

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

Born and raised in Seattle, Washington, Jamika Mitchell moved to South Carolina to start a new life.

“I had some family here,” Mitchell said. “I really needed a change.”

After witnessing the effects of child neglect when an old boyfriend failed to take care of his children, Mitchell developed a heart for child advocacy.

“It’s not their fault,” Mitchell said. “Their parents didn’t take responsibility and the kids don’t understand that.”

Upon moving to South Carolina, Mitchell enrolled in community college and graduated with a Bachelors degree in Social Work. Now, in addition to serving as a volunteer Guardian ad Litem and caring for her own three children, Mitchell is working toward a Masters degree in Public Administration

“Im excited,” Mitchell said. “I’m excited to get out there in the field. I want to work with these kids and make them feel like they’re not the only one out there.”

Mitchell says everyone should consider being a Guardian ad Litem, even if they have some doubts.

“I think it’s beneficial for anyone to just try it,” she said. “These kids just want someone to look up to. They want to be taken care of. Because they already feel like their parents don’t want them. I think just simply talking to them makes a difference.”



**Jamika Mitchell**  
Volunteer Guardian ad Litem

***“The kids – that’s what’s important.***

***If you really want to make a difference in the community, this is the way to do it.***

***Sometimes you might have that doubt – but just try it. I think it’s beneficial for anyone to just try.”***



## **VOLUNTEER. SPEAK UP FOR A CHILD.®**

For media inquiries please contact Cherie Walker, Public Relations Supervisor at (864)878-6280 or [cwalker@oepp.sc.gov](mailto:cwalker@oepp.sc.gov)