



VOLUNTEER!

CHANGE A CHILD'S LIFE

WHAT IS A GUARDIAN AD LITEM?

A Guardian ad Litem (GAL) is a community volunteer who helps school-aged children in foster care succeed. GALs are appointed by a judge and receive extensive training to advocate for the child's best interest in court. The ultimate goal of a GAL is to ensure the child's needs are met and he/she is placed in a secure and stable permanent living situation.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: What is the time commitment?

A: After completing 12 hours of training, time can vary greatly depending on the child's situation. Expect the greatest time investment at the start as you get to know the child and his/her family. There are no specific number of hours required. Time devoted is at the convenience of your schedule.

Q: What type of a child can I expect?

A: The child can be of any age, from newborn to 18 years. Only one characteristic is certain: the child needs help.

Q: How will I be matched with a child?

A: Factors such as location, personality, skills, and ethnic background are considered; each GAL is briefed and given an opportunity to accept or refuse a case.

Q: What, exactly, will I be required to do?

A: You'll spend one-on-one time getting to know the child and reviewing the records of his/her case. You'll collect information from schools, law enforcement, counselors, social workers, and other relevant sources. Most importantly, the GAL reports to the Court and makes independent, objective recommendations regarding the child's best interests.

Q: How Important is a GAL?

A: GALs have significant impact on a child, their family and the community at large. It is a serious role not to be accepted lightly. Your involvement helps shape a child's future, helping him/her become a lifelong productive member of the community.

QUALIFICATIONS TO BE A GAL:

- Must be 21 years of age or older
- Willing to make a 12-month commitment to the program (24-months, preferred)
- Submit an application package
- Sign a confidentiality agreement
- Provide a valid NV Driver's license and DMV record
- Provide proof of auto insurance
- Pass the following background checks: criminal, national sex offender's and child abuse registries, social security verification
- Provide at least 3 references who are then interviewed
- Complete required training per NRS 432B.500: 12 hours of specialized training (6 hours annually thereafter)



TO LEARN MORE CONTACT:



HELP A CHILD. HELP YOUR COMMUNITY.

A guardian ad litem does so much more than just advocate for a single child; a GAL provides a valuable service to the community at large. Each child who's given support, security, safety and the resources he/she needs to succeed has a greater potential to grow up to be a positive, productive member of the community, breaking the abuse/neglect cycle and needing less government resources (if any) as an adult. This creates a ripple effect which leaves a positive and a lasting impact on the community for generations to come.


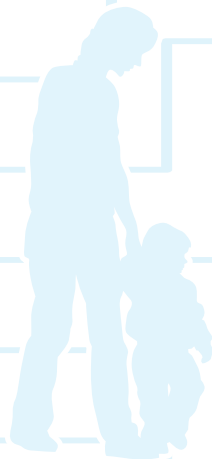
THE IMPACT A GAL HAS ON THE COMMUNITY CAN NOT BE OVERSTATED.

THESE KIDS NEED YOU!



PREPARING FOR INDEPENDENCE

Youths aging out of foster care without having reached a permanent home face particular challenges. Many lack the preparation others their age have for independent living. GAL volunteers help older youth **reach permanent homes**, **encourage high school completion**, and **help set and achieve post-secondary and career training goals**.



TRAINING

Through online and in-service training, you'll learn how to speak at the child's level to uncover his underlying issues. After initial training, you'll have access to support and guidance whenever you need it.




ENGAGE & LISTEN

Spend time with the child. Take her to lunch – ice cream – play a game. Learn about her foster family, biological family, and what's going on in school. Discover her likes, dislikes, hopes and dreams as you become her confidant and champion.



REPORT & RECOMMEND

Speak up for the child's best interests in court. Make recommendations regarding his placement and needed services. Monitor his situation until he is placed in a safe, permanent home and his case is released by the court.



COLLABORATE & FOLLOW-UP

Collaborate with others (parents, teachers, foster family) to represent and protect the best interests of the child and ensure all the necessary services are provided to her.



KNOW YOU MADE A DIFFERENCE

As a child moves in and out of foster homes in search of permanent placement, a GAL often becomes a trusted mentor and the sole source of continuity and stability in that child's life. **Feel good about the lasting impact you've made.**

DECIDE TODAY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

See the back panel for how to begin!