



2008 Program Highlights

- The GAL Program represented 4,156 children in 2,241 cases; recruited and certified 142 new Guardian Ad Litem volunteer advocates and supported a total of 493 GAL volunteer advocates throughout the year.
- The GAL Program advocated in Criminal Court on behalf of 330 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 2008, the TYP served 425 teens.
- The GAL Program continued its Kinship Care Project, another expansion of representation to children placed with caretakers other than their parents who have a family relationship bond with the children. In 2008, the KCP served 842 children.
- Voices For Children provided over \$1,986,472 to the GAL Program, which is 41% of their total operating budget.
- Through the various programs in the Children's Need's Fund, Voices For Children provided:
 - * Over 1,820 unduplicated children with direct financial assistance, totaling \$388,620.
 - * Birthday celebrations for approximately 902 children who otherwise might not have had their own party.
 - * Over 3,400 children in foster care with toys and 70 bicycles and 347 \$100 JC Penney gift cards to youth transitioning out of foster care during the annual Toy Drive, which raised over \$34,000.
 - * Financial emergency rent, food and utility assistance to 83 families.
 - * A complete summer camp experience, through Miami-Dade Parks and Recreation, for 293 children.
 - * Judges with 1,320 teddy bears to give to children when they appear in court.
- Voices For Children raised over \$995,000 in revenues and in-kind support from their annual events: the Gala, held at Mandarin Oriental, Miami and the Be a Voice Luncheon, held at Jungle Island.
- Became designated as the recipient of various fund raising events within the community, such as Tiffany and Co.'s Keys for a Cause event, Carolina Herrera event, and Joni Goodman's Retirement Party, all of which raised over \$21,000.
- The Be An Angel Program, an annual giving program, raised over \$126,000.
- Voices For Children received, for a eighth consecutive time, a grant from the Florida Legislature that allows the Guardian Ad Litem Program to employ social-work trained staff to represent approximately 59% of its children.