

## Changing Lives!



*"I chose to give of my time to the Guardian ad Litem program because I wanted to be a voice for children who have not had*

*the opportunity to speak for themselves. It's my way of paying rent for God allowing me to grace His earth."* Schimona McBryde Rapu, Intern

*"When the abused or neglected child needs love that he or she has never felt before, who will reach out with their heart?"* Bill Cantrell, U.S. Army Retired

*"Making a difference in the lives of children is the least I can do to ensure a brighter future."* Dr. Hezekiah Brayboy, Minister, Community Empowerment

*"Judges are very busy people and they do not always have the time or the means to connect with an abused child to a point of understanding all the fine print in a case. Being a GAL volunteer provides a unique opportunity to cast light on the details and circumstances that will directly help a child as he/she struggles to make sense of his/her world. I have found it to be one of the most rewarding endeavors I have ever attempted. And, the judges know my recommendations are founded in facts and issues that really matter to this particular child's case."* Robert S. (Bob) Barden, Educator, Counselor, Community Activist



**Caring adults offer a world of change in the lives of our most vulnerable children!**



*"I like to be able to provide a sense of safety and comfort to a child who can not get that from those closest to them."*

Kelly Waynick, Registered Nurse



**Guardian ad Litem**

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A Member of the National CASA Association

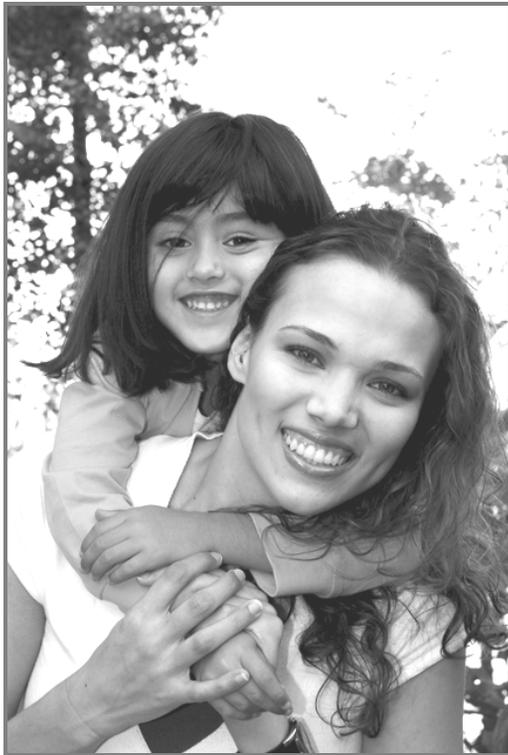
## WILL YOU BE MY VOICE IN COURT?



## WILL YOU BE MY GUARDIAN AD LITEM?

# CAN YOU HELP?

Yes, you can become a Guardian ad Litem volunteer! This year in Cumberland County, an increasing number of children will need someone to give them a voice and see that their best interests are served. Because the number of cases has grown tremendously in recent years, **more volunteers are urgently needed.**



A Guardian ad Litem volunteer is appointed by the juvenile court and is paired with an attorney to investigate the case, to make recommendations regarding a safe, permanent home, and to advocate for special services.

A Guardian ad Litem volunteer also prepares written reports that are submitted to the juvenile court judge for review. These reports outline facts of the case and recommendations on what is in the best interest of children. The reports also include, from their perspective, the wishes of the children about their needs and where they want to live.

**CAN YOU SPEAK FOR ME? I CAN NOT SPEAK FOR MYSELF WITHOUT YOU!**

# GETTING STARTED!

There are some things you have to do before you become a Guardian ad Litem:

- Complete an application which includes providing 3 personal references and submitting to criminal background checks. You can obtain an application at [www.ncgal.org](http://www.ncgal.org)
- Complete a personal interview
- Complete 30 hours of group or individual training including 4 hours of court observation

