

# GAL Newsletter

March 2012 Newsletter

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## North Carolina Guardian Program Administrator



Welcome aboard to our new North Carolina Guardian Ad Litem Program Administrator, Cindy Bizzell. Cindy comes to our Program having most recently administered the Organizational Development Division of the Administrative Office of the Courts.

Cindy had served as the Assistant Administrator for the N.C. GAL Program during previously. Cindy brings a wealth of experience to the program having served in many roles during her stay with the program and we are so happy to have Ms. Bizzell return as the N.C. GAL Program Administrator.

Having performed in the capacity as a GAL Advocate, Cindy is well aware of the work the GALs do and she is poised to be a strong advocate for the program. In an email to staff Ms. Bizzell informed us that “My highest priority is to be an effective advocate and champion for the work we do.” We are excited about the commitment that Cindy has to the program and we look forward to having her as our leader in the coming year.



Bettina Flood

Welcome aboard also to Bettina Flood who is covering Halifax, Northampton and a few Bertie County Cases as the GAL Attorney Advocate. Mrs. Flood has already done several sessions of court for us and is doing an excellent job. Many thanks to her for agreeing to be out attorney advocate. Mrs. Flood is a native of Halifax County and we are happy to have her return to her community to practice law.

# News From Edgecombe and Wilson

Sue Adams, Program Supervisor  
Edgecombe and Wilson

Daisy Staton, Title V employee had her last day 2/17/2012. Her daughter is facing multiple surgeries and a year long recovery and her talents were needed at home. Daisy did a great job working on files and straightening out the office. She will be missed. On 2/23/2012 there will be an interview with a potential replacement for her.

Eva Rogers will be coming in the office one day a week to work on the new filing system and whatever is needed. It's going to be nice to have Eva working with us with her wealth of experience.

Edgecombe DSS is still operating w/o a formal Director, the County manager, Lorenzo Carmen, is still acting director.

## Pinwheels for PREVENTION



## Prevent Child Abuse

April is Child Abuse Awareness Month and Prevent Child Abuse of North Carolina once again sponsoring their event to raise child abuse awareness during the month of April. One of the activities they are suggesting is the Pinwheel Gardens planted during the month of April to raise child abuse awareness.

### Problems Linked to Child Abuse and Neglect:

- Behavioral and achievement problems in school
- Heart, lung and liver disease in adulthood
- Obesity and diabetes
- Depression and anxiety disorders
- Increased criminal behaviors & alcohol and drug abuse
- Increased risky sexual behavior & unintended pregnancies
- Other health, social, emotional, and mental health problems
- Total estimated annual cost of child abuse & neglect in the US is \$104 billion

From Prevent Child Abuse NC

For more information go to the website [www.preventchildabuse.org](http://www.preventchildabuse.org)

# News From Nash County

## Angie McBride, Program Supervisor

- Sue and I are planning training in March/April for new volunteers – if any existing GALs know of someone that is interested, please have them get in touch with one of us.
- I am working with Senior Employment Program to hire a Title V senior employee for the Rocky Mount (Nash County).
- I have a speaking engagement with Wesleyan College on March 19 to talk about the GAL Program and recruit Interns and Volunteer Prospects
- I am also working with the Nash County Adoption Unit to try to set up a joint training for May.
- Currently Nash County foster homes are full. I participate on their board to help recruit new foster parents as well. If any of you know of someone that is interested in pursuing foster care, please have them contact Shirley Williams at 252-459-1287.
- Plans are being made for the Outback Luncheon – to be held in Rocky Mount and scheduled for April 16<sup>th</sup>. The doors will open at 11:30 and lunch will be served promptly at 12. We are still in the process of obtaining our speaker and special guests.

Teens have theirs, now seniors have their own texting codes. I thought the following listing was appropriate ... After all the kids have all their little codes...like **BFF, LOL**, etc....so here are some codes for seniors:

- **ATD** - At the Doctor's
- **BFF** - Best Friends Funeral
- **BTW** - Bring the Wheelchair
- **BYOT** - Bring Your Own Teeth
- **CBM** - Covered by Medicare
- **CUATSC** - See You at the Senior Center
- **DWI** - Driving While Incontinent
- **FWBB** - Friend with Beta Blockers
- **FWIW** - Forgot Where I Was
- **FYI** - Found Your Insulin
- **GGPBL** - Gotta Go, Pacemaker Battery Low
- **GHA** - Got Heartburn Again
- **HGBM** - Had Good Bowel Movement
- **IMHO** - Is My Hearing-Aid On?
- **LMDO** - Laughing My Dentures Out
- **LOL** - Living on Lipitor
- **LWO** - Lawrence Welk's On
- **OMMR** - On My Massage Recliner
- **OMSG** - Oh My! Sorry, Gas
- **ROFL..CGU** - Rolling on the Floor  
Laughing...Can't get Up!
- **TOT** - Texting on Toilet
- **TTYL** - Talk to You Louder
- **WAITT** - Who Am I Talking To?
- **WTFA** - Wet the Furniture Again
- **WTP** - Where're the Prunes
- **WWNO** - Walker Wheels Need Oil

Hope these help. **GGLKI** (Gotta Go, Laxative Kicking in!)



# Judy's Corner

## Programs Assistant, Judith Jones



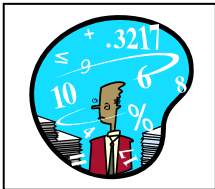
### Court Schedules:

	<u>Bertie Hertford</u>	<u>Nash</u>	<u>Wilson</u>	<u>N'hampton</u>	<u>Halifax</u>
March	9	15		27	8 & 22
1,15 & 29		7 & 21			13 & 27
April	13		19		24
12 & 26					12 & 26
May	11		17		22
10 & 24					10 & 24

### January 2012 Program Statistics Districts 6 & 7

#### New Petitions

2



#### Case Closures & Reasons

- 6 reunification w/ removal parent
- 2 adoption finalized
- 2 guardianship order entered
- 4 custody order entered
- 1 custody of Dept of Juvenile Justice

#### Current Caseload

Child cases covered by Volunteers: 251

Child cases covered by Staff: 4

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY.....

**March** - Monica Dickens, Doris Faison, Haldrick Bryant, Larry Bryant, Yvette Bryant, Denise Bullock, Earline Bunn

**April** - Rozelle Garcia, Kysha Gary, Tonsa Walton-Gary, Renee Champ, Lela Chesson, Harold Colston, Timothy Craig, Margaret Cropps, Sue Dail, Dolly Daniel, Sadie Daughety,



May - Teresa Gilliam, Vivian Davis, Janice Denson, Carol Dickens, Melvin Dove, Kia Dunlap, Aaron Dyson, Annie Dyson, Ashley Easterly, Irma Edge, Markeisha Edgerton, Sabrina Edwards

AS THE GAL child advocate, you have access to any and all information on your child client(s) and their parents including mental health information, medical information and school records. You may obtain copies of information by submitting requests along with your appointment order or if you prefer to speak/visit with those professionals that provide services for your families you just need to share your appointment order with them. I have forms that I use to request the information and I will be happy to share them with you. Of course, I am always available if you need me to request the information for you.



VISIT your children that you represent as a GAL advocate so that they will know that YOU care.

# Newly Sworn GALs

## Judicial Districts 6A & 6B



*Erica Bradley & the Honorable W. Turner Stephenson, III*



*The Honorable W. Turner Stephenson, III & Tonja Williams*

Two new Guardian ad Litem Volunteer (GAL) Advocates were sworn-in February 13<sup>th</sup> in Halifax County District Court by the Honorable W. Turner Stephenson, III.

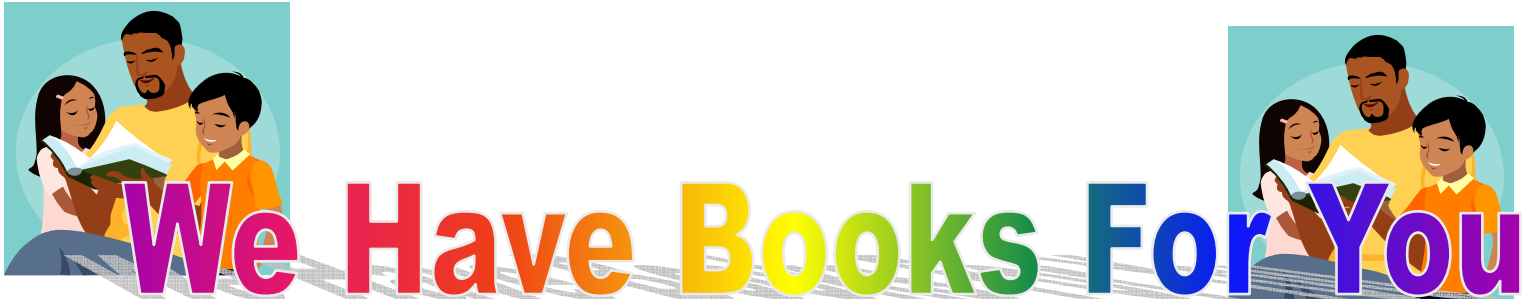
Bradley, 28 years old, lives in Roanoke Rapids and is currently engaged. She completed her Bachelors of Science in Human Services through Kaplan University in December 2011. She is currently working on her Masters in Criminal Justice. It is her career goal to one day become a probation/parole officer. Bradley has also volunteered with Easter Seals UCP.

Williams is a graduate of Southeast Halifax High School and earned a Certification in Human Services from Roanoke Chowan Community College in May of 2011. She is scheduled to graduate May 2012 with a Human Services Mental Health Diploma and scheduled to graduate 2013 with a double Associate's degree, with and without a concentration in Mental Health. Williams is the President of the Student Government Association at RCCC and has sat on a few committees at the college as well. Williams is the mother of four and grandmother of four. She currently resides in Tillery, NC. Her hobbies include traveling, photography, poetry and bowling.

Our local GAL program which covers Bertie, Halifax, Hertford and Northampton counties continues to be in need of child advocates and will offer training for new volunteer advocates during the month of February. If you would like to know more about how you can protect the rights of abused and neglected children in your county, please contact Melinda Hardy at 252-574-3121 or check out our website at [www.ncgal.org](http://www.ncgal.org). The training is free and the rewards for helping a child in need are priceless.

## Upcoming Events

April is Child Abuse Awareness Month and it's also NC Guardian ad Litem Advocate Month. OutBack Steakhouse in Rocky Mount will again recognize our local GAL Advocates by providing lunch on Monday April 16<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 noon. Please mark the date on your calendar and plan to meet us there. We look forward to recognizing the difficult work that our advocates do.



The First Presbyterian Church of Roanoke Rapids, NC has chosen the Halifax County Guardian ad Litem Program to Donate slightly used books from, their members and the Weldon Library, to give to the children in our Program. Please pick up your books to share with our children. Books have also been donated to the Nash/Edgecombe/Wilson Program as well.

