

## ShoutOUT



## Happy New Year!

### Meet your 2012 Director's Advisory Council

This month we welcome five new members to our advisory council:

Vicki Getz, Charlotte County  
Norva Achenbaugh, Collier County  
Jean Amodea, Collier County  
Susan Barnett, Lee County  
Nancy Montgomery, Lee County

These individuals bring a wide variety of experience to our council, which exists to:

- Advise, recommend and influence programs for children who are under court supervision as a result of abuse, neglect or abandonment.
- Actively promote ways to improve overall communication and relationship between the GAL program and our community partners.
- Assist in improving retention rate of GAL volunteers.
- Assist the Circuit Director in improving the overall operational effectiveness of the 20<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit GAL Program.
- Be a community ambassador for your local GAL Child Advocacy Program.

Our new members join existing members Maxine Carpenter, Diane Fuermann, and Nancy Kuehne. We thank our members who have completed their two year term and are moving into honorary status with the council: Doug Campbell, Roberto de la Torre, Chick Heithaus, Jan Vance, and Ellen Williby.

The advisory council is here to serve you! Please feel free to contact them any time there is an issue you would like to discuss. A contact list will be sent out to our volunteers shortly.

January 11, 2012

### CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

#### CIRCUITWIDE

**Monday, January 16**—Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. All program offices closed.

Attention Guardians!

Make sure you are working on completing your in-service hours for the current recertification year. A new three month calendar will be sent to you shortly with upcoming opportunities available.

### WORTHY WEBSITE

[www.wrightslaw.com](http://www.wrightslaw.com)

Are you advocating for a child with special education needs? Parents, educators, advocates, and attorneys come to Wrightslaw for accurate, reliable information about special education law, education law, and advocacy for children with disabilities. Sign up for their free newsletter to stay on top of what's new.

### Program Anniversaries

#### Charlotte

Mary Bruce Standley-10 years  
Annabell Grose-9 years  
Janet Walker-5 years

#### Collier

Joy Dawson-4 years  
Erica Airsman-3 years

#### Lee

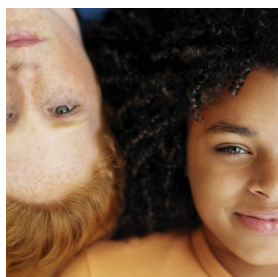
Jud Bruckman-6 years  
Maureen Jefferson-6 years  
Peggy Seibert-1 year  
Barbara Carroll-1 year

Celebrating YOU, our Volunteers!  
Good News is meant to be shared! We recently received this e-mail from Youth Haven.

### **Charles King, Collier County GAL**

Charles is a super star at Youth Haven. Charles entered the life of one of our young men (age 14) who came to Youth Haven directly from DJJ. Charles is one of those remarkable individuals who has made a positive difference in Jacob's life. Charles is well liked by Jacob and all the kids and all the staff. Charles attends all the fun activities at YH, game championship playoffs- Connect Four, Chess and is not only attentive to Jacob but cheers and encourages the other kids. Charles made it possible for all of the children to attend the Naples Equestrian Challenge and he attended the sessions. Charles stays in close communication with Jacob's counselor to ensure the long term success for Jacob. After Jacob was discharged to a family in Lee County Charles made it possible for Jacob to return for his birthday and a party with the kids at Youth Haven. Charles is a wonderful role model for not only Jacob but all the kids. In the words of the kids "he is really cool" and "he is my friend". Jacob's counselor Kristin said "Charles is an wonderful influence on Jacob and extremely collaborative with the clinical team".

Thank you Charles for being a shining example of a Guardian ad Litem volunteer!



There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children.  
—Nelson Mandela

### Contact Us

Charlotte County: 941.627.0643

Collier County: 239.252.8432

Hendry County: 863.674.4190

Lee County/Circuit Office: 239.533.KIDS (5437)

Although volunteers may want to do more for the children they serve and desire to provide financial assistance to children and their caregivers, this is not in keeping with our Standards of Operation. Please note our Gifting Policy:

*Program Staff members or Volunteers shall not provide personal funds, to include money, cash, credit cards, or checks directly to any child, family member, or caretaker.*



If you see a child has an unmet need, please utilize the **Children's Programs of Voices for Kids**. Voices for Kids children's programs look to fill the gaps of support for foster children, aimed at giving them as close to a normal childhood as possible.

VFK has funding available for a variety of things, including:

Beds for Kidz  
Emergency Clothing  
Happier Birthdays  
Kids Being Kids

The process is simple. After submitting a Universal Request Form, your request will be reviewed by the VFK Children's Needs Committee. More information on the various programs can be found at [www.voicesforkids.org](http://www.voicesforkids.org). Volunteers can contact their Volunteer Supervisor to submit a request form.

## **January Birthdays**

### **Charlotte**

Nancy Creedon  
Joanne Greene  
Judith Martens  
Gudrun Matthaus  
Bruce Tompkins

### **Collier**

Erica Airsman  
Dana Balter  
Susan Brand  
Nina Carran  
Maryann Duvall  
Janice Esposito  
Kathleen Forsman  
Patricia Gullo  
Sharon Hanson  
Judith Mankowski  
Beth Metzger  
Pam Molander  
Lois Morrow  
Steven Mutart  
Julie White-Newman  
Christopher Price  
Mary Richart  
Cory Seegmiller  
Susan Thomasson  
Linda Togias

### **Hendry**

Lynn Nelson

### **Lee**

Brigid Fyock  
Judith Glomb  
Scot Goldberg  
Patricia Hassing  
Michelle Lewis  
Mary C. Nies  
Richard Perry  
Gabriel Sanchez  
John Sommer  
Charles Touton  
Kathy Walters  
Lynn Welsh