



Broward County IN OUR VOLUNTEERS WORDS:

"There is nothing more rewarding for me than to know a child is safe because I had something to do with it. The smile in the child's face is priceless!" — Soraya G.

In 2014, the Broward County Guardian ad Litem Program was appointed to almost 1400 children who were victims of abuse, abandonment and/or neglect.

"My only regret is not doing it sooner....it's been the best thing I've done with my life other than raising my own children.....a GUARDIAN has the opportunity to make a difference in a child's life." — Marie P.

In Broward County, the Guardian ad Litem represents over 2300 children, giving about 80% of children in care a voice during a difficult time in their young lives.

"This has been one of the most rewarding decisions I've made in my life. I know I'm making a difference for my kids as well as for myself." — Faith K.

Broward's GAL Program welcomed in over 300 volunteers in 2014. More than 40% of these new Guardians ad Litem were 40 years old and younger, ushering in a new wave of younger individuals looking to get involved.

"Certainly, being paid would be 'nice', but the rewards of seeing a kid smile and knowing the caregiver are a bit less harried, is quite enough. I just had this experience with a 4 1/2 little boy this weekend, when he put his hand on my arm and tried to keep me from leaving, chatting the whole time. Nice." — Michael D.

In 2014, the Broward County Guardian ad Litem Program was able to increase their male volunteer population by twenty percent, giving more males in the system a male role model and Guardian ad Litem in one.

"Do it right now; the kids need you!" — Recarder L.

About 20% of children represented by GAL's in Broward County are aged thirteen or older. Most of these have been in care since childhood and have issues trusting adults.

"Children are our most precious commodity. They owe us nothing, but we owe them every opportunity to grow and strive." — Janet R.

1,100 children with Guardians ad Litem reached permanency in Broward County in 2014 and their cases were successfully closed out.

"Heartbreaking, humbling, inspiring and ultimately rewarding are the words that describe my experience as a Guardian ad Litem. I set out to be a blessing in the lives of my Case children - and with God's grace they have blessed me" — Sandy Z

Of our current volunteer base, 39 volunteers have been committed to the Program for ten years or more. Together, these 39 long-term GALs have advocated for hundreds of children in care.

" Being a GAL gives me the chance to give back to some children who aren't as fortunate as I have been. The GAL Program enables its volunteer to help children who often are too young to help themselves, to protect children who can't protect themselves, and to speak for children who can't speak for themselves." — Martha S.

In 2014 Voices for children of Broward County, assisted the Broward County GAL Program in recruiting and training more than 300 GAL volunteers. Supported over 300 children's individual health, educational, and social needs. Provided 250 backpacks filled with all the first day of school essentials. Distribute over 100 Thanksgiving baskets and gift cards and fulfilling over 500 Holiday wishes for children appointed to GAL Program of Broward County.

