

January-February,  
2012  
Volume 4, Issue 5

# The Guardian

**Florida Guardian ad Litem Program • 1920 Thomasville Rd, Suite 208  
Tallahassee, FL 32303**

## **Governor Scott and Department of Children and Families Launch Partners for Promise Initiative**



*Launching the new Partners for Promise Initiative with Governor Scott are Starbucks Manager Michael Lopez, Starbucks District Manager Omega Wynn, Statewide Guardian ad Litem Office Executive Director Alan Abramowitz, Child Advocates II President Brian Sealey, Governor Rick Scott, Guardian ad Litem Program Circuit Director Deborah Moore, Guardian ad Litem Volunteer Stuart Zirin, and Centennial Bank Business Development Office representative Mike Davis*

At a press conference on December 5, 2011, Governor Rick Scott, Secretary David Wilkins, Department of Children and Families, announced the Partners for Promise Initiative. This new campaign will encourage Florida's businesses to volunteer, mentor and share their resources to help build strong

families and communities. Governor Scott and Secretary Wilkins were joined at the press conference by leaders from the Florida Chamber of Commerce, Florida Mentorship Partnership, Big Bend Community Based Care and the Guardian ad Litem Program. Our own very special Community

Supporters, Mike Davis, Centennial Bank, Michael Lopez, Starbucks and Omega Wynn, Starbucks, were present and acknowledged for their contributions to our community. For more information about Partners for Promise, go to [www.flpartnersforpromise.com](http://www.flpartnersforpromise.com).

We are excited about the possibilities for our program in the new year. Our retention and recruitment goal is 311 volunteers by June 2012. With the help of our Volunteer Advisory Committee, Volunteer Recruitment Committee, volunteers, non-profit organization (CAII), community supporters and staff, we are certain to reach it. Members of Child Advocates II have begun the year determined to achieve increased fundraising goals to support our program needs. Our "Journey to Adulthood" Independent Living Advisory committee members have only been meeting for a few months, but have already increased our understanding of the Independent Living services and improved our communication and relationships with Independent Living Program staff. Our Educational Advocacy Team members recently joined with Department of Children and Families and Big Bend Community Based Care to welcome and train over 70 school personnel serving as Foster Care Contacts in

Continued on page 6.

## GAL Staff Directory

### Leon County Office (Main)

Thomasville Road Courthouse Annex  
920 Thomasville Road, Suite 208  
Tallahassee, FL 32303

Phone No. (850) 606-1200 - Fax No. (850) 606-1201

#### ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Staff Name	Direct No.	Cell No.	E-mail
Deborah Moore, Circuit Director	606-1218	294-7545	Deborah.Moore@gal.fl.gov
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#### VOLUNTEER SUPERVISORS

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Dominic Whitfield, Volunteer Supervisor I	606-1222	274-4167	Dominic.Whitfield@gal.fl.gov
Angela Still, Volunteer Supervisor I	606-1212	-----	Angela.Still@gal.fl.gov
Elizabeth Phillips, Volunteer Supervisor I	606-1210	-----	Elizabeth.Phillips@gal.fl.gov

#### PROGRAM ATTORNEYS

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Chelsea Rice, Program Attorney	606-1213	545-0295	Chelsea.Rice@gal.fl.gov

#### Gadsden County Office (Satellite Office),

221 North Madison Street, Quincy, FL 32351

Phone No. (850) 627-4180 - Fax No. (850) 627-2336

Staff Name	Direct No.	Cell No.	E-mail
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Lillian Walker, Secretary	627-4180	-----	Lillian.Walker@gal.fl.gov
Jennie Shepard, Sr. Program Attorney	627-5505	445-1011	Jennie.Shepard@gal.fl.gov

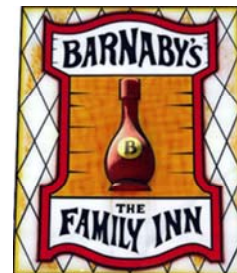
### Sharing the Spotlight

## Community Supporters Assist GAL Programs



We are excited to add **Centennial Bank** to our list of wonderful community supporters. Our volunteer brochures are prominently placed in every Centennial Bank branch in Tallahassee. We will have brochures in the Crawfordville and Woodville branches very soon! Thank you, Centennial Bank for helping us promote awareness about our program!

**Barnaby's Family Inn** has been a Tallahassee favorite for over 30 years. Each and every Guardian ad Litem Volunteer training Barnaby's happily donates spaghetti, salad and bread for our hungry students. Owner Walter Bryson says "We are a family restaurant, and are proud to contribute to our community in this way" We are glad you feel that way. Thanks Barnaby's!



## Holiday Drive Project Gathers Gifts for GAL Children



*Pictured here are just some of the many bicycles, toys and gifts Child Advocates II has gathered for holiday giving this year. The bikes in the top photo and the toys in the middle photo are from the Greenberg, Traurig law firm. For many years, the Greenberg, Traurig law firm has contributed toys for our guardian ad litem children. We are grateful for their generosity and continued support!*

*"Imagine the faces of the children who receive the gifts provided by our generous donors. Thanks to all for making this a wonderful Holiday for our GAL children."*



*The bottom photo shows the toys donated by listeners and sponsors of The Team at the 1270 AM radio station. The toys were donated at the annual 1270 AM radio station bowling tournament!*



*Imagine the faces of the children who received these generous gifts during the Holiday Season! GAL staff and volunteers send a grateful thanks to all who helped make this Christmas bright.*



## *Holy Comforter Episcopal School Donates Toys, Bikes, and School Supplies for GAL Children*



*Faculty, staff and students at the Holy Comforter Episcopal School spend part of December collecting toys for the Holiday Drive Project sponsored by Child Advocates II and the GAL program.*

## **Next GAL Volunteer Training Begins March 5**

*"For more information or to register, call (850) 606-1200."*

The next GAL Volunteer Training will begin March 5 and continue for six days at the Thomasville Road Courthouse Annex, 1920 Thomasville Road, Suite 213. The schedule for the training is listed at right.

### *Training Schedule for March*

Monday	March 5	5:30 – 9:00 pm
Wednesday	March 7	5:30 – 9:00 pm
Thursday	March 8	5:30 – 9:00 pm
Monday	March 12	5:30 – 9:00 pm
Wednesday	March 14	5:30 – 9:00 pm
Thursday	March 16	5:30 – 9:00 pm

## **2012 GAL Refresher Course Series Begins February 2**

Come all ye Faithful to the training refresher course, sponsored by the Volunteer Advisory Committee! Remember, the sessions are not sequential, you may come to any or all. 3 hours will be awarded for each session toward FY 2012-2013. They will be held the first Thursday of every other month, beginning February 2.

**Session 1** will again focus on Nuts & Bolts—Roles and Responsibilities, where we will review GAL Time Management and Casework Planning skills.

### **Location**

Grace Family Fellowship Church  
1410 E. Indian Head Drive  
Tallahassee, FL 32301

**Time:** 5:15-8:00 **Refreshments provided**

### **RSVP**

To Leigh Merritt, 850-606-1216 or [Leigh.Merritt@gal.fl.gov](mailto:Leigh.Merritt@gal.fl.gov)  
Please see the website [www.gal2.org](http://www.gal2.org) for the complete Refresher Course schedule and details.

## December Volunteer Training Adds 22 New Volunteers



*Twenty-two new volunteers celebrate their graduation from the December Volunteer Training at the GAL headquarters in Tallahassee, FL.*

**By Leigh Merritt**  
*Assistant Executive Director*

All was merry and bright in December for our volunteer training. This year's holiday month brought us 22

new graduates to add to our growing volunteer family. I'm proud to have been part of that training and welcome you all. 2012 will be a great

year with these volunteers working with such rich and varied backgrounds on behalf of our children. Congratulations New Guardians ad Litem!

## CAII Pancake Breakfast Is Successful

*"Money raised from this event help provide for the needs of children involved with the Guardian ad Litem Program. "*



*Making sure the pancakes are ready for some good eating are chefs: Boyd Merritt, Child Advocates II volunteer, Frank Platt, Guardian ad Litem volunteer, Larry O'Dell, volunteer, Brian Sealey, Child Advocates II Board President, and Omega Wynn, Child Advocates II Board Member.*

Judging by the expression on their faces, these guys can't wait for their friends to eat some more pancakes--at the GAL Pancake Breakfast! The fundraising event sponsored by Child Advocates II was held on November 12 at Applebee's Neighborhood Grill.

**THANK YOU SO MUCH!**

## Director's Message

*Continued from Page 1.*

Leon County Schools. Our EAT members continue to support our volunteers and staff in providing quality

educational advocacy for our children. I look forward to working with this impressive group of supporters as

we strengthen and expand our program during 2012!

**Deborah Moore**  
*Executive Director*

## Join Us for Guardian ad Litem Day Events February 8, 9

*" RSVP to Deborah Moore at Deborah.Moore@gal.fl.gov and let us know if you plan to attend the meetings and/or GAL Day at the Capitol. "*

The Florida Guardian ad Litem Foundation invites you to join us for Guardian ad Litem Day Events on February 8 and 9 at Florida's Capitol. Location for each event is included in parenthesis in the chart at right.

There are three ways that people may arrive at the Capitol:

- 1. By shuttle** from the Courtyard Marriott (1018 Apalachee Parkway) to the Capitol.
- 2. Park** at Governor's Square Mall (1500 Apalachee Parkway) and take a House or Senate van to the Capitol
- 3. Drive** to the Capitol. Though parking during Session is difficult, public lots are available.

### Guardian ad Litem Days Itinerary

#### Wednesday, February 8, 2012

**12:00 p.m.-1:45 p.m.** Non-Profit and Volunteer Training, Michael Piraino presentation on *NCASA Branding Campaign* (1<sup>st</sup> District Court of Appeal, 2000 Drayton Drive, Tallahassee, Florida)

**1:45p.m.-2:00 p.m.** BREAK

**2:00p.m.-3:00 p.m.** Volunteer Training, Presentation on *Homelessness (First DCA)*

**3:00p.m.-4:00 p.m.** Volunteer Training, Bonnie Marmor & June Lashbrook presentation on *A Voice Heard Initiative (1st DCA)*

**2:00p.m.-4:00 p.m.** Non-Profit Training, Marguerite Foxon presentation on *Current Issues Facing Non-Profits (1st DCA)*

**5:30p.m.-7:30 p.m.** GAL Reception (1st DCA)

\*There is no fee to attend the meetings or reception.

#### Thursday, February 9, 2012 GAL Day at the Capitol

**12:00p.m.-2:00 p.m.** Luncheon and GAL Speakers, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor of Capitol

*Lunch provided by Catering by Judy*

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