

District 7 Guardian ad Litem Fall 2010 Newsletter

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**TRAINING AGAIN IN
JANUARY**

TELL YOU FRIENDS!

The recent in-service training was a success! On October 6, Ruth Kravitz came to Rocky Mount to present the LGBTQ workshop session to our volunteers, staff members and community partners. It is estimated that approximately 10% of the general population is LGBTQ, with possibly a larger percentage in the population of clients served by Guardian ad Litem. This training was well-attended, improving competencies and increasing sensitivity to better serve all segments of our child-client population.

New Volunteer Training Welcome to our newly trained volunteers: Adrea Applewhite, Brenda and Christopher Batts, Lorrie Binkley, Mary Blount, Carolyn and Haldrick Bryant, Cheyenne Hall, Jocile Hines, Wanda Hunter, Linda Ingram, Kerri Kidd, Dominique Lynch, Telisa Lynch, Brian Patterson, Natashia Shelley, Denise Simon, Zenira Wiggins.



It's time to celebrate fall birthdays. Belated birthday wishes to guardians who celebrated during the summer.

June	July	Aug
3 Sadie Daughtry	3 Verline Harris	4 Susan Evans
7 Cheyenne Hall	5 Terry Edwards	4 Domanique Lynch
11 Michael Hicks	6 Jessica Hall	13 Diane Hultzman
14 Ruth Bullard	15 Shannon Boone	24 Renee Champ
21 Linda Ingram	22 Lillie Blanchard	
22 Edward Euell	22 Andrea Noel	
28 Kelly Anderson	30 Wanda Jones	
Sep	Oct	Nov
3 Earline Bunn		
6 Gloria Lyndaker	2 Sue Dail	3 Lorrie Brinkley
7 Uteen Haargrove	4 Aaron Dyson	10 Laverne Johnson
11 Annie King	4 Melanie Mauze	12 Brenda Jarra
27 Annie Dyson	6 Sue Ford	17 Terrilee Grady
28 Stephanie Cherry	10 Remonia Muhammed	17 Nickki Barnes
	27 Cynthia Cooper	17 Butch Harrell
	27 Teresa Murphrey	21 Deborah Muller

Fostering Futures –Coming in December

Thanks to everyone who has responded to our requests for brief monthly case updates in addition to your full court reports. It is very helpful to keep us in the loop and allow us to be as much help as we possibly can in moving children along to permanency.

News of our GAL Family

Irene Redmond graduated from Edgecombe Community College
Congratulations Irene.

Kelly Anderson is now working at Barton College. We are glad to have her closer to home.

Christine Tolbert retired from Edgecombe County Schools

Rosa Wilkins retired from EC Health Department.

Also as you may know, Artelia Turner and Pat Holmond left us as Title V workers. We miss them but both have found employment. Look for Pat at the front desk at Wilson DSS. You may see her there as she is employed there now.

Welcome to our new Title V worker in Tarboro, Delores Robinson. Congratulations to Delores and her new husband “Tank” We could use a guy like that for a Guardian, don’t you think?

We are planning to participate with the state office in December to present an in-service training called Fostering Futures. NC GAL is one of five state programs to be chosen to pilot this exciting new initiative. The Program is based on a research model and study out of the University of Michigan that helps young people achieve their full potential by promoting a positive self identity, helping set goals for the future, and with planning to achieve those goals. The model, called Possible Selves has led to better outcomes for young people. Fostering Futures will engage GALs with helping youths identify supportive adult connections and to develop specific plans for successful transition out of foster care into independent, successful adulthood.

We have a tentative date of December 4. Watch for an update on our planning for this excellent opportunity. We want many of you to be a part of this training.

Soup Recipe

1 tbs of vegetable oil, 1 med. Onion chopped, 2 cloves garlic chopped, 4 C chicken broth, 4 C tomato juice (I use V8) 1 cup water, 1 tbs dried Basil, tsp of Oregano (I use more--to taste), ½ med head of Cabbage shredded, 2 small Zucchini diced, 2 med Carrots diced, 2 stalks Celery sliced, 1 28oz can of diced Tomatoes. 2 15 oz cans of Kidney Beans rinsed, ½ pkg of frozen chopped Spinach thawed and drained. Handful of pasta shells in the last 10 minutes is optional. Parmesan Cheese for garnish.

Heat oil in an 8 qrt pot over med. Heat. Saute onion, garlic and celery. Stir in other ingredients and cook for an hour. Serve with the cheese. Serves about 10.

On-line Sites of Interest

The Child Fatality Task Force now has website through the General Assembly main page this is the arm of the Fatality Prevention System which considers and chooses recommendations to make to the General Assembly.

<http://www.ncleg.net/DocumentSites/Committees/NCCFTF/Homepage/>

A training was offered on understanding and how to use the results to produce better outcomes for families. Go to this site to access materials:

<http://www.nccourts.org/Citizens/Cprograms/Improvement/Training/PsyMaterials.asp>

Congratulations District 7

We have had a good summer and fall with many good outcomes for children in District 7. Together we have served 265 children on average each month. An average of about 130 children per month have had their cases heard and their GAL's reports read and considered by our judges.

Most important, since June you have helped to move 56 children toward secure permanent homes and thereby to exit the system.

Consider your back patted!! You deserve it. For the children, accept our thanks.

DHHS has a clearinghouse for identifying human service programs

The toll free CARE-LINE number is 800-662-7030.

The Price of Children

The government recently calculated the cost of raising a child from birth to 18 and came up with \$160,140 for a middle income family. Talk about sticker shock. That doesn't even touch college tuition.

But \$160,140 isn't so bad if you break it down. It translates into:

- * \$8,896.66 a year,
- * \$741.38 a month, or
- * \$171.08 a week.
- * That's a mere \$24.24 a day!
- * Just over a dollar an hour.

Still, you might think the best financial advice is don't have children if you want to be "rich." Actually, it is just the opposite.

What do you get for your \$160,140?

- * Naming rights. First, middle, and last!
- * Glimpses of God every day.
- * Giggles under the covers every night.
- * More love than your heart can hold.

- * Butterfly kisses and Velcro hugs.
- * Endless wonder over rocks, ants, clouds, and warm cookies.
- * A hand to hold, usually covered with jelly or chocolate.
- * A partner for blowing bubbles, flying kites.
- * Someone to laugh yourself silly with, no matter what the boss said or how your stocks performed that day.

For \$160,140, you never have to grow up. You get to:

- * finger-paint,
- * carve pumpkins,
- * play hide-and-peek,
- * catch lightning bugs, and
- * never stop believing in Santa Claus.

You have an excuse to:

- * keep reading the Adventures of Piglet and Pooh,
- * watching Saturday morning cartoons,
- * going to Disney movies, and
- * wishing on stars.
- * You get to frame rainbows, hearts, and flowers under refrigerator magnets and collect spray painted noodle wreaths for Christmas, hand prints set in clay for Mother's Day, and cards with backward letters for Father's Day.

For \$160,140, there is no greater bang for your buck. You get to be a hero just for:

- retrieving a Frisbee off the garage roof,
- * taking the training wheels off a bike,
- * removing a splinter,
- * filling a wading pool,
- * coaxing a wad of gum out of bangs, and coaching a baseball team that never wins but always gets treated to ice cream regardless.

You get a front row seat for history to witness the:

- * first step,
- * first word,
- * first bra,
- * first date, and
- * first time behind the wheel.

You get to be immortal. You get another branch added to your family tree, and if you're lucky, a long list of limbs in your obituary called grandchildren and great grandchildren.

You get an education in psychology, nursing, criminal justice, communications, and human sexuality that no college can match. In the eyes of a child, you rank right up there under God.

You have all the power to:

- heal a boo-boo,
- chase away the monsters under the bed,
- patch a broken heart,
- police a slumber party,
- gound them forever,
- and love them without limits,

So . . .

One day they will, like you, love without counting the cost. That is quite a deal for the price!!!!!!

Love & enjoy your children & grandchildren!!!!!!

