

The District News

September, 2009 GAL Newsletter

"Mighty oaks from little acorns grow"

A. B. Johnson's The Philosophical



Montgomery County

One of the lasting affects of the budget crisis has been the decrease in the amount of travel Program Supervisor, Sean Carter, has been able to do to Montgomery County. Prior to the travel freeze, Sean was scheduled to be in Montgomery County one day a week. His duty station is Ranolph County where he supervises a caseload, but also has responsibilities for all cases in Montgomery County. Currently, Sean is in Montgomery on Court days as well as the second Tuesday of the month for Department of Social Services PPAT meetings. With technology, however, Sean remains well positioned to assist any GAL in Montgomery County. He can be reached by phone at (336) 328-3177, Monday through Friday, or by email at sean.a.carter@nccourts.org. If you have a question or need his assistance, do not hesitate to contact him.

The social work staff at the Montgomery DSS has also made a very generous offer to our GAL volunteers. If travel without reimbursement is a hardship or you prefer to visit children and families with someone, the DSS staff welcome volunteers to accompany them when they make their visits. You can call the social worker and coordinate the visit if this is an option you prefer. Our thanks goes out to DSS for this offer of assistance and spirit of cooperation during this financial crisis!

Moore County

The GAL volunteers in Moore County have a most noteworthy accomplishment. The Friend's Association wrote a grant that was funded by the NC Community Foundation. This grant enabled the organization to purchase backpacks for all students in foster care. In addition to the backpacks, the volunteers filled each backpack with necessary supplies that students returning to school might need. The backpacks were tailored to the age and sex of the student and

GAL volunteers were then able to select appropriate bags for their GAL children and deliver them in time for the beginning of the school year. This is the second year the Friends Association has taken on this enormous task. It has become an annual event that benefits the foster children in Moore County. Thank you for all your hard work!

Marvelous Opportunity to Hear Author, R. B Mitchell

On **September 10, 2009**, GAL staff and volunteers have another opportunity to hear the inspirational story of R.B. Mitchell. Now a highly successful businessman, Mr. Mitchell spent his childhood in an Illinois Orphanage. His story, told in a most humble and honest way, will move you to tears but you will also celebrate his ultimate triumph over anger and desperation that haunted him as a child. If you missed him in Randolph County, please don't miss this opportunity, as every GAL can benefit from the perspective Mr. Mitchell brings alive for the children we serve.



Time: 12:00
Place: Delta Financial
11 Village Club Court
Pinehurst

RSVP REQUIRED

Legislative Budget Outcome

The GAL program was initially targeted for some significant cuts at the initial submission of the House budget. Over the course of the negotiations, the end result was much more positive. We lost several positions but fared better than expected. Our attorney advocates were also spare an additional contract decrease of five percent that was targeted for all AOC contract employees. Travel reimbursement remains suspended, however, while AOC develops their budget. Stayed tuned for more information!



**Guardian Ad Litem
156 East Salisbury Street
Asheboro, NC 27203**

GAL Training Opportunity

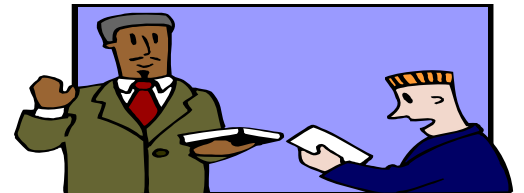
“Conducting An Investigation”

Investigations are the most complex and often most difficult or daunting task for volunteer GALs. This is particularly true at the outset of a new case. We are so fortunate to have a highly skilled and experienced investigator who serves as a Randolph County GAL volunteer. Mr. Wayne Hartley is the retired Assistant Chief of Police for High Point, NC. In addition, Mr. Hartley served in the Juvenile Unit for nine years, which he credits his interest in juvenile welfare. Mr. Hartley will present a training for new and experienced GAL’s in conducting a thorough investigation for adjudication.

WHEN: October 22, 2009

TIME: 3:30-4:30

**PLACE: Foundation Conference Center
Randolph Community College
629 Industrial Avenue
MacDowell Exit off Highway 220**



WELCOME NEW GALs

**The following individuals have been
sworn in as new guardians in
District 19B**

- Katie Corbett**
- Rae Marie Cox**
- Carol Landoll**
- Vicki Wallace**
- Tracey Schill**
- Melissa Wynn**

Please join us in welcoming these
new volunteers.

Elizabeth Abbott

Is an experienced volunteer that
joins us from Stanley County.
Welcome!