

Guardian ad Litem Volunteers: Ordinary People doing Extraordinary Things!

give hope: listen...care...advocate...share...trust...empower...encourage...

"My name is David Peel, and I've been a Guardian ad Litem (GAL) Volunteer for 7 years."

I became interested in being a GAL Volunteer when I relocated to SC for a new job. I read an ad in the local newspaper asking for volunteers and it seemed like a great way to get involved in the community. This interest quickly became a passion for me.

I remember my first case with two little boys in a terrible situation. I especially remember the feeling I experienced when they were placed in a home that would guarantee them a bright future. I think of them often and how their lives were changed for the better. I remember the little girl that survived unthinkable abuse and how she reached out to me for help. She relied on me to be there for her when she was afraid. I can recall all my cases with vivid images of the faces and the smiles. It makes me feel warm inside when I think of them. I am honored to have been their Guardian.

I have met a lot of new friends as a GAL Volunteer. It is nothing short of miraculous, when I recall all the caring folks that have helped me help the children. I am grateful for the opportunity to have worked with them for a common purpose.

Of course I have had some challenges as a GAL Volunteer. The training provided to us is great and equips us with the knowledge and skills needed to be a GAL Volunteer. I did get nervous when I started a new case and met the parents and children for the first time. I can say that not every parent was happy to see me at first. And giving testimony in the courtroom was a daunting task in the beginning. I am happy to say that I look forward to these challenges now. It took me about two cases to get over the stage fright. It has been a great learning experience and I am a better person for that.

I believe that we are obligated to help little people in need. When their well being is in jeopardy they need someone just like you and me to help them through their darkest hour. The children, the court, and all interested parties depend on our judgment and recommendations. Checking in with the children at home, school, and other functions give us all a peace of mind that they are being cared for. I take this responsibility with great humility and consider it a privilege to be a Guardian ad Litem Volunteer.



David Peel
Greenwood County Volunteer Guardian ad Litem

teach...protect...advocate...inspire...grow...heal...thrive...give hope.