



the VOLUNTEERS

I find it a privilege to be able to work for and play with children who have been subjected to abuse and/or neglect. It is these children who need someone in their life that cares about their experiences. It's rewarding when I walk into the parent's homes, foster home or school setting and the children run up to me and give me a "high five" or warmly greet me by saying "It's Mr. James!"

I've long wanted to be a Guardian ad Litem after having many discussions with an individual who has been one for over ten years. It took me a little while because I was concerned about becoming too attached to the children and the emotions of witnessing abuse and neglect of children.

When I talk to people about what I do as a Guardian ad Litem, some reply, "that's wonderful", while others say "it sounds like it could be dangerous at times." I'm eager to let them know that the job is rewarding. I also let them know that I don't think about myself, but I concentrate on the well being of the child or children. I am concerned for the children as they need to be protected from neglect and abuse as much as possible.

I have met with teachers and counselors, attended numerous court hearings, but the best moments for me are spending time with the children. I feel it is my duty and responsibility to give the children hope for the future and play a role in helping them become productive citizens.



*James Montgomery
Sumter and Lee Volunteer
Guardian ad Litem*

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