



# HEARTFELT ADVOCACY



**GUARDIAN AD LITEM PROGRAM**  
**12<sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL CIRCUIT - MANATEE COUNTY**





## **Mission Statement:**

**Helping Children Reach Home Through Heartfelt Advocacy**

## **Vision Statement:**

**The Florida Guardian ad Litem Program will provide a powerful and effective voice on behalf of Florida's abused, abandoned and neglected children and be recognized as a respected member of the child welfare professional community.**



## We Advocate for:

- ❖ Children - birth to age 18 in the dependency court system
- ❖ Young adults - over 18 who opt to remain in extended foster care until age 23
- ❖ 739 Manatee County children
- ❖ 307 certified Volunteer Child Advocates
- ❖ 84.6% of our children have a Volunteer Child Advocate



## Our Manatee County Guardian ad Litem Staff

### State Employees:

- 1 - Circuit Director
- 1 - Assistant Circuit Director
- 5 - Child's Best Interest Attorneys
- 1 - Managing Attorney
- 10- Child Advocate Managers
- 1 - Recruiter
- 1 - Trainer
- 2 - Administrative Assistants
- 1 - HR & Budget Liaison

### Manatee County Employees:

- 2 - Child Advocate Managers

**Total Staff: 23**



## **OUR Commitment:**



- ❖ Partner effectively with Manatee County government and community partners to provide 100% advocacy representation for the abused, abandoned and neglected children in our county
- ❖ Provide every dependent child in Manatee County with a certified Volunteer Child Advocate who will advocate for the child's best interest



## FY20 Guardian ad Litem Preliminary Budget

**FY 2021 Adopted:**

**(\$137,389.00)**

**Total FTE: 1**

**FY 2022 Preliminary:**

**(\$133,746.00)**

**Total FTE: 2**



**Thank you!**

Manatee County  
Commissioners and  
Administration for  
your outstanding  
leadership and  
continued support!