

The Court Report

District 22B
Guardian ad
Litem- Davie
and Davidson
Counties



Contact Us

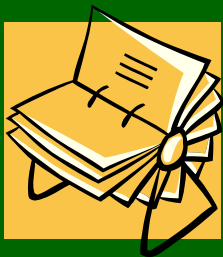
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Please visit our
website at:
www.gal22b.org

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Give a Day, Get a Disney Day

from www.msnbc.com



Disney is offering a free day's admission to 1 million people who complete a day of volunteer work next year.

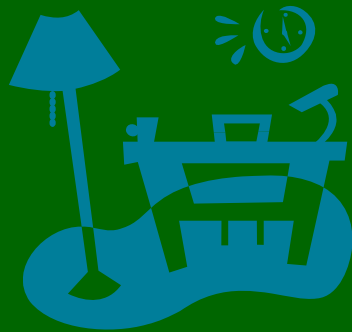
Disney is partnering with HandsOn Network to connect people with volunteer projects around the U.S. "We are trying to inspire one million people to volunteer in their communities and we're inspiring them to do that by giving them a free day at a Disney Park," chairman Jay Rasulo said. Volunteers must register online with Disney. The free day's admission can be used at either Disneyland in California or Walt Disney World in Florida.

Make a Difference Day

from www.usaweekend.com

Make a Difference Day was created by USA Weekend Magazine and is celebrated the fourth Saturday in October each year. This year, October 24th is the annual Make a Difference Day. Each year, millions of people volunteer their time and expertise, and last year 3 million people cared enough about their communities to volunteer on that day.

We would like to say thank you to our volunteers for giving your time every week, every month, all year long. We know you take time away from your families, friends, homes and jobs. Thank you for giving of yourself. Thank you for performing hours and hours of advocacy for the children in our District. Without you, they wouldn't have a voice in court.



**From the Desk
Of...
Seth Houk,
District
Administrator**

I hope everyone has said goodbye to the dog days of summer and is enjoying the crisp fall air and everything it brings with it. Fall is my favorite time of year- football, hockey, cooler temperatures...and not having to mow the lawn as much. My favorite fall pastime is fantasy football, but since Christy and Rene don't know what fantasy football is, I don't get to talk to anyone about it all day (call me if you have a team!).

This fall hopes to be an exciting time for the GAL program too. We are instituting our new recruitment plan and hope to get 14 new volunteers over the next three months. We have been working hard to develop new recruitment strategies and events, but know the best way of recruiting volunteers is still word of mouth. Please continue to spread the word to anyone you know who has a compassion for children and believes that every child needs to have a voice in what is going on in their lives.

One of our goals is to be more visible at Davidson County Community College and the extension campus in Davie County. We have participated in a few events and have more lined up there over the next three months. A number of our current GALs (Mary Ann Hoyle, Alisa Ragan, Ashley Ramsey, Amanda Jordan) have helped us out at DCCC. If anyone else has ideas about getting involved with the college, don't hesitate to let us know.

We are also trying to make the program more known throughout town. Christy has been cruising Davidson County looking for bare bulletin boards to put fliers on and Rene has had her eyes peeled in Davie County. If you know of any places where we should have a flier or tear-off sheet posted let us know and Christy will bug them until they let us put one up.

Finally we are trying to get some churches to let us place an insert in the bulletin for a Sunday service or two. The problem is Christy, Rene, and I do not attend church in the District. So if you know your church would be willing to let us stuff the bulletin (or even if you have a preacher I could bug about it) give us a call and let us know.

Fall is a great time to relax outdoors and enjoy all sorts of entertaining activities, but do remember DSS is always taking children into care because children are always being abused and neglected by their parents. Anything you can do to help us get more GALs who are willing to speak for those kids will be greatly appreciated and praised.

Seth



Birthdays

- Ashley Ramsey 10/6
- Jean Barneycastle 10/13
- Ann Burton 10/23
- Ginger Hinshaw 10/23
- Makeba Gregg 11/26
- Camille Lawrence 12/4
- Annette Eggleston 12/12
- Carol Blankenship 12/16
- Cindy Deegan 12/17
- Kathy Sechriest 12/25

**Happy Birthday to
You!!!**

Anniversaries

1 Year

- Carol Blankenship
- Mike McElvogue
- Yvette Mason
- Patty Miller
- Teresa Russell

2 Years

- Amy Barneycastle
- Jean Barneycastle
- Marie Muskovin

5 Years

- Kathy Rudin

9 Years

- Jack Crutchfield

Thank you!!!

“When I approach a child, he inspires me in two sentiments; tenderness for what he is, and respect for what he may become.”

-Louis Pasteur

Quarterly Stats

Davidson

New petitions: 30
Closed petitions: 34
Child turned 18: 1
Court closed: 20
Adoption: 10
Transferred: 1
Petition dismissed: 2
Hearings: 146

Open cases:

74 families
120 children

Davie

New petitions: 7
Closed petitions: 4
Child turned 18: 1
Court closed: 1
Adoption: 2
Hearings: 21

Open cases:

20 families
34 children

Fun Days

October

5th - Long Walk Day
15th - Nat'l Grouch Day
21st - Reptile Awareness Day
25th - Nat'l Greasy Foods Day

November

13th - Int'l Day of Kindness
14th - Nat'l Clean Out your Fridge Day
26th - Slinky Invented

December

4th - Wear Brown Shoes Day
16th - Nat'l Chocolate Covered Anything Day
18th - Wear a Plunger on your Head Day

**Please welcome our new volunteers!
We are glad you have joined us!!**



Kathy Sechriest and Judge Michael



Ashley Ramsey, Amanda Jordan and Judge Wood

How to Keep your Sanity During the Holidays

from www.ghow.com

1. Have a plan. Rather than letting the holiday season run you, have a plan that keeps you in control.



2. Make play dates. Get together with other parents who are in the same predicament and plan play dates for your children. Use this time to shop, cook or relax.

3. Make a list. Santa makes a list and checks it twice. Do the same – make a list of who you need to purchase gifts for and decide what you want to get. This makes shopping a lot less stressful.

4. Get your children involved. Let them help you get the house ready for guests. Assign age-appropriate tasks so that they feel like they are a part of your Christmas plans.

5. Crafts. There are hundreds of craft kits that let your children create Christmas decorations and homemade gifts.

6. Shop early. Shop online. Don't put it off until the last minute or you will be caught up in the mad rush to get that last important gift.

7. Children can help prepare the food. This is another way to avoid idle hands and to teach your children basic skills.

8. Take a time out. Spend a few quiet minutes reading a Christmas story to your children or pop a bowl of popcorn and watch your favorite Christmas shows together.

9. Have an escape plan. If things begin to become overwhelming, take a time out for yourself. Go to your bedroom, read quietly, visit the gym or meet a friend for coffee.

Group Home Changes

from the Winston Salem Journal

In August, the General Assembly passed a vote to eliminate \$38.4 million in support for Level III and IV group homes. Medicaid only pays 2/3 of the cost to provide service to a child in a group home (\$260 per day). Local agencies and support groups are now providing expanded behavioral and mental health services to replace those reduced by state agencies as part of state budget cuts. Officials want to reduce North Carolina's dependency on these group home placements, stating that studies have shown that placing kids in these homes has not been as effective as expected.

There are some big changes for the remaining group homes. There will now be a child and family team that reviews the emotional, social, safety, housing, medical, educational, vocational and legal needs for each child. The team will also be required to develop a discharge plan for each child. There is a 120 day limit set for new admissions. After 120 days, there will be a review if a child needs extended placement but the maximum is 90 days for the extended stay, if it is approved. Insurance companies are going to be stricter in their requirements.

At this time, there are more than 600 kids placed in these group homes and 100 of them are linked to violent crimes.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

In 1981, the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence celebrated the first Day of Unity. The purpose was to connect battered women's advocates across the nation who were working to end violence against women and their children. In 1987, the first Domestic Violence Awareness Month was observed. This month of awareness is to mourn those who have died because of domestic violence, celebrate those who have survived and connect those who work to end violence. You can get more information at www.ncadv.org



November is National Adoption Month

There are 129,000 children in foster care in the United States awaiting adoption. What began as a week long celebration in 1976 has evolved into the current month long celebration. The month is designed to promote adoption and raise public awareness about the thousands of children and youth waiting in foster care for permanent, loving homes. If you would like to read more, go to www.about.com or www.childwelfare.gov



Chicken and Dumplings

Submitted by Rene Singletary

3 cups water
1 whole chicken
3/4 box Anne's frozen dumplings
1 can chicken broth
1 can cream of chicken soup

Boil water. Add whole chicken and cook for 1 hour. Remove chicken from water but do not discard water. Let chicken cool 30 minutes. After 30 minutes, bring water back to boil and add chicken broth and soup. Add dumplings one at a time, stirring often. Remove skin from chicken and discard. Remove meat from chicken and add to broth. Remove from heat and let stand 20 minutes before serving.



Remember to visit your kids every month!

Things will get hectic over the holidays so plan ahead!!