

Be a Voice for a Child in
Court...
be a GAL Volunteer

Robeson County
Guardian Ad Litem Program

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"I am a Guardian Ad Litem
because I enjoy working with
children and I also enjoy
helping others"~Teresa
McCormick

Robeson County Guardian ad Litem Newsletter 2012

A Word from Tulisha

I hope that each of you have had a wonderful start to 2012. As I reflect on the past year and think of the things that I am thankful, I think of each of you. You are an amazing group of volunteers that I am honored to work with. Our program continues to advocate for children who are in very difficult situations and you are the symbol of hope in their lives. I encourage you to ponder over that fact and continuously renew your commitment to the children. One of my favorite sayings is **TEAMWORK: Snowflakes are nature's most fragile matter but look at what they can do if they stick together.** I know that with wonderful volunteers and dedicated staff that we will continue to make a difference in the lives of the children that we have been appointed to represent. I agree with the words of my five year old son, Nicolas, "this year is going to be the best year ever" and with you by our side it will indeed be the best year. Thanks a bunch for all that you do for our children.

*Until we meet again,
Tulisha*



Melissa Carr



Wendy Jones



Sarah Locklear



Monica Troy



Shannon Schmale

*New Guardian ad Litem
Volunteers*

*"Kids don't need you to be Superman, they just
need you to be there."
First Lady Michelle Obama*

From Recipes to Upcoming Events



I am pleased to announce the selection of Ms. Cynthia "Cindy" Bizzell as the new GAL Administrator, effective January 1, 2012. For nearly three decades, Cindy has been part of the Guardian ad Litem program. First, as a volunteer, she learned that it took both passion and skills to be an effective advocate. As a regional administrator and Assistant Administrator for the statewide GAL program, Cindy helped build and fine-tune foundational supports for volunteers, attorneys, and staff in their unique advocacy partnership. Most recently as the manager for the Organizational Development Division at AOC, Cindy has supported and facilitated GAL's organizational effectiveness efforts in strategic planning and leadership development. Finally, as a consultant with the National Court Appointed Special Advocates Association, Cindy continues to contribute at a national level in the fields of volunteer training, staff development, and program evaluation. I know that all of you join me in welcoming Cindy as she leads our statewide program. I know that all of you will give her your most fervent support in this new role. I hope that all of you are preparing for the best holiday season ever. Take care.

McKinley Wooten, Jr.
Deputy Director for Court Programs

January Birthdays:

Shatia Brunson
Cindy Connor
Jessie Barnes
Shannon Schmale
Kristie Chavis
Carol Floyd

February Birthdays:

Kimberly Walters
Sherri McMillan
Shauntia MeLeod
Sandra McCallum
Michael Graham

Happy Birthday!!

Honey Bun Cake

-Looking for a new recipe to make the perfect ending to any meal? Well, here is a recipe for Honey Bun Cake. It is a sure hit!!!!

Heat oven to 350°F (325°F for dark or nonstick pan). Grease and lightly flour 13x9-inch pan, or spray with baking spray with flour.

In large bowl, beat cake mix, oil, eggs and sour cream with electric mixer on low speed 30 seconds, then on medium speed 2 minutes, scraping bowl occasionally. Spread half of the batter in pan.

In small bowl, stir together brown sugar, pecans and cinnamon; sprinkle over batter in pan. Carefully spread remaining batter evenly over pecan mixture.

Bake 44 to 48 minutes or until deep golden brown. In another small bowl, stir powdered sugar, milk and vanilla until thin enough to spread. Prick surface of warm cake several times with fork. Spread powdered sugar mixture over cake. Cool completely, about 1 hour. Store covered

- 1 box Betty Crocker® SuperMoist® yellow cake mix
- 2/3 cup vegetable oil
- 4 eggs
- 1 container (8 oz) sour cream (1 cup)
- 1 up packed brown sugar
- 1/3 cup chopped pecans
- 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 1 tablespoon milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla



As volunteers continue working on their cases:

Turn in your monthly contact forms every month

Have regular contact with your child with a follow up phone call

Contact your supervisor on regular basis

Continue investigating your cases by contacting all parties that are involved in the case.

I am a gal because...It is a very small way to thank God for giving me such a wonderful mother to love and raise me. If I don't do this, who will?

~ Pamela Benton

Juvenile Offenders

Many child advocacy laws protect the rights of juvenile offenders. A juvenile offender is a person accused of criminal activity who is too young to try as an adult, based on state-imposed age limits. This age varies from state to state, but is usually 16. For serious offenses, such as homicide or sexual assault, offenders younger than this age sometimes are tried as adults. Laws allow juvenile offender records to be sealed once the child reaches the age of adulthood for his state. Other laws suggest sentences for juvenile offenders should focus more on rehabilitation than on punishment.

Up Coming Events:

January 21: Jane's In-Service Training (Jane's Volunteers)
10:00AM- 12:00PM

March 31: Easter Egg Hunt and Picnic for Foster Children
Luther Britt Park Shelter B
9:00AM- 2:00PM

April 6: Office Closed for Good Friday

April 14: GAL Community Day at Biggs Park Mall

April 25: GAL Community Day at UNCP

April 21: Deborah's In-Service Training (Deborah's Volunteers)
10:00AM- 1:00PM

I truly care about children; otherwise I would not be interested in trying to help others. I thank the Good Lord for giving me a mind and body and strength to do what little I can for others. It is truly a JOY.

~ Essie Jones, Volunteer since 1995

Although we have busy lives, it's important to take some time and consider the well being of others. If you can only spare a little bit of time, you can perform volunteer work as a way to help others.



Ehow.com

Betty Lockey~ Volunteer since December 2010 stated "I am a Guardian ad Litem because I love children and I feel that someone should listen to them and let the courts know how they feel. In this less than perfect world, it is the children who suffer from absent parents, parents addicted to drugs or alcohol, or parents who use them as punching bags. These children have the right to let the courts know how they feel! They should at least have some say in what happens to them.

Volunteer Shout Outs

Melissa Carr created two bulletin boards for the GAL Office and help with the GAL newsletters

Betty Lockey went to case review while staff was in training

Jessie Barnes continued her advocacy while moving to a new home

Denise McGirt continues to attend court driving from Laurinburg to Lumberton

Shauntia McLeod took on new cases

Essie Jones visited a parent at the jail

Charles Townsend continues to maintain contact with his cases despite various moves

Sandra McCallum continues to advocate for our children while taking care of her mother

JP and Gearldine Strickland through their church showed the true meaning of Christmas by providing gifts to a family.

A BIG thank you to Barbara McLaughlin, Sandra McCallum, Tionna Davenport, Melissa Carr, Latricia Freeman and Julia Speights for attending Christmas at the courthouse.

Cecilia Boykin continues her advocacy for children while volunteering in the schools

Sherri McMillan continues to take on more difficult cases

Maritza Pierce continues to help in the office with clerical duties while advocating for children

How to Prevent Childhood Obesity

Childhood obesity has become a prevalent medical condition in the United States. Between 5 and 25 percent of children and teenagers in the United States are obese (i.e. 1 out of 3 kids are now considered overweight or obese). The term "childhood obesity" may refer to both children and adolescents. In general, childhood obesity refers to children who are 6 to 11 years of age. There are ways to prevent your child from becoming obese. Education and awareness as well as the parent playing an active part in the child's well-being and lifestyle are important factors to consider. Preventing kids from becoming overweight means adjusting the way your family eats and exercises, and how you spend time together. Healthy kids mean healthy living, healthy homes and healthy parents. Parents are important role models for children's eating habits. Obese parents usually have obese children. In this article I will offer some tips and advice on addressing and preventing childhood obesity. For more information go to: http://www.ehow.com/how_4490960_prevent-childhood-obesity.html

*Volunteers are not paid -- not because they are worthless,
but because they are priceless.*

~Author Unknown