

Guardian's Voice

Guardian's Voice



8th District Serving Wayne, Lenoir, and Greene Counties
3A District Serving Pitt County

November 2011

GAL Staff

Colleen Kosinski

Cynthia Coley

Sonya Carter

Gwen Kelly

Emma Stanford

Darrell Brown– Attorney

Advocate for

Wayne/Greene Counties

Wanda Naylor – Attorney

Advocate for Pitt County

George Jenkins– Attorney

Advocate for Lenoir County

Goldsboro:

919-722-6300

Fax: 919-722-6184

224 E. Walnut St.

Goldsboro, NC 27530

Kinston:

252-520-5450

Fax: 252-520-5451

130 S. Queen St.

Kinston, NC 28501

Greenville:

252-695-7325

Fax 252-695-7193

111 S. Washington Street

Greenville, NC 27835

From the Desk of the Administrator

Dear Volunteers,

Leaves are crunching, temperatures are dropping and before we know it, the holidays will be upon us. It is the time of year where joy and hope abounds.

On behalf of my staff, I want to thank you for the joy and hope you bring to the lives of the children we serve. Recently, I had the opportunity to talk with several of the children we serve and their care-takers. They stated the following: "Our case would have never turned out so well if it was not for Guardian ad Litem. Thank you for staying with this case. It has taken a long time but at least it has ended great "and" my GAL is the only one who sticks with me no matter what". I was recently in court where an older client we serve would not talk to anyone else because the only one he trusted was his Guardian. Please know you truly make a difference by being there and being a constant in the lives of these children. We know that children who have a Guardian ad Litem are much more likely to have a positive outcome in their case and their life. Thank you and may you have a holiday season filled with joy, hope, and love

Fondly,
Colleen

**Seasons Greetings**

The Offices Will Be Closed For The Following State Holidays:

November 24 & 25, December 26 & 27, January 2



Children Make the World Go Round



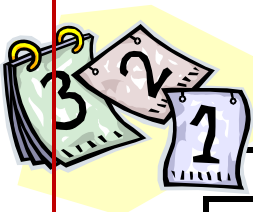
The mission of the Guardian Ad Litem Program (GAL) is to provide trained, independent advocates to represent and promote the best interests of abused and neglected or dependent children involved in the court system and work toward a plan that ensures that these children are in a safe permanent home.

What is a Guardian Ad Litem required to do?

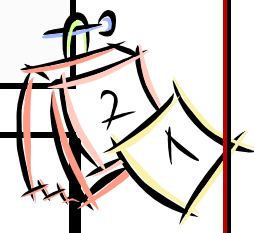
- **Make an investigation and review records** to determine the facts, the needs of the juvenile, and the available resources within the family and community to meet those needs.
- **Interview appropriate parties** involved in the case, including the child and **offer evidence** at adjudication.
- **Explore options** with the Court at the dispositional hearing.
- **Determine whether a permanent plan has been created** for the child and whether **appropriate services** are being provided to the child and family
- **Conduct follow-up investigations** to insure that the orders of the Court are being properly executed.
- **Submit a written report** with recommendations to the court on what placement, visitation plan, services and permanent plan are in the best interest of the child.
- **Attend court hearings**
- **Maintain complete** records about the case including appointments scheduled, interviews held and information gathered about the child and the child's life circumstances
- **Protect and promote the best interest of the juvenile** until formally relieved of responsibility by the Court.
- **Return all case records and notes** to the GAL Program when the case is closed or when the volunteer closes or transfers the case.
- **Most Importantly: Visit you child/children at least once a month.**

What can't a Guardian ad Litem do?

- **Transport** any child or parent at anytime, to court, DSS meeting, church, etc. (Proceed to GAL Workbook for further information)
- **Testify on** behalf of the parents or guardians. GALs are here to speak on the children's behalf to make sure they have a voice in court.
- **Enforce a Court order.** A GAL cannot make a party comply with a temporary order but is responsible for notifying the Court when a parent does not follow a Court order.
- **Legal Advice** A GAL cannot give the parent or caretaker any legal advice. All legal advice is to be directed to their attorneys.



Save the Date



November is National Adoption Month.

National Adoption Day is one day in a year-round effort to raise awareness of the 107,000 children in foster care waiting for permanent and loving families. This day will be honored Saturday, November 19. Celebrated across the United States, more than 350 community events are held each year to finalize the adoptions of children in foster care and celebrate adoptive families. This year, National Adoption Day will include events ranging from courtroom adoptions to local celebrations, in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and Guam. Thanks to the volunteer efforts of adoption advocates, policymakers, judges and lawyers, more than 35,000 children have been adopted from foster care on National Adoption Day during the last 11 years.

(www.nationaladoptionday.org)

December 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 Christmas	26	27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve

The Guardian ad Litem Office will be hosting a volunteer luncheon in our Pitt County Office on **December 2, 2011 from 11:00 am till 2:00 pm.** This will provide the opportunity for volunteers to meet each other as well as meet other people that we work with daily. This is also a way to say, "Thank You" for all of your hard work. Please save this date so we can have a positive turn out for our volunteers.



Happy Birthday to You GAL's



October

Steve Keen	Antoinette Boskey	Pattie Leary
Tyreika Mason	Clara Byrd	Gardner White
Judy Winbush	George Fisher	Mary Grier
Nikeisha Rogers	Judy Fleming	Faustina Patterson

November

Crissy Mason	Barbara Pratt	Elizabeth Smith
Robin Thornton	Mary Turner	Ronni Brantley
Jauan Cochran	Selecia Dean	Felicia Farmer
Clifton Farr	Toya Bullock	Steve Cerutti
Doris Connelly	Katherine Cundiff	Barbara Langley

December

Emily Acevedo	Christi Dawson	Edward Jackson
Ella Maye	Shelby Reed	Audrey Scott
Mickael Stephens	Micky Fulk	Hilary Kalisch

Happy Birthday to My GAL

You brighten up my life,
With tender love and care,
When I reach out
You're always there.

You're someone I can count on,
When I need a helping hand,
You're warm and loving,
You always understand.

I'm so thankful to have
A GAL like you,
There is no other,
Who could fill your shoes.



Source: [For Mom's Birthday Poem](#), [Birthday Poem for Family](#)

Happy Anniversary GALS

October

Tommy Braxton	Ellen Flanagan	Jauan Cochran
Judy Frye	Priscilla Fields	Barbara Langley
Cathy Goodman	Dennis Sherrod	Elizabeth Meador
Linay Ward	Delores Parks	Michele Buckley
Almerta Reid	Renita Stallings	Susan Winn
Delane Armstrong	Johnnie Worthington	

November

Emily Acevedo	Judy Winbush	Judy Depree
Tyreika Mason	Jessie Rouse	Nancy West
Beth Ebersole	Emily Peacock	Nancy Truhan
Edward Jackson	Leslie Paley	Michelle Tucker
Wallace Younger	Toya Bullock	Katherine Cundiff
Judy Fleming	Margaret Ryan	Cheryl Tafoya

December

Tamara Durham	Felicia Farmer	John Gray
Ella Maye	Katharine Ormont	Ann Lappert
Ron Lappert		

Stars at Night

Beautiful stars in the night
Beautiful stars shining bright
Wondering what is beyond that life
Wondering why the cat chases the mice
Thankful that a GAL made their time
Mine

Source: Stars At Night, Anniversary Poem <http://www.familyfriendpoems.com/poem/stars-at-night#ixzz1cfzOWQrz>
Family Friend Poems



Patty Cake, Patty Cake, Baker's Man
 Bake me a Pie as fast as you Can
 Put it in the oven for the GAL's and ME



Fun facts

According to Familyfun.go.com, kids helping mom in the kitchen improves their math skills, and reading skills as well as putting things in a logical order.

Apple pie

FILLING

- 5 1/2 to 6 cups peeled 1/2-inch diced just-ripe pears (about 8 small pears)
- 1 1/2 tablespoons cornstarch
- Pinch of salt
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup maple syrup
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon finely grated lemon zest
- 2 tablespoons chopped candied ginger or 1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
- 9- or 9 1/2-inch deep-dish pie crust or try this Flaky Piecrust
- **OATMEAL CRUMB TOPPING**
- 2/3 cup flour
- 1/2 cup old-fashioned rolled oats
- 1/2 cup packed light brown sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/3 cup cold unsalted butter, cut into 1/4-inch pieces



www.familyfun.go.com/kidsrecipes

GAL WORD SEARCH

QERTYUAGEUJSEUCHILDRENRHUDDHURUDDHRAMAZINGISTPEBESTPERSONFEYRBF
 L THANKYOUUSDILOVETJEKLEKPOREJERINSGYUJIKVOICESAUSEHEISSOPREESGREATR
 AUSYE KDKRIFJDRKUCOURTKKKLLOAOIJERJREHERSONISHANDSOMEANDSPOILEFDS
 LCFHERJREKJRFUTUREJKKJKNJIKJJLEADERSTHEMETISYTD DAUGHTERSFKLRROSOFE
 FSDKFJRUIRKFLDKRJI OFARETHEWORLDII RFDKERKSFKDSIJRISJTJSBEAUTIFULASEA

CHILDREN	VOICE	ARE THE WORLD	AMAZING	BEST	SON
PARENTS	LEADERS	HANDSOME	DAUGHTERS	BEAUTIFUL	LOVE
THANK YOU	GREAT	COURT	FUTURE		

What's in your Community????

Recently, the Department of Social Service of Pitt County has joined in with the Parent Partner Program. The Parent Partner program is about helping birth parents who are involved with the child welfare system reunify. Parent Advocates are birth parents that have been through the "system" themselves and have successfully reunified with their own children. Parent Partners provide support and motivation for those parents who need that extra push to begin their case plan activities. For more information contact: Susan Clayton at 252-902-1071.

This information was retained from D.S.S of Pitt County 1717 W. 5th Street Greenville NC. 27834

Supplemental Educational Services (SES) provided by Accelerated Achievement @ Measurement Incorporated are offering FREE TUTORING for children through the Title I school program. To learn about tutoring in your district, Contact 866-691-1425

About Boys & Girls Clubs of America

For more than 100 years, Boys & Girls Clubs of America (GreatFutures.org) has enabled young people most in need to achieve great futures as productive, caring, responsible citizens. Today, nearly 4,000 Clubs serve some 4 million young people through Club membership and community outreach. Clubs are located in cities, towns, public housing and on Native American lands throughout the country and on U.S. military installations worldwide. They provide a safe place, caring adult mentors, fun and friendship, and high-impact youth development programs on a daily basis during critical non-school hours. Club programs promote academic success, good character and citizenship, and healthy lifestyles.



"Remember to smile, and keep your mind open to the world" ...Unknown

A Shining Guardian ad Litem



Twinkle, Twinkle little star
How I wonder where you are
Up above the world so high
Like a diamond in the sky.
Shining Love on the GAL's and I



Barbara Langley was sworn in as a Guardian ad Litem on October 01, 2010. She became a GAL because she was interested in Juvenile Justice. She has a desire to help abused and neglected kids in the court system. Barbara has successfully closed one case and working very hard to see the other two cases close. Barbara Langley is one of many of our Pitt County volunteers who dedicate extra time in the office assisting with secretary duties. Barbara has completed her Criminal Justice Degree and is seeking employment with Victims' Services.

Barbara's quote of the day is "Never Give up". Barbara is our Shining GAL. Thank you Barbara for your hard work and dedication. We appreciate everything you do for the Guardian ad Litem Program.

We here at Guardian ad Litem Office would like to say farewell to our Fall Interns from East Carolina University. These ladies have done a fantastic job and we are wishing them the best in their careers.

Pitt County

Erin Bain
Nichola Gaylor

Greene County

Shanikia Sutton

Lenoir County

Antoinette Boskey
Selecia Dean

"A Person's a Person, NO Matter How Small"...Dr. Seuss



- **Monthly Visits:** Monthly visits are required and ensure that the child is safe and healthy and his/her placement is working well. Unfortunately, we have had kids further abused and/or neglected in foster care, group homes and even in relative placement so we need to see our children every month.
- **Monthly GAL Update:** Please remember to submit a case update each month to the program supervisor working with you on your case.
- **Having Trouble Getting Information:** If you are having difficulty getting information or receiving responses or call backs, let your program supervisor know that you need help resolving these issues.
- **Does Your GAL Child Want to Come to Court?** Ask your older GAL children if they want to come to Court. Encourage self-advocacy as a way to prepare them for self-sufficiency. Also encourage older youth to file a youth court report.
- **Transporting Children:** Please remember that **Guardians ad Litem are NOT authorized to transport their GAL children.** GALs are also NOT authorized to transport the child's parents, foster parents, siblings, relatives, etc.
- **LINKS & SAYSO:** Remember to encourage youth in foster care to participate in these programs.
- **Court reports:** Reports are due several weeks before your court date. Remember– if a report is not submitted within the required time frame, the Court does not have to read the report or consider GAL recommendations. If this happens, your child's voice will not be heard.
- **Court Notes:** Please look at your court notes when we mail them to you after court. **We note when the next court date is scheduled and when your next court report is due.**
- **DSS:** Lenoir County DSS closes at 12:00pm on Wednesdays and Wayne County DSS is closed on Fridays.

HELP US STAY UPDATED ON YOU AND YOUR CASE

Please contact your GAL supervisor with any updated contact information (names of caretakers, address and phone numbers) when our children's placement changes. This will allow our program to keep an up-dated record regarding the GAL children's placement.

Please help us update our volunteer records as well. Do you have an updated e-mail address or cell phone number? Have you moved or changed phone numbers? It is important for us to have your current information. Please call our office with any changes or updates you would like to make.

A grandmother involved with some of our GAL children now has 4 children in her home. She is in need of a washer and dryer.

We also have a family who needs a bed for the adults in the home

If you know of any way to assist, please contact our office.

The following volunteers were sworn in between August 2011 and November 2011:

Shanikia Sutton

Vivian Davis

Brittany Johanson

Ora Lee Pettyjohn

Erin Bain

Selecia Dean

Antoinette Boskey

Austin Lane

Delores Pittman

Nichola Gaylor

Telephone Numbers for DSS Locations in the District

Lenoir County:

Ph: 252 559-6210

Fax: 252 520-7878

Greene County:

Ph: 252 747 -5932

Fax: 252 747- 8654

Pitt County:

Ph: 252 902-1110

Fax: 252-830-2524

Wayne County:

Ph: 919 705-1730

Fax: 919 705-1742

“We have the whole World in Our Hands”