



GUARDIAN AD LITEM FOUNDATION  
20th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
VOICES FOR KIDS

# Voices of Hope Gala



March 3, 2022 at 7 PM

## Virtual Event & Watch Party

Thank you for joining us for an evening sure to change countless stories for vulnerable children in Southwest Florida.



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# Welcome to the 2022 Voices of HOPE Gala

## Program begins at 7 PM

- Welcome to “A Night of Changing Children’s Stories
- Auction time – get your phone ready
- Introduction of HOPE Award:  
Jessica Stanfield, Executive Director
- HOPE Award Recipient Remarks:  
Jerry Bennett Galeana
- “Telling the Story” Video
- Fund-A-Need: Rick Gallo, Auctioneer
- Event Concludes
- Post Event Show: 8 to 8:15 PM

## Auctioneer Rick Gallo

Rick started calling charity auctions in 2003 when he was tapped to call one of the Signature Chef’s Auctions for the March of Dimes. He discovered that he truly enjoyed the experience and soon found himself calling several of these events around the state of Florida. Since 2003, he has provided services to many not-for-profit organizations in Florida and across the United States.

Rick is known for his down-to-earth style, quick wit, and gentle way of bringing the best out in his crowds. He is fast becoming one of the leading charity auctioneers in the country!



“I want to help you have a successful event from the moment you form your committee. In my volunteer roles, I have been involved in the planning and coordinating of a variety of fundraising events. Having chaired or sat on the committee for over 20 major fundraising events, I understand what’s needed to ensure a successful event. I can share current best practices and provide ideas for putting together winning auction packages. Look to me as not just your auctioneer, but as your auction consultant!”

# Welcome from the Event Chairs

As your Co-Chairs for the Second Annual Voices of Hope Gala, we welcome you to this beautiful event!

We are so grateful that you have taken the time to join us this evening. We are pleased and honored to serve as the event chairs for the Voices of Hope Gala benefitting the Guardian ad Litem Foundation of the 20<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit. We believe in the strength of this organization and the incredible work it does. We serve as Volunteer Child Advocates because we believe that we can help children change the stories of their lives. These children, through no fault of their own, are living real life stories that are very difficult. Our organization is there to support these children and help change the course of their lives. And that is where our program this evening begins.

Many of you have given generously of your time, talent, and treasures to support our Foundation for years. Some of you are new friends, who have come tonight eager to learn more about our mission and vision.

It is our hope that this evening inspires, moves, and motivates all of you to aid us in the work we do to protect the most vulnerable children in our community.

We thank you for being here tonight and taking time out of your busy lives to learn about and support our worthy cause.

Your support tonight can help write a new chapter in the life of a child.

Sincerely,



A blue ink signature of Aliza Recher, written in a cursive style.

Aliza Recher  
Event Chair



A blue ink signature of Melissa Grege Schiffman, written in a cursive style.

Melissa Grege Schiffman  
Event Chair

# Welcome from Executive Director

Friends –

It is my privilege to welcome you to the 2022 Voices of Hope Virtual Gala! Although I wish we could gather in-person, I'm excited to have you tune in tonight, from points near and far, as we celebrate the incredible work that the Guardian ad Litem Foundation, 20th Judicial Circuit, Inc. is doing for Southwest Florida children who have fallen victim to abuse, neglect, and abandonment.

To start, I encourage you to think back to your favorite childhood story. Was it an exciting adventure where a daring knight slays a dragon? Or perhaps it was an inspirational book, sharing sentiments like “oh the places you’ll go” or “I think I can...I think I can.” Did it start with “Once Upon a Time?”

Every story has a beginning, a Chapter 1, an opening sentence... a first page. After that page, however, each of our stories are different.

The stories of children we represent may begin with “*once upon a time*,” but a turn of the pages quickly reveals a plot unlike any other. Some chapters are full of heartache and heartbreak as children leave their homes with little more than a few personal belongings stuffed into a trash bag. Other chapters are full of chaos as children adjust to a new foster home, new school and countless other changes. Some pages move quickly, while others drag on and on as children long to go home.

However, each of these stories eventually has a shift in the plot. There will be a chapter where the child meets his or her Guardian ad Litem Volunteer Child Advocate, a compassionate individual who becomes a strong and stable force – the one constant through these stories. Through the work of Guardian ad Litem Volunteer Child Advocates, the Foundation’s resources and your generous support, a terrifying story can in fact end with “*and they lived happily ever after*.”

As you watch our gala this evening, please take pride in knowing that your support of this event shows your commitment to helping children in our community who are facing unfathomable plots. You can be proud of the fact that, through your generosity, children will sleep soundly tonight in warm, safe beds provided by the Foundation. You can celebrate the children who get to feel “normal” when their life is anything but, by accessing music lessons, tutoring, summer camp and everything in between. *With your generous support this evening, we can forever change the stories of countless children.*

On behalf of our Board of Directors, staff and most importantly, the children we represent, thank you for helping write a few chapters in the books of children who need you the most. We’re thrilled to welcome you as the newest characters in their stories.

With gratitude,



*Jessica Stanfield*

Jessica Stanfield, Executive Director

# Cheers and Congratulations

TO THE GUARDIAN AD LITEM FOUNDATION!



*"Given our close support of and commitment to vulnerable youth in our community, we see first-hand the scary stories so many children are facing. We're proud to be able to support the Foundation's mission of providing resources and normalcy to children who need them most. Here's to countless changed stories to come through the Foundation's success!"*

**-David Long and Melissa Grege Schiffman -  
Guardian ad Litem Volunteer Advocate  
and Foundation Board Member**



GUARDIAN AD LITEM FOUNDATION  
20th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

VOICES FOR KIDS

# Making a Difference in the Lives of Southwest Florida's Most Vulnerable Children

Founded in 1983, the Guardian Ad Litem Foundation - 20th Judicial Circuit, Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit agency, supporting Florida's 20th Judicial Circuit Guardian ad Litem (GAL) Program in Charlotte, Collier, Hendry, Glades and Lee counties. The Foundation's mission is to raise funds so: 1) every abused, neglected or abandoned child assigned to court protection in Southwest Florida may be paired with a Guardian ad Litem Volunteer Child Advocate whose role is to represent the best interests of the child until a safe, permanent placement can be achieved and 2) every Guardian ad Litem Volunteer Advocate may access financial assistance and resources on behalf of the child that are not provided by any other source.

Guardian ad Litem Volunteer Advocates represent the best interests of children who have been removed from their homes, due to no fault of their own, and placed under court supervision. The Guardian ad Litem program provides trained, court-certified volunteer child advocates to represent and monitor these children and to work toward a plan that ensures these children are ultimately in a safe, permanent home.

While championing for the child/children they are serving, the Guardian ad Litem Volunteer Advocate can access resources through the Foundation's Children's Needs program to provide items and experiences they may need that a foster family cannot afford and no other source can provide. This looks different for each child but can include emergency clothing, sports participation fees, a safe car seat, a Happier Birthday celebration, or a safe and cozy bed of their own to rest in each night.

None of the Foundation's work would be possible without generous supporters who believe in its vital mission. 100% of the Foundations' programming is achieved through grant funding, corporate partnerships and generous support from friends like you. Thank you for your belief in this work and for your commitment to the children in our communities who need you most.

## Want to make a further impact?

-  **Make a Charitable Gift**
-  **Become a Guardian ad Litem Volunteer Advocate**
-  **Consider Foundation Board of Directors Membership**



Visit [www.voicesforkids.org](http://www.voicesforkids.org) for more information!

## Event Emcee Amanda Hall



Amanda Hall anchors weeknights on WINK News. When she's not behind the desk, Amanda is a proud big sister with Big Brothers Big Sisters and serves on the Barbara's Friends Community Advisory Board for Golisano Children's Hospital. Amanda is a graduate of the University of Florida and a former Miss Florida Gator. She loves to travel, having visited nineteen countries to date. These days though, Amanda is spending a lot of time at home as she and her husband get ready to welcome their first child this summer.

## Event Emcee Corey Lazar

Corey Lazar co-anchors WINK News This morning at the CBS affiliate in Fort Myers, Florida every weekday. Corey joined the WINK News team back in 2012 as a reporter covering impactful, hard-hitting stories across the county lines in Southwest Florida. His daily coverage of city government, crime and growth has intertwined him deep within the layers of our community and has led to the establishment of numerous contacts and sources. One of the most defining moments in Corey's career at WINK has been riding through hurricane Irma with the community. In the aftermath of Irma, Corey was right there with viewers picking up the pieces and witnessing how strong our community really is.



# WINK

THE WEATHER AUTHORITY

WHEN ACCURACY MATTERS

Matt Devitt  
Chief Meteorologist

# Hope Award



*Jerry Bennett  
Galeana*

Hope Award  
Recipient  
2022

The HOPE (Helping Other People Excel) Award is given to an individual who gives tirelessly and selflessly of their time, talent or treasure to make a positive impact in the lives of children served by the Guardian ad Litem Foundation.

Jerry Bennett Galeana grew up in Mt. Clemens, MI in a modest home with her five siblings. Her mother, Margaret “Peggy” Bennett, modeled the importance of giving even when they had little to spare.

When Jerry was about 7, she came home from school one day to find Peggy making clothes for 50 Kewpie Dolls to donate to the AMVETS Christmas drive. When Jerry was in high school, Peggy announced one year that instead of mailing out Christmas cards that she would take the amount of money she would have spent and took her kids to K-Mart to buy toys to donate to Toys for Tots. Those lessons had a profound impact on Jerry.

As a young mother, she continued that tradition of giving with her son Brian in the form of providing Christmas decorations and a Christmas meal to local families and later taking Brian and her daughter Elizabeth to shop for Toys for Tots.

After Elizabeth’s sudden death, Jerry and her husband Frank created the Elizabeth K. Galeana Charitable Foundation Inc in memory of their daughter. The foundation provides grants every year in SWFL for essential financial and material assistance to organizations that promote the development of young people through meeting their social, personal, cultural, spiritual, and physical needs. Jerry, Brian, Amy, and members of the foundation committee strive to bring lasting and positive change to young people’s lives so that they may become productive members of their communities.

# Thank you to our Sponsors

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## Consider Foundation Board of Directors Membership

We are always open to considering new members with a commitment to the Guardian ad Litem Foundation mission. We strive to maintain a balance of members who represent each of the 20th Judicial Circuit's five counties, a variety of expertise (such as marketing, public relations, legal, finance, management, fund-raising, event planning, and business ownership), and reflect our region's ethnic and racial diversity.



GUARDIAN AD LITEM FOUNDATION  
20th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
VOICES FOR KIDS

*Congratulations Jerry!*



**CONGRATULATIONS**

*to Jerry  
Bennett Galeana*

**RECIPIENT OF THE THIS YEAR'S**

*HOPE Award*

**-From the Guardian ad Litem Foundation -  
20th Judicial Circuit  
Board of Directors**

*Jerry - Thank you for all  
you to do change so many  
children's stories in our community!*



# LCSO thanks Guardian ad Litem for its service

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Thank you to those supporters joining us tonight to help change a child's story in Southwest Florida!



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Certified Guardian ad Litem Volunteer Advocate and Chairman of the Guardian ad Litem Foundation  
20th Judicial Circuit Board of Directors



# Henderson Franklin Is Proud to Sponsor the Guardian Ad Litem Voices of Hope Gala

**Jennifer Siegal-Miller**

*Henderson Franklin attorney and board member  
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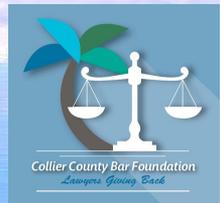
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With questions contact the group administrator, Ira Kushnir at [ira.childadvocate@gmail.com](mailto:ira.childadvocate@gmail.com)  
**Let's make this a SLAM DUNK for the kids who need it most!**

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Thank you, Guardian ad Litem Foundation 20th Judicial Circuit,  
for helping to make our community a place we're proud to call  
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**Contact Lucy Carr**

Community Consultant

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