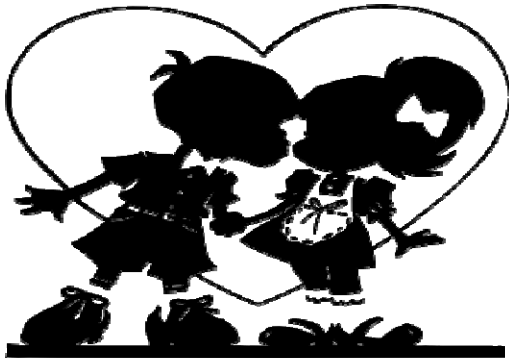


Guardian ad Litem News Judicial District 27B



We are planning an in service training that will focus on the LINKS program. This is a program administered by DSS to assist youth in foster care 16 and older to learn independent living skills. This includes applying for college, how to apply for jobs, open checking accounts and more. Date and time information to follow later.



As Program Supervisor, I have found recruitment to be a more daunting task than expected. We did swear in 20 new volunteers last year; however, we had to release several who were unable to continue working with our program due to health issues, work schedules, etc... My hope for this year is that I can swear in at least 20 more volunteers and to make that happen I need your help! Please spread the word about our program. Talk about volunteering with your family, friends, even at work and church.

Betsy and I feel this is a good time to remind you all why it is important to monitor our cases closely. We understand that it is difficult to maintain the momentum that we have

early in a case. When monitoring a case (at any point) we need to:

- Visit with the child(ren) at least one time monthly.
- Evaluate appropriateness of the child(ren)'s placement.
- Report when the needs of the child(ren) are not being met.
- Determine if additional services are needed for the child(ren).
- Determine whether the child(ren) is receiving court ordered services.
- Communicate with the child(ren)'s family, social worker and others involved in the case.
- Identify any facts or circumstances that may require the case to be brought before the court.
- Prepare for each hearing by writing reports and submitting them to your case supervisor a week prior to the court date.

We monitor the case until the child had achieved permanence in a safe and stable home. This means:

- The child has been returned to his/her parent(s) custody by the court.
- The court has given another individual custody of the child.
- The court has given another individual guardianship of the child.
- The child is adopted, not placed for adoption, but the adoption is complete and a final decree of adoption has been filed with the court.

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns about monitoring your case!

**Thanks again for all you do
You are appreciated!**

Betsy, Dawn, and Ann