

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

“My name is Patricia Smith and I have been a volunteer Guardian ad Litem (GAL) for two and half years.”

“The love and care of all children made me want to become a volunteer GAL. I journal and in the year of 1999 I was musing over what I could do to give back to my community when I retired. I wrote that I would like to become some type advocate for children. When I retired in February 2008, I was looking back at my journal and that statement from 1999 caught my eye. I began volunteering at a school letting first graders read a book and take a computer test on what they had read. However, I felt an urgency to seek out something more that would impact children more so than reading. I made a call to the GAL office and inquired about the responsibilities and duties of a GAL and was invited to a training session and as the saying goes, “The rest is history.”

I was not worried at all about becoming too attached to a child. I handle this by constant and fervent prayer for myself as well as all involved. My personal close attachment is spread to my 25 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren and my 8 children.

Training made me feel more comfortable about becoming an advocate. There is also continuing education after the initial training sessions required to become a GAL.

Volunteers set their own times, with the exception of court dates, as to when they work on cases. The training thoroughly prepares you to become a GAL and the staff is always there for you. The need is greater than most people realize. Just come to a training session or call the local GAL office like I did and ask questions that you may have in trying to decide to do this.”



*Patricia Smith
Pickens Volunteer Guardian ad Litem*

“I feel people should become volunteers because of the phenomenal number of children that need a voice of a loving, caring person that will be constant as long as the case remains open. If you choose not to volunteer, get the information and pass it on to someone you think will.”



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