

# The Court Report

District 22B  
Guardian ad  
Litem- Davie  
and Davidson  
Counties-  
Winter 2012



## Contact Us

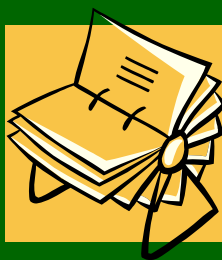
Seth Houk  
District Administrator  
[seth.a.houk@nccourts.org](mailto:seth.a.houk@nccourts.org)

Rene Singletary  
Program Supervisor  
[rene.singletary@nccourts.org](mailto:rene.singletary@nccourts.org)

Christy Sheets  
Program Assistant  
[christy\\_n\\_sheets@nccourts.org](mailto:christy_n_sheets@nccourts.org)

**Davidson County  
Office**  
PO Box 9  
Lexington, NC 27293  
Phone (336) 242-6719  
Fax (336) 242-6756

**Davie County  
Office**  
140 S. Main St.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Mocksville, NC 27028  
Phone (336) 936-3021  
Fax (336) 936-3022



Please visit our  
website at:  
[www.gal22b.org](http://www.gal22b.org)

## This Issue

Celebrations.....	2
Local News.....	3
Stats.....	3
Recipe.....	4

## Five Ways to Better Serve Older Youth

Taken from "The Connection" magazine, Winter 2011

1. **Seek opportunities for growth through decision making.** Being able to make healthy decisions is a learned skill. Youth need the chance to cook their own dinners, even at the cost of burning their thumbs on the stove. Or the chance to manage their own money, even if they misspend some of it. Making poor decisions is a part of growing up, and we are only delaying that process by trying to keep foster youth in a bubble until their 18<sup>th</sup> birthdays.

2. **Don't be a disciplinarian.** Youth don't need any more of these. Foster youth usually have plenty of people to tell them how they have messed up. Their placement, their school, their judge, their caseworker and possibly others are going to chime in after a poor decision. Instead, be future-focused and ask, "Where do we go from here?" or "How do we get past this?"

3. **Give youth a voice.** Make sure that youth are participants in meetings concerning their case and are able to speak to judges at hearings if appropriate. Keep them informed about what is going on.

4. **Find connections for youth.** Youth need healthy adults in their lives. Successful young adults are almost always dependent on those around them for support. No one can do it alone. So reconsider family. Look for other healthy connections from the community- teachers, coaches, foster parents or even parents of friends.



5. **Expect snags along the way,** but don't let the snags distract. Emergencies are going to come up. We are working with teenagers who have been through a lot and ups and downs are to be expected. It is the GAL's role to remain future-focused. While facing the daily strains of being in care, a youth needs someone able to step back and look at the big picture.

## Six Tips for Working Well with Judges

Taken from "The Connection" magazine, Summer 2009

1. **Know the child(ren).** Above all else, meet the children as soon as you can. Get to really know them as best you can. Communicate with them at their level so they will understand who you are and that you are there to help them. It will take time to earn their trust, especially for those whose trust in people and systems has been broken, likely more than once.

2. **Know the parents(s).** Working on child abuse and neglect cases necessarily involves working with the child's parents. You need to learn their strengths and challenges as parents as well as get to know them as people. You are there to advocate for their children, whether that supports or leads to reunification or to something else. You and the parents have a common goal of wanting what is best for the children.

3. **Communicate with everyone involved.** You must communicate with a host of people: the child protection agency, service providers, attorneys and many others. Make yourself known to them. Read their reports. Know where you are in agreement and where you differ. Communicate your concerns, positive or negative.



4. **Model professionalism.** At every step of the way, take the high road. Be respectful, patient, courteous, open-minded, informed and kind. It is important to remain calm, listen carefully, assimilate information, sift through what is important to the child and present clear recommendations that are in the child's best interests. Every time you come into contact with anyone involved in a case, let them leave with the impression that you are confident, competent and caring. How you interact with everyone, both in and out of court, teaches others, including the child, the values and behavior you would like to see demonstrated.

5. **Advocate passionately.** Remember always that you speak for the child. The child is the focus and your principal responsibility. Ask questions. Respectfully expect answers. Hold everyone- the agency, parents and yes, the court-accountable. Be independent and courageous, even if in doing so you may not be popular. The child for whom you are advocating will be expecting, and deserving, no less.

6. **Ensure the child's presence in court.** If you are in a jurisdiction that invites children to court, ensure they attend when appropriate. When they are not present in person, bring a new picture to each hearing. This helps the court appreciate the impact of each and every decision, knowing that children are counting on us to ensure their safety and permanency.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Davidson Volunteer Meeting

Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30 at the Davidson Public Library

### Davie Volunteer Meeting

Monday, February 27<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 at the Davie County Courthouse

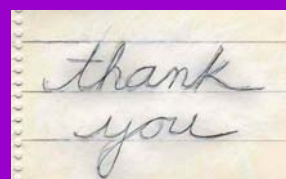
Hope to see you there!!!



## Birthdays

Dora Kanoy 1/1  
Beth Campbell 1/5  
Rebecca Johnson 1/7  
Lisa Forsythe 1/16  
Jennifer Mann 1/21  
Mary Beth Stanley 1/25  
Joanne Krayniewski 2/11  
Sheri Cross 3/7

Happy birthday to  
you!!!



## Anniversaries

### 1 year

Sheri Cross  
Stacie Tally

### 2 years

Wanda Cox  
Chris Fulk  
Joy Rader

### 4 years

Donese Campbell  
Ginger Hinshaw

### 5 years

Alisa Ragan

### 7 years

Susan Terrell

### 10 years

Loretta Miller

Thank you for your  
dedication to our  
program!!!

## Quarterly Stats

### Davidson

New petitions: 19  
Closed petitions: 14  
Reunification: 2  
Guardianship: 9  
Adoption: 1  
Child turned 18: 2  
Hearings: 192  
Open cases: 105 children

### Davie

New petitions: 9  
Closed petitions: 6  
Reunification: 3  
Adoption: 2  
Child turned 18: 1  
Hearings: 77  
Open cases: 40 children



## Winter Word Scramble

-----  
f n o a k e w l s

-----  
v o s e l g

-----  
e k a j c t

-----  
o t s b o

-----  
w m o s a n n

-----  
c i l e c i

-----  
t h o h c l t e o c a o

Answers on page 4

## Welcome!

We would like to welcome Elaine Craver, Debbi Brown, Denise Marshall, Patience Vogel, and Karen Daebelliehn as new volunteers.  
We are so glad you have joined our program!



Elaine Craver, Debbi Brown, Denise Marshall, Patience Vogel  
with Judge April Wood



Karen Daebelliehn with Judge Carlton Terry

## Get to Know a GAL...Marlyce Vaughn

Marlyce was watching Dr. Phil while visiting her mother when she first heard about the Guardian ad Litem program. The topic of the day was foster children who had aged out of care and the obstacles they face. She has been a GAL for two years now and currently has five cases with six children.



After graduating from Appalachian State University, Marlyce was an elementary school teacher in the Davidson County School System for 30 years before retiring. For most of her career she taught fourth and fifth grade, and she also taught a special reading class for a few years.

Marlyce is married and has three children. She loves spending time with her two grandsons and is excited about another grandbaby on the way! Also, her daughter is engaged, so they will be busy planning a wedding for the fall. She is going to have a very eventful year!

Marlyce explained that the best part of being a GAL for her is the moment when a child finally comes to trust her. She enjoys building a rapport with the children she works with so she can represent their needs and wishes accurately. Marlyce is a tireless advocate for her children, and the GAL program is very thankful for her dedication.

## Christmas Excitement

The GAL program had such an exciting and enjoyable Christmas this year! We had a luncheon in Davie County and a dinner in Davidson County for our volunteers. Our longtime GAL program supporter, Telley Hess, organized a party for 20 children who are in relative placements. At the party, we had pizza and cupcakes and Santa stopped by to drop off some special gifts for the children. Thank you, Telley, for your hard work. You are such a blessing to our program. It is so nice to see big smiles on the faces of the children, and we really look forward to the party each year. Here are some photos of our Christmas fun:

Clockwise from left corner: Wanda Cox, Rene Singletary, Barry Cartner, Jennifer Mann, Debbi Brown, Joanne Krayniewski, Christine Shupe, Crissy Lemly, Debbie Anglin, GAL staff.



## Buffalo Chicken Cheese Dip

Submitted by Patience Vogel



- 2 10 oz. cans of chicken (drained)
- 1 8 oz. cream cheese (softened)
- 1 cup ranch dressing
- ¾ cup Texas Pete
- 1 ½ cups shredded cheddar cheese

Heat chicken and hot sauce in skillet (medium heat until heated through). Mix in ½ shredded cheese. Transfer into slow cooker and add cream cheese and ranch dressing. Cook on low until bubbly. Sprinkle remaining cheese over top. Serve with nachos.

\*\*\*\*\*

[Like us on Facebook!](#)



[Like the NC GAL page on Facebook!](#)

\*\*\*\*\*

**All previous training resources and topics have been added to our website. Check it out if you missed a meeting or just want a refresher!**

[www.gal22b.org](http://www.gal22b.org)

\*\*\*\*\*

**Answers to word scramble:** snowflake, gloves, jacket, boots, snowman, icicle, hot chocolate