



2003 Program Highlights

- The GAL Program represented 3,269 children in 1,527 cases; recruited and certified 177 new Guardian Ad Litem volunteer advocates and supported a total of 559 GAL advocates throughout the year.
- The GAL Program advocated in Criminal Court on behalf of over 200 children who were witnesses to or victims of crimes committed by their parents or other adult perpetrators.
- Voices For Children provided for approximately 36% of the GAL Program's total operating budget.
- Through the various programs in the Children's Need's Fund, Voices For Children provided:
 - * Almost 900 children with direct financial assistance.
 - * Birthday celebrations for 151 children who otherwise might not have had their own party.
 - * Almost 4,000 children in foster care with toys during the annual Toy Drive.
 - * Financial emergency rent, food and utility assistance to 45 families.
 - * A complete summer camp experience, through Miami-Dade Parks and Recreation, for 120 children.
 - * Judges with 1,200 teddy bears to give to children when they appear in court.
- Voices For Children raised over \$230,000 from the three annual events: the Gala, held at Mandarin Oriental, Miami, the Halloween Luncheon, held at the JW Marriott and for the first time, A Festival of Voices-- a 5-day event consisting of a silent auction of fashion, art and photography as well as concert and Mambo Party, which drew over 800 guests and garnered considerable community awareness.
- The Be An Angel Program, an annual giving program, raised over \$113,000.
- Voices For Children received, for a fourth consecutive time, a grant from the Florida Legislature that allows the Guardian Ad Litem Program to employ social-work trained staff to represent approximately 30% of its children.
- Became designated as the recipient of various fund raising events within the community, such as Miami Best Tennis Tournament, a "Day in the Tropics" and the Miami Seaquarium.