

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



Charles & Dana Ballew
Volunteer Guardians ad Litem

“It’s amazing how some of the kids fall through the cracks and you really don’t hear about it. Most people in South Carolina really don’t know.”

- Charles Ballew

“I try to explain to the parents that it’s not about them - it’s about the best interest of their child.”

- Dana Ballew

Charles and Dana Ballew are substitute teachers with a passion for children. With two children at home and one in college, the Ballews’ backyard sometimes looks more like the neighborhood park than a residence.

“We just love kids,” Dana said. “And when I saw an ad for guardian ad litem in the paper, I thought ‘Why not volunteer? Why not do something in the community?’”

With full-time jobs, children and other activities, the Ballews squeezed together some time and started the training class together in 2009.

“Before we started the class, a lot of people thought you had to have some big fancy degree,” Charles said. “But you don’t. You just have to care.”

The couple says after working in the classroom you can tell which children don’t have a good home life, and volunteering allows them to help more than they can at school.

“As a guardian you’re able to look at the big picture,” Dana said. “You can’t change the past, but you can help them accomplish what they need for the future.”

Charles said small gestures can also make a huge difference in the child’s life.

“One kid had an event at school and neither of his parents showed up,” Charles said. “He was sad. The other kids had their parents there. But as soon as he saw me he grabbed my hand and we took off down the hall. He introduced me to his classmates, his teachers - it put a big smile on his face.”



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