



## ANGELS AGAINST ABUSE, INC. MEETING

February 12, 2019

The Angels met on February 12, 2019, at the Life Enrichment Center of Pasadena Community Church. President, Sandy Kearney, welcomed everyone. Guests, Noelle Chase and Summer Gray, introduced themselves and talked about what they do.

Becky Hudson moved the minutes from our January meeting be approved. The motion was seconded, and vote was in favor.

Sandy Kearney announced the Board has approved the budget.

Our speakers from Guardian ad Litem, Ashley Martinson, Linda Zolper, and Khedjia Nottingham, gave us a little insight of how important the guardians are in a child's life. A GAL is sometimes the only consistency in a child's life. Linda has been a GAL for seven years. She makes sure those on her team support the children's best interests. She encourages everyone to spread the word about the GAL program.

Khedjia learned of GAL from Linda. She said times can be frustrating, but one needs to stay focused. She told of a couple of success stories. The children look forward to the birthday bags.

It is easy to get to the Angel Resource Center, which is a good place for parents and children to interact.

To find out about GAL, one needs to go to the local website, [hereforachild.org](http://hereforachild.org). Can be put in touch by calling main # 727-464-6528. Scheduling sessions are on Thursdays. If you want to become a GAL, you can call and get a pre-interview by meeting with an experienced volunteer. Steps for training: 1. on line training; 2. Classroom training; 3. Assigned a mentor. Once training is finished, one will be assigned a case. There are approximately 885 GAL's in Pinellas and Pasco counties. There are over 2,500 children in foster care and half of them have no GAL. GAL's are committed to see their case children once a month.

Our big fund raiser is the Blue Ribbon Gala which will be held on April 27, 2019. Sandy has invitations, sponsorship forms, and donation forms for the silent auction. We can buy tickets (\$125.00) or sponsorships on line. If you purchase a whole table, the cost is \$1,000.00. Items for the silent auction are needed. The live auction items are limited to five. It is requested we bring a gift card to the March meeting.

The Kind Mouse will have an Easter Food Drive from March 18 to April 10. The Mousquerade will be August 17, 2019. The Wine Down to benefit The Kind Mouse will be February 23, 2019, and the Beer Breakfast to benefit The Kind Mouse will be March 9, 2019.

Linda Thielmann of Healthy Start brought thank you letters to those who donated gifts at Christmas.

We were thanked by Friends of the Children for the iPads and notebooks we purchased for the mentors.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Valerie Rankin  
Recording Secretary