

SOUTH CAROLINA Volunteer Guardian ad Litem Program

Cherokee County

Our Program

The Cherokee County Volunteer Guardian ad Litem (GAL) Program trains community volunteers to advocate for abused and neglected children. Our volunteers speak out on behalf of these children so that they will not be forgotten. Our goal is to see children permanently placed in a safe, nurturing environment as quickly as possible. As of June 30, 2009, we had 26 Cherokee County volunteers, advocating for abused and neglected children.

Our Vision

It is our vision that all children involved in an abuse and neglect case with Family Court will have a volunteer Guardian ad Litem to stand up for them. In fiscal year 2008-2009, 170 Cherokee children were provided a volunteer GAL to speak on their behalf. Unfortunately, 3 children were turned away from the program because there were not enough volunteers available. We believe all children have the right to be seen and heard.



How GAL Volunteers Can Make a Difference

Our volunteers provide hope and advocacy for children living in the foster care system. A child that has a volunteer GAL will always have a voice in and out of the court room, and will not be forgotten.

The volunteer Guardian ad Litem stays with the child throughout the case, and is often the only person who has remained a constant in the child's life.

The presence of a stable, caring adult in their lives can go a long way toward helping a child recover from the effects of abuse and neglect.

Cherokee County Child Abuse & Neglect Facts July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009:

26 Volunteer GAL Advocates in Cherokee County as of June 30, 2009.

87 New Children entered the Family Court system due to abuse or neglect

213 Hearings Attended by Volunteer Guardians ad Litem

1889 Volunteer Hours donated to advocate for abused and neglected children

Statistical Data from South Carolina Volunteer Guardian ad Litem Program, July 2008 - June 2009.

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