gloria Dzingeleski, Melissa Evans, Gloria Fields, Kris Frasure, Rosalind Fuller, Sonita Gaitros, Ed Goldman, Mike Haas, Tom Haney, Judy Hartz, Marty Heuser, Diana Hill, Jessica Holland, Kimberly Hulon, Pat Hughes, Carole Jacobsen, Bobby Jones, Rachel Kastner, Jane Kopczynski, Bill Lampe, Dick Larsen, Betsy Lord, Mary Ann Lewis, Susan Lewis, Jim Lillis, Louise Lyons, Sheril MacCurry, Bernie Malman, Nancy Marden, Helen Marotto, Pat McDonald, Janet McGannon, Nina McGee, Jane McGinnes, Althea McMillian, Barbara Mee, Joyce Miller, Sandy Moon, Vincente Munroe, Judy Neblett, Ursula Ortega, Frances Parker, Stacy Pelletier, Kent Pepper, Mary Preston, Melissa Richardson, Betsy Riviere, Susan Roberts, Susan Robinson, John Schenck, Denny Smith, Lena Smith, Ruthe Sublett, Joyce Swift, Betty Sylvant, John Taggart, Glancy Thomas, Jennifer Trudell, Star Vaught, Rosie Walsh, Linda Warden, Lee Winters, Stephanie Woodard, Heather Wren, George Wyman for writing court reports from July 1- November 30.
- Linda Anthony, Staci Avery, Sallie Austermann, Shirley Hart Berry, Monica Bolick, Sally Brauer, EJ Brooks, Billie Browne, Bob Bullers, Ken Burda, Sue Burda, Tom Carnes, Aggie Chamberlin, Anne Craven, Rosemary Davino, Bob Dennis, Lynn Downing, Mary Dunn, Gloria Dzingeleski, Melissa Evans, Gloria Fields, Kris Frasure, Rosalind Fuller, Sonita Gaitros, Mike Haas, Tom Haney, Judy Hartz, Marty Heuser, Pat Hughes, Kimberly hulon, Bobby Jones, Rachel Kastner, Jane Kopczynski, Bill Lampe, Dick Larsen, Mary Ann Lewis, Susan Lewis, Jim Lillis, Louise Lyons, Sheril MacCurry, Bernie Malman, Nancy Marden, Helen Marotto, Pat McDonald, Nina McGee, Jane McGinnes, Althea McMillian, Joyce Miller, Sandy Moon, Judy Neblett, Ursula Ortega, Frances Parker, Stacy

**Pelletier, Kent Pepper, Mary Preston, Betsy Riviere, Susan Robinson, John Schenck, Denny Smith, Lena Smith, Ruthe Sublett, Joyce Swift, Betty Sylvant, John Taggart, Glancy Thomas, Jennifer Trudell, Star Vaught, Rosie Walsh, Linda Warden, Lee Winters, Stephanie Woodard, Heather Wren, George Wyman** for appearing in court for their cases between July 1 – November 30.

- **Laurie Perego** for stepping in as attorney advocate as needed on October 16, November 26, December 4, and December 18; and for participating on courtroom panel during training. A special thanks for her advocacy and availability for this.
- **Thanks to Staci Avery, Shirley Hart Berry, Rosemary Davino, Kaye Dickey, Judy Hartz, Helen Marotto, Nina McGee, Jan Meads, Frances Parker, Betsy Riviere, Denny Smith, Dot Spencer, Ruthe Sublett, Star Vaught, Linda Warden, Heather Wren, Laura Wallace and Pat Wilhite** for attending the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference in Durham on October 24-25.
- **Gloria Fields, Gloria Ludwick of Jacobi-Lewis, Bernie Malman and Linda Warden** for referrals to the program as noted on applications in the office.
- **GALA Board Members Aggie Chamberlin, Ed Goldman, Al Harrell, Judy Neblett, Kent Pepper and Mary Preston** for promoting and ensuring that more than 30 GAL children attended enrichment programs or received valuable items that encouraged their special interests.
- **Linda Warden** for her dedication and efforts to produce a documentary film on the GAL program without compensation.
- **Helen Marotto, Nina McGee and Linda Warden** for facilitating a training session for new Guardians.
- **Gloria Dzingeleski** for participating in the facilitator training to assist with future new volunteer training sessions.
- **Sheryl Ewing** for requesting a GAL presentation at the local teachers in-service training event on November 11, 2003.
- **Judy Hartz, Judy Neblett, John Schenck, Denny Smith and John Taggart** for being panelists in new volunteer training.
- **EJ Brooks, Gloria Dzingeleski, Judy Hartz, Al Harrell, Jan Meads, Betsy Riviere, John Schenck, Joyce Swift, John Taggart and Glancy Thomas** for mentoring new volunteers.
- **Seph Bartholomew, Shirely Hart Berry, Bob Bullers, Paula Cosby, Rosemary Davino, Mary Dunn, Gloria Dzingeleski, Al Harrell, Judy Hartz, Marty Heuser, Rachel Kastner, Mary Ann Lewis, Bernie Malman, Helen Marotto, Nina McGee, Jan Meads, Joyce Miller, Judy Neblett, Ursula Ortega, Frances Parker, Linda Russ, Glancy Thomas, Linda Warden and Heather Wren** for attending the in-service training *"LINKS: Bridging Teenage foster Children into Adulthood with Independent Living Skills and Resources."* on September 9, 2003.
- **Thanks to Linda Huffman and Mary Daunais of New Hanover DSS who facilitated the LINKS in-service training and for brining panelists, Marcus, Tamone and Shelly to discuss their personal experiences as to the benefits of the LINKS program.**
- **Sheril MacCurry** for making an extra effort to visit her children placed in Florida while away on business.
- **Helen Marotto** for visiting a potential relative placement in New York while in that area to visit her family.
- **Susan Roberts** for taking a courtesy case and facilitating our Christmas party location again this year.
- **Wendy Smith** for her ongoing support in the office, especially making it possible for us to move with as much ease as possible.
- **Suzanne Barham** for her ongoing support in the office when Pat is on vacation
- **Sonita Gaitros, Al Harrell, Judy Hartz, John Schenck, Denny Smith, John Taggart, and Linda Warden** for being on courtroom panels and assisting with new volunteer training.
- **EJ Brooks, Rosemary Davino, Judy Hartz, Betsy Riviere,**
- **Helen Marotto** for her on-going case management of long-term, staff monitoring cases and court reports for 40+ cases.
- **Phil Marotto** for helping with our closed file maintenance and purging.
- **Dot Spencer** for providing insight and traveling to the Child Fatality Review process.
- **Ursula Ortega** for providing Spanish translation services for text about the GAL program in the Mundo Latino newspaper.
- **Judy Neblett** for donating a vacuum cleaner for use in our previous office space.
- **Sonita Gaitros and Heather Wren** whose advocacy promoted relative caregivers and foster parents to send letters of appreciation to our office.
- **Judy Hartz** for informing legislators and facility directors of the negative impact of closing high level placements for children.
- **Bernie Malman** for offering to facilitate newspaper coverage with the Star News. **Judges Corpening, Holt and Smith** for swearing in new Guardians and ongoing support.
- **Jeff Ryan**, attorney, for participating in our courtroom panel during new volunteer training.
- **Marlene Dancy, Laura Steuer, Sue Phiel, Dean Hollandsworth and Julia Talbutt of New Hanover DSS** for participating in new GAL training and offered great info on the collaboration and roles of various agencies involved with the children we serve.
- **Grace United Methodist Church** for donating the Library to offer new volunteer training in October.
- **First Christian Church** for providing Thanksgiving baskets to 16 families, feeding 57 children and 23 adults at that special holiday. Thanks to Phyllis Powell for coordinating that effort with us! And to GALs **Marian Connolly, Lynn Downing, Al Harrell, Kimberly Hulon, Louise Lyons, Helen Marotto, Pat McDonald, Betsy Riviere, Susan Robinson, Denny Smith, Ruthe Sublett and Leslie Wilder** for nominating families in need.
- Also to **First Christian Church and Faith Dietrich** for providing training space for the September 8<sup>th</sup> in-service September new volunteer training.
- **A Proper Garden, Bristol Books, Carmike Cinemas, Porter's Neck Pro Shop, Temptations and Two Sisters Bookery** for door prizes donated for our monthly luncheons at Hieronymus.
- **The Dreams Program** for donating some children's art to color out walls and lives.
- **Trish Baltzegar**, ECU freshman, for doing her Hoggard High Senior Project on the GAL program for which she earned a grade of 96. You can see her project work at the GAL office.
- **Hieronymus Restaurant** for welcoming our volunteers for a monthly luncheon and providing a dedicated space for volunteers to socialize and collaborate in a great, private atmosphere.

- **Lavaughn Nesmith, DSS Director**, for joining us at Hieronymus luncheon in November and sharing his vision, philosophy and thoughts for that agency and the community.
- **Regina Davis** for assisting with new volunteer training, maintaining a calendar full of extra court days, filing appeal briefs, and her commitment to the well being of children.
- **Kent Harrell** for assisting with new volunteer training, representing us in New Hanover County and his advocacy and commitment to the Pender County children we serve.
- **Frannie Sweeney** for re-upping her Americorps VISTA contract for a second year, securing referrals and her dedication to making our recruitment goals happen.
- **Pat Wilhite** for her foresight and diligent efforts to ensure our office move went smoothly, coordinating change of service for phones, computers, copier, fax machine as well as finding help with packing and moving all files and furniture.
- **Laura Wallace** for facilitating training, presenting to MAPP training of foster parents, for volunteering to coordinate a social committee, for securing an applicant by referral and for her commitment.
- **Leslie Wilder** for presenting detailed and valuable sessions on court report writing to all new volunteers, presenting to MAPP training in July, for securing an applicant by referral and for being a model of organization we fervently try to emulate, and for her commitment.

**Congratulations and many thanks to Leslie Wilder for five years of service as Program Supervisor with the Guardian ad Litem program!**

*Happy birthdays!*

**October:** 6<sup>th</sup> – Seph Bartholomew & Rosalind Fuller, 7<sup>th</sup> – Regina Davis, 8<sup>th</sup> – Sally Brauer & Nancy Marden, 11<sup>th</sup> – Laura Wallace, 12<sup>th</sup> – Stephanie Woodard, 15<sup>th</sup> – Melissa Evans, 19<sup>th</sup> – Bernie Malman & Joan O’Neill, 21<sup>st</sup> - Lynn Downing, 23<sup>rd</sup> – Pat McDonald, 28<sup>th</sup> – Jessica Holland, 31<sup>st</sup> – Mike Haas

**November:** 4<sup>th</sup> – Carol Jenkins, 8<sup>th</sup> – Judy Neblett, 12<sup>th</sup> - Mary Dunn, 17<sup>th</sup> – Linda Anthony, 18<sup>th</sup> – Linda Russ, 19<sup>th</sup> – Betty Sylviant, 20<sup>th</sup> – Laura LaBadie, 30<sup>th</sup> – Jeanne Denny

**December:** 4<sup>th</sup> – Allison Loftis, 28<sup>th</sup> – Staci Avery, 29<sup>th</sup> – Sonita Gaitros & Dick Larson

**January:** 2<sup>nd</sup> – Helen Marotto, 3<sup>rd</sup> – George Wyman

**February:** 6<sup>th</sup> -Marian Connolly, 9<sup>th</sup> – Anne Craven, 10<sup>th</sup> – Mary Preston, 17<sup>th</sup> – Carole Jacobsen

*Celebrating Pat’s Birthday*



**GAL Wish List**

- **40 more volunteers**, Each one, reach one and we’re there!
- Paper cutter
- Volunteers for **GAL Social Committee**. Call Laura at 341-1518
- Children’s artwork for our walls.
- Volunteers to assist with recruitment. Call Frannie at 341-1519.

***Thanks! You are all wonderful!***