



Guardian's Voice

8th District Serving Wayne, Lenoir, & Greene Counties

January 2007

From the Desk of the Administrator:

The new year has started off with a bang and if it continues, unfortunately, we may have one of our busiest years yet. Thank you for continuing to be available as we receive these new cases. Thanks as well to each of you who came out for our Christmas open houses. For those of you who couldn't come out you missed some great food and fellowship. We have some exciting trainings coming up that are open to all volunteers. Keep your eyes peeled for notices. I hope everyone will put the Annual Outback Appreciation Luncheon on your schedule. It will be April 13, 2007 at 12:00p at the Outback in Goldsboro. You do so much for our program and our children and we really hope you will come out so we can say thanks for all your hard work.

For the last several months we have really benefited by having Mickael Stephans providing us case management services, especially to our children in the Fayetteville and Jacksonville areas. Unfortunately, his grant is running out. If you think you would have the time to see children in either of these areas please give us a call. These children really need your advocacy.

On behalf of the entire GAL program, I thank you for being such an important part of our program. I wish each of you and your families a happy and healthy New Year. Please remember we are here to assist you so that you can serve our children well, so don't hesitate to call on us when you need us.

Colleen

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

Wayne Court Dates

January: 4th & 18th

February: 1st & 15th

March: 1st & 15th & 29th

April: 12th & 26th

May: 10th & 24th

June: 7th & 28th

Lenoir Court Dates

January: 2nd, 16th, 30th

February: 13th & 27th

March: 13th & 27th

April: 10th & 24th

May: 8th & 22nd

June: 5th & 26th

Greene Court Dates

January: 8th

February: 5th

March: 12th

April: 16th

May: 14th

June: 11th

Interstate Compact Program for Children Training

The Wayne County Department of Social Services is offering training on the Interstate Compact Program for Children on February 20, 2007 from 9-3p at the Wayne County Library. ICPC is the program that approves placement of children in other states. If this is a workshop you are interested in attending, please RSVP to either office by January 30th. We hope you will consider attending.

Stupid Laws

North Carolina Laws

- ♦ If a man and a woman who are not married go to a hotel/motel and register themselves as married then, according to state law, they are legally married.
- ♦ It's against the law to sing off key.
- ♦ Elephants may not be used to plow cotton fields.

<http://www.ahajokes.com/laws033.html>

Reports

The Guardian ad Litem program is a very unique program in that we rely heavily on volunteers to carry out investigations, talk to children, therapists, family members, etc and submit a report to the court on behalf of the child client. Often times, the volunteers are able to gather information no one else has been able to get, or track people down that no one else has been able to find. Many times, our volunteers are very well connected to the community and are able to help secure services for the children we serve and their parents.

Volunteers truly are the eyes and

ears of the judge, and often times, the only voice a child has in court.

The reports that are filed by you the volunteer are crucial to the case you are working on. If the reports are not filed on time, by law, the judge is not required to read the report.

This is very important to keep in mind when you are preparing your reports. If the judge does not receive your report on time, the child's voice may never be heard in court.

Please be sure to get your report to the supervisor in the county you serve at least two weeks before the actual

court date, whether your report is e-mailed, typed and hand delivered, hand written, or given verbally via the phone or face to face. This will ensure that your report, will be filed on time and the child's voice will be heard in court.

If you have any questions or concerns about your case, please do not hesitate to call our offices.

Thank you for all of the hard work you do and the time you sacrifice, all in order to help protect a child. You are appreciated and we could not do this without you.

PERMANENCY OPTIONS

ADOPTION

Adoption is the most legally binding relationship that can be established between a child and an adult who is not so related by birth. Before adoption can occur, there must be relinquishment of the child by the parent(s) or a termination of parental rights. When a child is placed for adoption after having been in custody or placement authority of an agency, there is a likelihood the child will be eligible for Adoption Assistance because of his special needs status. Adoption Assistance was established in 1980 with the Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act and promotes the placement of children in adoptive families by providing financial resources to support adoption. Eligibility for Adoption Assistance benefits should be established prior to a child's placement for adoption but must be established prior to the issuance of the Decree of Adoption. If a child is eligible for Adop-

tion Assistance, that child is eligible whether or not that child resides in North Carolina.

GUARDIANSHIP

This is a permanency option for children that is more legally secure than custody, but not as secure as adoption. It is appropriately used when reunification and adoption have been ruled out as permanency options. With guardianship, the parents' rights do not have to be terminated. The guardian shall have the care, custody, and control of the child and may represent the child in legal matters before the court. The guardian may consent to certain actions on the part of the child in place of the parent (ex. Consent to marriage, enlisting in the armed forces, enroll in school). Guardianship awarded in the context of a permanent plan for a child shall continue unless the court finds that the relationship between the guardian and the juvenile is no longer in the juvenile's

best interest, that the guardian is unfit, the guardian has neglected its duties, or the guardian is unwilling or incapable to continue to assume the duties. Legal guardians are encouraged to apply for TANF (see section on custody to determine possible payment amounts) and Medicaid or North Carolina Health Choice for Children.

LEGAL CUSTODY

An adult can be granted legal custody of a child. This is the option with the least permanency, as a parent can file a motion for review as ask the court to return the child to him based on the parent's change in circumstance. There is no termination of parental rights required. Legal custodians can apply for TANF payments for the children as child/ren only cases. The amount of payment may be reduced by any other income the child has.

Treatment for Parents

By Cynthia Coley

Mental health reform continues to change the method that parents receive necessary services. Since mental health is no longer the direct service provider, it makes the situation a little confusing for most. Mental health contracts with direct service providers. A part of their contract includes providing a small percentage of pro bono cases -----yes, free of charge.

A recent conversation with a provider helped to make their role clearer. I was informed that they would not deny an individual service based on their inability to pay. At the time, we were discussing a psychological evaluation.

Greene County has a mental health office. This means there is IRPS money; which is for the indigent. The office is in Wilson at Wilson-Greene Mental Health. **Greene County also** has the Medical Family Therapy Clinic which can be accessed through Kate B Reynolds Medical Center at 252.747.4199 or Snow Hill Medical Center at 252.747.2921.

Lenoir County has a mental health office which does not offer access to services. The physical location is 2901 North Herritage Street, Kinston, NC and the number is 252.233.2300. However, all access services are provided through the Goldsboro location at the present time. This again means there is IRPS money for the indigent.

Wayne County has a mental health office which does have access to services; they provide access services for Wayne, Lenoir, Duplin, Jones and Sampson Counties. The office is located at 100 South James Street, Goldsboro, NC and the number is 919.731.1133. This again means there is IRPS money for the indigent.

As changes occur, we must find a way to become updated about what is available. It is clear, what is available today, may not be available next week. Always ask. At some point, mental health reform will become recognizable and services will again be easily identified. This matters to us because this will make it clearer providing direction to the population we serve. The truth is that we must learn the services available and make certain we consider each agency's requirements to access their service.

Colleen, Sonya and Cynthia will remain as resources to you. As experience has taught, if we don't have the answers, we will find out and get back with you. Please note that mental health remains a navigational challenge, but it is a challenge that we can conquer.

Please be mindful that is sometimes necessary for parents to be taken to their mental health appointments. Our role is to advocate for our children to return home provided this is a healthy environment. Sometimes, this means having the appropriate documents to make that decision, such as a psychological evaluation. While we are advocates for the children only, the parents sometimes need services so that they will be able to effectively parent their children. We must make recommendations based on the parent's ability. When pushing for services for the parents, we must keep in mind that we are advocating for the children to have effective parents who are able to meet their needs.

Volunteer Spotlight: Emily Peacock

The office has decided to do a new section in our newsletter highlighting a volunteer that has provided the program outstanding service. We will be rotating through each of the counties. The first spotlight will be highlighting Emily Peacock. Emily has received the North Carolina Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service, formally known as the Governor's Award. Emily has the following to share:

Most endeavors during my lifetime centered around improving opportunities for children.

I first became involved with the GAL program helping when it began in Wayne County as one of three counties in a pilot project which was spon-

sored locally by WAGES. I was trained as a GAL volunteer about 12 years ago. I have served on Wayne County DSS Community Assessment and Review Team (CART) for children who have been abused or neglected for approximately 20 years.

Retired in 2004 as social worker for Wayne County Health Department Child Service Coordination Program. Previously employed as DSS Social Worker in Kansas. Social worker and Director of Volunteer Services for Cherry Hospital and Program Director for WAGES. Graduated from Goldsboro High School and UNC- Greensboro.

Other Volunteer activities include:

Wayne County Mental Health Association for 39 years to include coordinating Pierre the Pelican Program for 14 years, member of Goldsboro City School Board of Education and the interim Wayne County Board of Education, Wayne Uplift Resource Association Board for 12 years serving as Secretary, St. Luke United Methodist Church Treasurer, President of United Methodist Women, Choir, Sunday School Teacher, and care provider for Stephen Ministry Program.

I have been married for 46 years to David Peacock, Mother of 4 children, 8 grandchildren.

We Have Two New Interns!

The Kinston office is pleased to have two hard working and dedicated interns starting work this semester. The interns will be doing a variety of things in and out of the office. They will be learning about all of the office work, filing court reports, the meetings supervisors attend, attending community meetings, going to court, and also doing some work with the children.

Diana Rouse is obtaining her degree from East Carolina University and is majoring in Family and Community Relocation. Diana chose to work with the GAL program for her internship because she "has a desire to help children and to help to provide them with a safe environment."

Jeffery Ward is a student at Lenoir Community College studying Criminal

Justice. Jeff said he wanted to work with the program for his internship because he "wants to intervene early in a child's life to help prevent them from getting involved in criminal activity."

We all would like to welcome Diana and Jeff to the program. As volunteers, you may hear from them from time to time reminding you about your

Outback Steakhouse

Once again, Outback Steakhouse had agreed to host our annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon. The Luncheon will be on Friday, April 13, 2007 at 12:00p at the Outback in Goldsboro. More information will be sent out as we get closer to the event. Please mark your calendars so you can come out and be apart of this great day.

State of the Child Conference

On March 9, 2007, the 6th annual State of the Child Conference will be held at Mount Olive College from 9-3p. A brochure will be mailed out next week. The cost is \$20.00 but that covers lunch, snacks, and your supplies. This is a great way to gain additional training, so we hope you will come.

Heaven's Very Special Child

By: Edna Massimilla

A meeting was held quite far from
the earth

"It's time again for another birth."

"This special child will need much
love."

His progress may seem very slow

Accomplishments he may not show

And he'll require extra care

From folks he meets way down
there.

He may not run or laugh or play

His thoughts may seem quite far
away

In many ways he won't adapt

And he'll be known as handicapped

So let's be careful where he's sent

We want his life to be content.

Please Lord, find the parents who

Will do a special job for you.

They will not realize right away

The leading role they're asked to
play

But with this child sent from above

Comes stronger faith and richer
love.

And soon they'll know the privilege
given

In caring for this gift from heaven

Their precocious charge, so meek
and mild,

Is heaven's very special child.

WANTED!

We are looking for new ideas for
our newsletter. If you have any
ideas for things you would like to
see, please give us a call. We are
also looking for recipes, poems,
jokes, etc.

Important Up-Date for Travel Reimbursement Forms!

Effective September 1, 2006, the state has in-
creased the personal mileage reimbursement rate
from \$0.37 to \$0.40 per mile. Please see the
mileage chart in the newsletter for easy calcula-
tions.

We Have a Digital Camera!

Gwen Kelly, our Program Assistant, has
graciously donated a digital camera to the
GAL Program! If you are doing a home visit
and would like to take pictures, please feel
free to stop by the Goldsboro office and

pick up the camera.

We still have a Polaroid camera in
both the Kinston and Goldsboro
office for your use as well.

WANTED!

The Guardian ad Litem office is looking for
volunteers that are interested in taking on
an extra case or two. The office is also
looking for volunteers that are interested
in traveling to visit our out of county chil-
dren. If you are interested in helping in
one or both of these areas, please call our
office at 919-731-5659 or 252-523-5217.

Chocolate-Dipped Fruit

Ingredients

- 1 cup semisweet chocolate chips
- 1 teaspoon shortening
- 6 ounces dried apricots
- 1 pint fresh strawberries

Directions

In a saucepan over low heat, melt chocolate
chips and shortening, stirring constantly until
smooth. Spear fruit with toothpicks; dip into
chocolate. Place on waxed paper or stick
toothpicks into a block of Styrofoam to
harden.

GAL Staff

Colleen Kosinski
Cynthia Coley
Sonya Carter
Gwen Kelly
Raelyn Mosher
Tim Finan- Advocate Attorney
Wayne/Greene Counties
George Jenkins-
Advocate Attorney
Lenoir County

Goldsboro Phone: 919-731-5659
Kinston Phone: 252-523-5217
Goldsboro Fax: 919-581-1073
Kinston Fax: 252-527-9154

224 E. Walnut St.
Goldsboro, NC 27530

130 S. Queen St.
Kinston, NC 28501

Welcome New Volunteers!

Congratulations and welcome to the newly sworn in volunteers. The following volunteers were sworn in between October—December 2006:

Elizabeth J. Williams Jessie Rouse
Donna Lewis Kathleen O'Sullivan Blanks

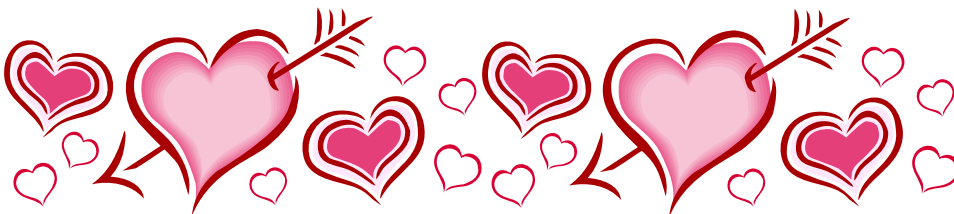


Some districts have monthly luncheons or dinners for their volunteers. They find some time together with other volunteers is nice and helpful. Some of you have expressed an interest in getting together with each other. Thus, we have discussed starting a monthly get together in our district as well. We could meet monthly for lunch or dinner at a restaurant of your choice. Everyone would pay for their own meal. This would be a great opportunity for you to meet other volunteers. You could discuss your cases since everyone is under the same oath of confidentiality or you could just mingle and socialize. If you are interested in joining such a group, please call our office or e-mail Sonya.g.carter@nccourts.org. We welcome your suggestions about places and/or times for these get-togethers.

Attitude

By: Charles Swindoll

"The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. **Attitude**, to me, is **more important than facts**. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than success, than what other people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness or skill. **It will make or break a company... a church... a home**. The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. **We cannot change our past... we cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable.** The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have and that is our ATTITUDE... I am convinced that **life is 10% what happens to you and 90% how you react to it.** And so it is with you... **we are in charge of our attitudes.**"



Protect Yourself: Disable Caller ID

If you must call from your home, work, or cell phone, remember to use *67 before dialing the number. This will prevent the people you are calling from getting your number. If they have Caller ID, it will display "private" when the receiver looks for the number. Also, if someone tries the "callback" feature, the call will not go through or display your number.

Dial *67, you will hear a series of beeps, then dial tone; then just dial the number.

Facts

- ♦ Every five minutes a child is abused in North Carolina
- ♦ 26 Children died in North Carolina from child abuse
- ♦ 85% of the time the perpetrator is a biological parent
- ♦ 1 in 3 children will be sexually abused before age 18
- ♦ 85% of the children will grow up to be abusive parents...

HERE'S WHERE YOU STEP IN

Donate Your Used Ink Cartridges, Toners, & Cell Phones

The Guardian ad Litem Program is participating in a recycling program for used ink cartridges, cell phones, toners, and laptops. If you would like to donate your cartridges, you can drop them off at either office. Raelyn can also provide a box for your place of business, church, or social/civic organization. Please contact Raelyn at 919-731-5659 or 252-523-5217 for more information.

Telephone Lists for Social Services

Lenoir County Department of Social Services

Lenoir County Department of Social Services Telephone List

252/559-6400

FAX 252/559-6380

Monica Williams - Program Mgr.	ext. 6217	Tonya Branch - Secretary	ext. 6210
Deloris Bunch - Team I	ext. 6215	Renee Kennedy - Team II	ext. 6219
Anita Armstrong	ext. 6203	Tyrus "Tim" Boone	ext. 6221
Calvin Godwin	ext. 6200	Erica Bostic	ext. 6223
Amanda Haddock	ext. 6222	Cynthia Couch	ext. 6225
Tenisha Howard	ext. 6211	Michelle Hayes	ext. 6220
Joanna Hudson	ext. 6201	Bonita Lynch	ext. 6216
Katie Northrup	ext. 6204	David Byrd (Intern)	ext. 6240
Barbara Williams - Team III	ext. 6213	Jeff Harrison - Team IV	ext. 6209
Karma Best	ext. 6229	Stacey Frazier	ext. 6214
Mack Dixon	ext. 6208	Rachel Jones	ext. 6224
Kristy Heleine	ext. 6227	Geoff Marett	ext. 6207
LaShanta Powe	ext. 6206	Michael Miller	ext. 6218
Wanda Morgan	ext. 6212	Kathie Sutton	ext. 6205
		Sharon Worthington	ext. 6249
Food Stamp Supervisor - Pat Hemby - 6332		Day Care Supervisor - Gay Humphrey	6368
Child Support Supervisor - Elizabeth Lofton 6348		Adult Services Supervisor - Marion Sutton 6251	

Wayne County Department of Social Services Telephone Number

919/705-6533

FAX 919/705-1742

Please note that by dialing the above number, you should always reach a person. You may request to be transferred to the social worker or transferred to the voice mail or have that the social worker paged. The main number should help you to reach a supervisor when necessary or connect with any other service.

Greene County Department of Social Services Telephone Number

252/747-5932

FAX 252/747-8654

TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENTS

As you already know, the state reimburses volunteers for case related travel as long as the funds are available and the request is submitted timely. The rate recently increased to forty cents per mile (.40). The state office has made specific requests in order to process your paperwork quickly. Please keep in mind that the person in Raleigh who processes these reimbursements is not knowledgeable of every city and county in North Carolina. To this end, please complete the form completely. Start with the day of the month, just simply the number such as 1. Please list the "to" city and the "from" city, even if they are the same. For the purpose, you may list the school, hospital, DSS, home visit, etc. along with the case number. Then list the number of miles in whole numbers, rounded off to the nearest mile. Multiply the number of miles by .40; which result in a total that should be listed under amount. Total the front page and put that amount in total trans. block. If needed, continue on the back in the same manner and total that page also.

Remember to complete the top portion of the form as well. On each form you must check the division, which is Guardian ad Litem. Then complete your name and address. Check the block only if you have a name or address change. Enter your title (Volunteer) and the Headquarters city (Kinston or Goldsboro). Enter your social security number. Enter the month and year for which the reimbursement is requested. Enter the date the request was prepared. Please sign it. The total cost should reflect the totals from both the front and back of the page. Also put that same total in the reimbursement block. ***Remember, incomplete data results in delays locally or at the state office.***

Travel reimbursements should be submitted on a monthly basis. A good rule for timelines is a submission within five (5) business days of the month following the month of travel. You can mail them in, bring them in, slide them under the door or present personally; we must have an original signature to submit for reimbursement. For your convenience, a mileage chart is below.

MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT @ .40 per mile

1	0.40	21	8.40	41	16.40	61	24.40	81	32.40
2	0.80	22	8.80	42	16.80	62	24.80	82	32.80
3	1.20	23	9.20	43	17.20	63	25.20	83	33.20
4	1.60	24	9.60	44	17.60	64	25.60	84	33.60
5	2.00	25	10.00	45	18.00	65	26.00	85	34.00
6	2.40	26	10.40	46	18.40	66	26.40	86	34.40
7	2.80	27	10.80	47	18.80	67	26.80	87	34.80
8	3.20	28	11.20	48	19.20	68	27.20	88	35.20
9	3.60	29	11.60	49	19.60	69	27.60	89	35.60
10	4.00	30	12.00	50	20.00	70	28.00	90	36.00
11	4.40	31	12.40	51	20.40	71	28.40	91	36.40
12	4.80	32	12.80	52	20.80	72	28.80	92	36.80
13	5.20	33	13.20	53	21.20	73	29.20	93	37.20
14	5.60	34	13.60	54	21.60	74	29.60	94	37.60
15	6.00	35	14.00	55	22.00	75	30.00	95	38.00
16	6.40	36	14.40	56	22.40	76	30.40	96	38.40
17	6.80	37	14.80	57	22.80	77	30.80	97	38.80
18	7.20	38	15.20	58	23.20	78	31.20	98	39.20
19	7.60	39	15.60	59	23.60	79	31.60	99	39.60
20	8.00	40	16.00	60	24.00	80	32.00	100	40.00