



## **2005 Program Highlights**

- The GAL Program represented 3,349 children in 1,770 cases; recruited and certified 134 new Guardian Ad Litem volunteer advocates and supported a total of 632 GAL advocates throughout the year.
- The GAL Program advocated in Criminal Court on behalf of over 367 children who were witnesses to or victims of crimes committed by their parents or other adult perpetrators.
- The GAL Program continued its Transitioning Youth Project, an expansion of advocacy geared towards teens preparing to exit the foster care system. In 2005, the TYP Project served 158 teens.
- Voices For Children provided over \$1,145,373 to the GAL Program, which is 44% of their total operating budget.
- Through the various programs in the Children's Need's Fund, Voices For Children provided:
  - \* Over 1100 children with direct financial assistance, totaling \$178,000.
  - \* Birthday celebrations for approximately 436 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 51 families.
  - \* A complete summer camp experience, through Miami-Dade Parks and Recreation, for 80 children.
  - \* Judges with 720 teddy bears to give to children when they appear in court.
- Voices For Children raised over \$357,000 from the three annual events: the Gala, held at Mandarin Oriental, Miami; the Halloween Luncheon, held at Parrot Jungle Island and A Festival of Voices, held at the Deauville Beach Resort and Village of Merrick Park.
- The Be An Angel Program, an annual giving program, raised over \$248,000.
- Voices For Children received, for a sixth 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. This year, the support was increased by \$200,000.
- Became designated as the recipient of various fund raising events within the community, such as Bovis Lend Lease 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Canopy Golf Classic; Calle Ocho; "De Done Soy A Donde Voy" Art Exhibit; Emeril's Dine, Wine & Benefit; Miami's Best Tennis Tournament; "Pictures of a Lifetime" Photography Exhibit and Sunday on the Mile, all of which raised almost \$51,000.