



## **2007 Program Highlights**

- The GAL Program represented 4,399 children in 2,308 cases; recruited and certified 100 new Guardian Ad Litem volunteer advocates and supported a total of 522 GAL advocates throughout the year.
- The GAL Program advocated in Criminal Court on behalf of 400 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 2007, the TYP Project served 286 teens.
- Voices For Children provided over \$1,505,424 to the GAL Program, which is 38% of their total operating budget.
- Through the various programs in the Children's Need's Fund, Voices For Children provided:
  - \* Over 1,748 unduplicated children with direct financial assistance, totaling \$263,739.
  - \* Birthday celebrations for approximately 931 children who otherwise might not have had their own party.
  - \* Over 4,000 children in foster care with toys and 420 bicycles and 80 electronic gifts to youth transitioning out of foster care during the annual Toy Drive and raised over \$65,000.
  - \* Financial emergency rent, food and utility assistance to 79 families.
  - \* A complete summer camp experience, through Miami-Dade Parks and Recreation, for 260 children.
  - \* Judges with 1,440 teddy bears to give to children when they appear in court.
- Voices For Children raised over \$440,000 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: A Children's Celebration, held at the Village of Merrick Park.
- Became designated as the recipient of various fund raising events within the community, such as Priyanka Cup; Weddings on the Isle, H. Stern's grand opening, Nancy Gonzalez event, and Shanghai Tang's grand opening, all of which raised \$350,000.
- The Be An Angel Program, an annual giving program, raised over \$165,000.
- Voices For Children received, for a seventh consecutive time, a grant from the Florida Legislature that allows the Guardian Ad Litem Program to employ social-work trained staff to represent approximately 50% of its children.