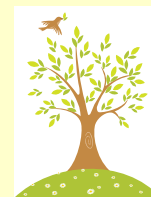


Guardian ad Litem – District 22 A

Newsletter

SPRING '09



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February Stats

Active Cases:

109 Families

Number of children in caseload:

207

Cases Closed

3 - Placed in Guardianship

2- Petition Dismissed

1 – Child Turned 18

1- Legally Adopted

Children Entered into Foster Care

3 Children

Human Services: State-Federal Relations

Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008

The bill is designed to connect and support relative caregivers, improve outcomes for children in foster care, provide for tribal foster care and adoption access, and improve incentives for adoption. H .R. 6893 will provide state options for subsidized guardianship payments for relatives, incentives for adoption, adoption assistance, kinship navigator programs, new family connection grants, and federal support for youth to age 21. Here are some of the highlights of these meetings:

- States have the option to provide kinship guardianship assistance payments on behalf of children to grandparents and other relatives who have assumed legal guardianship of the children and states will be able to use federal title IVE funds for this purpose.

-Family group decision-making meetings for children in the child welfare system that enable families to make decisions and develop plans that nurture children.

-Allows for a waiver of licensing standards may be made on a case-by-case basis for relative foster family homes. This waiver can be allowed for specific children in foster care for non-

safety standards, as determined by the state.

-The state has the option to extend foster care and adoption assistance programs to any child up to age 21 if the individual is:

*completing secondary education or equivalent credential,

*enrolled in an institution which provides post-secondary or vocational education,

*participating in a program to promote or remove barriers to employment,

*employed for at least 80 hours per month, or incapable of doing these activities due to a medical condition.

-Transition for Children Aging Out of Foster Care: During the three month period immediate prior to the child turning 18 a caseworker must provide the child with assistance and support in developing a transition plan.

-Adoption Incentives Program: A state now receives \$4,000 per adoption that exceeds the highest number of adoptions plus \$4,000 per special needs non-older child adoption, or \$8,000 per older child adoption. States have 24 months to spend the adoption incentives funds (instead of two-years).

These are just highlights of the newly enacted laws... for more information please visit:

<http://www.ncsl.org/statefed/humserv/SummaryHR6893.htm>

An Evening for the



On Saturday May 2nd, 2009, Dove House Children's Advocacy Center will hold its eighth annual fundraising event, "An Evening for Dove House". This year's event will once again be held at the Charles Mack Citizens Center in downtown Mooresville, and will feature fabulous dining, dancing, celebrity entertainment, and exciting Silent and Live auctions. Once again, Larry Sprinkle returns as everybody's favorite Celebrity Auctioneer!

If you are interested in purchasing tickets/corporate table, please contact the Dove House directly. If you have any items that you would like to donate for the auction, be a member of the Donations Committee, or volunteer for the event please contact our own GAL Volunteer Rachel Hannibal at 704-502-4413 or fraziercats@cs.com.

Last year I attended this event as a volunteer and had the best time! Please spread the word about this truly amazing event that is not only essential to the Dove House's survival but also to show our gratitude for the incredible things they do for our children. Become a part of this great event!

Here are some pictures of the under construction Dove House:



IMPORTANT REMINDER!!!!



We understand that at times we get very busy in our own personal lives and as difficult as it is your GAL work comes second. However we can not stress to you the extreme importance of visiting your child once a month! This adds credibility to our program and is essential for proper casework to be completed. More importantly, our best practices mandates us to do so. If at any point you are unable to visit your child please please let us know and we will be more than happy to conduct the visit for you. If you can not get hold of the social worker, foster parent etc, please let us know and we will do our best to assist you, but again we don't know if you don't tell us. Thank you!!!

GAL Book Club

"A Child Called It"

"The Lost Boy"

"A Man called Dave"

By: Dave Pelzer

"I Speak for this Child"

By Gay Courter

"Castaway Child"

By R.B. Mitchell

No matter how Loud I Shout: A Year in the Life of Juvenile Court by Edward Humes

The Best Interests of the Child: The Least Detrimental Alternative by Joseph Goldstein



Don't forget to mark your calendars for the April 9th Volunteer Appreciation luncheon sponsored by Outback... Look for your invite to be coming soon!

Gardening Together- Growing Healthy Families

Presented by Region III Community Child Protection Team



1st Annual Healthy Family Fair
April 2, 2009 from 4:00 - 7:30 pm

Broad Street Methodist Church
315 W Broad St. Statesville, NC

The "Forgotten Children", the expecting parent, the grandmother parenting grandchildren, the troubled teen and the parent who needs advice are welcome to attend the Healthy Family Fair. The Regional Child Fatality Team for Region III of the State of North Carolina invites you to participate in a fun and energetic learning experience. Our goal is to offer education, support and advice to ensure the growth of healthy families. The mission for our team is to improve child abuse laws. Currently our focus is on the improvement of child abuse laws for the newborn child.

Guardian ad Litem is a sponsor of the event, Donna has been working very hard as a committee member. Please let us know if you would be interested in volunteering for this First Annual event. We look forward to seeing you there!! Please let us know if you would like more information.

Passage of Key Bills Affecting North Carolina's Children:



Street Gang and Prevention Act:

This Act calls for more prevention and intervention services for youth who are at risk of participating in gang activity. HB 274 creates new offences and penalties for those involved in street gang activity.

HB 2340: Transporting children in the open bed of a vehicle increases the prohibition on unaccompanied children riding in the back of pick-up trucks from age 12-16 and eliminates the exemption for small rural counties.

SB 1860L: Amend child abuse; increases the severity of a misdemeanor child neglect charge and enacts felony charges for incidents of very serious reckless endangerment of a child.

HB 2338: Hospital Report Child Injuries; requires hospitals to report to law enforcement any serious injury to a child from what appears to be non-accidental trauma.

SB 1736L: Sex Offender/ Register Email Address; adds felony child abuse to the list of sex offender registry offences when the offence involves position of a juvenile or the commission of a sexual act upon a juvenile and requires that a sex offender register his or her email address or other online identifier in the statewide sex offender registry.

HB 933: Jessica Lunsford Act for NC; increases the penalties for certain sexual offences committed against a child, including lengthy incarceration and lifetime electronic monitoring, makes a sex offender register requirements more stringent

and makes it unlawful for a sex offender to be on certain premises.

SB 132L: Protect Children from Sexual Predators Act; expands the scope of certain pornography laws, increases the penalty for sexual exploitation of a minor, makes it a felony for a registered sex offender to access a commercial social networking website (i.e. MySpace, Facebook), and prohibits a registered sex offender from obtaining a name change.

For more information about the changes in these laws please visit www.ncchild.org

Cornerstone Transitional Living Program

This program is recommended for young women about to age out of foster care or who are in need of specific skills to navigate the adult world. Cornerstone is located in a friendly neighborhood in Asheville, NC. Each youth works towards skills for living independently in the community.



These skills include but are not limited to:

- Household Management
- Decision Making
- Goal Setting
- Budgeting
- Learning to keep a job
- Cooking
- Giving back to the community.

Each young woman is involved with volunteering at Manna Food Bank, Habitat for Humanity and Quality Forward or other agencies in the community that need volunteer services.

Why Cornerstone is a great place for young women??

Continue their education, learn to get & keep a job, learn to live independently, earn & save money, money management, and a safe living environment!

For more information visit: www.caring4children.org or call 828-258-2785.

Tips for Proofreading Your Court Reports

Written by "Quick & Dirty Grammar Girl" Mignon Forgery



1) Read your work backwards**, starting with the last sentence and working your way in reverse order to the beginning. Supposedly this works better than reading through from the beginning because your brain knows what you meant to write, so you tend to skip over errors when you're reading forwards.

2) Read your work out loud. This forces you to read each word individually and increases the odds that you'll find a typo. This works quite well for me, and most of the typos that make it into my transcripts seem to be things you wouldn't catch by reading aloud, such as misplaced commas.

3) Always proofread a printed version of your work. I don't know why, but if I try to proofread on a computer monitor I always miss more errors than if I print out a copy and go over it on paper.

4) Give yourself some time. If possible, let your work sit for a while before you proofread it. I'm just speculating here, but it seems to me that if you are able to clear your mind and approach the writing from a fresh perspective, then your brain is more able to focus on the actual words, rather than seeing the words you *think* you wrote.

Please check out this fun and very useful website, it can sure provide a lot of tips on small writing errors that we all make!

<http://grammar.quickanddirtytips.com/>



To Our Newly Sworn In Volunteers! We are so excited for you to be a part of the Guardian ad Litem Program!!

December –Bettie Dalton, Melanie Ensley, Mike Needleman

January- Thelma Miller, Traci Krampert, Wendy Byers, Don Jones

February- Colleen Caldwell, Hayley Pressley

Happy Birthday



December- Faye Hayes, Nancy Vince

January- Patty Herrmann, Don Jones,

February- Jim Adams, Lakisha Byers, Evelyn Drayer, Thelma Miller, Michael Needleman

March-Judith Deal, Michael Fuhrman, Carolyn Mingo

April- Tim Cummings, Kim Sisko, Caren Smith, Nancy Staples



Thank You!

A special thank you to the volunteers who have continued their hard work and dedication to the children of this program.

January- Cyndy Robb ~ 1 Year, Thermond Thompson ~ 3 Years

February – Laine Armistead ~ 7 years, Michelle Fanning ~ 4 Years, **Brenda Speece 18 years!!**

March- Pam Schettler ~ 1 Year, Caren Smith ~ 1 Year, Bob Spencer ~ 1 Year, **Dodie Reavis 10 Years!!!**

UPCOMING SPRING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Mar 19 Statesville Guinness World Record Music Marathon

Mar 21 Celebrate Spring at Daveste' Vineyards

Apr 2 - Oct 29 The Evening Farmers Market

Apr 18 - Apr 19 War for Empire 1759 at Fort Dobbs

For more information visit:
<http://www.gostatesville.com/>



Angel Food-Berry Jam Cake



What You Need:

- 1 round angel food cake
- 1/2 cup fruit spread
- 1 tub (8 oz.) COOL WHIP Whipped topping, thawed
- 1 cup fresh raspberries

CUT cake horizontally into 3 layers. Place bottom cake layer on serving plate; spread with layers of 1/4 cup of the fruit spread and 1 cup of the whipped topping. Cover with middle cake layer.

REPEAT layers of fruit spread and whipped topping; top with remaining cake layer. Frost top of cake with remaining whipped topping.

REFRIGERATE 1 hour or until ready to serve. Top with raspberries just before serving. Garnish with fresh mint leaves, if desired. Store leftover cake in refrigerator.

JELL-O® Pudding Eggs



What You will need:

- ~ 1/3 cup butter or margarine, softened
- ~ 1 pkg. (4-serving size) JELL-O Chocolate Instant Pudding
- ~ 1/3 cup boiling water
- ~ 3 cups unsifted powdered sugar
- ~ 1 pkg. (8 squares) BAKER'S Semi-Sweet Chocolate
- ~ 2 squares of BAKER'S White Chocolate (optional)



MIX butter and dry pudding mix in large bowl. Gradually add boiling water, stirring until well blended. Stir in powdered sugar, 1 cup at a time, mixing well after each addition until mixture forms a ball. Shape scant tablespoonfuls of the pudding mixture into 30 small eggs, each about 1-1/2 inches long. (If pudding mixture is too soft, refrigerate about 15 minutes to firm slightly before shaping.) Refrigerate 30 minutes or until eggs are firm.



MICROWAVE semi-sweet chocolate in microwavable bowl on HIGH 1-1/2 to 2 minutes or until slightly melted. Stir until chocolate is completely melted. Dip eggs into chocolate. Refrigerate on wax paper-covered tray 15 minutes or until chocolate is firm. Meanwhile, microwave white chocolate in separate microwavable bowl on HIGH 1-1/2 to 2 minutes or until slightly melted. Stir until chocolate is completely melted.



DRIZZLE white chocolate over eggs; let stand until set. Store in airtight container in refrigerator.