

# ***Guardian ad Litem Volunteers: Make a Difference in the Life of a Child!***

"I became a volunteer to honor my parents and my sister. I am fortunate enough to have two supportive parents and a sister that is my best friend. I know that everyone is not that fortunate. My family shaped me into the person I am today and instilled in me the morals, ethics, and beliefs that make me who I am. I wanted to honor them and give back to my community. The Guardian ad Litem program was the perfect fit for this.

The training is straight forward and thorough about how to be safe. I do make sure that my case manager knows if I'm going into a situation that I'm not entirely comfortable in. This way someone knows where I'm at, how long I will be there, and I have not broken any confidentiality. My case manager, Kim, just rocks! She's always there for me and makes sure that safety is never a problem.

My best accomplishment so far was being able to reunite a child with one of her parents right before Christmas. I did not do this alone. This takes a team effort. The child was in a great foster home, but it wasn't her home. It was the holidays, and she was really missing her dad. I won't ever forget her arms wrapping tightly around my neck and hearing her whisper, 'Thank you.'

Ralph Waldo Emerson stated, "It is one of the most beautiful compensations of this life that no man can sincerely try to help another without helping himself." While you are giving back to your community and you are serving as the voice for children, you are also helping yourself. You should volunteer because it makes you feel good. It's that simple."



*Katy Goforth  
Anderson Volunteer Guardian ad Litem*

***"My current case involves a young girl. At our last visit, we had played outside because the weather was beautiful. We had rolled down hills. We had picked some wildflowers. We had raced back and forth in the yard. We were sitting in the driveway, and it was time for me to go. She leaned over and said, 'Can you please stay for another minute? I really want to watch the sunset with you. It would make my day complete.' I stayed and watched the sunset. You start to realize how much the simple things really do count."***



**VOLUNTEER. SPEAK UP FOR A CHILD.®**

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