



WHEREAS, the North Carolina Guardian ad Litem Program, celebrating 33 years of child advocacy, has established a distinguished record of public service through its work to enhance the quality of life for children; and,

WHEREAS, all 100 counties in North Carolina have a Guardian ad Litem Program and the Governor of North Carolina has set aside April as Guardian ad Litem Child Advocate Month; and,

WHEREAS, Guardian ad Litem volunteers come from a variety of professional, educational and ethnic backgrounds, acting as advocates for abused and neglected children in the complicated and often unfamiliar court and child welfare systems; and,

WHEREAS, the court appoints Guardian ad Litem advocates to serve as officers of the court, helping to improve the quality of information presented to the court, by acting as the eyes and ears of the court in the life of the child; and,

WHEREAS, April has also been proclaimed Child Abuse Prevention Month, an observance that reflects the purpose of Guardian ad Litem Programs, to protect and defend children from harm and ensure that abused and neglected children are provided with the court-ordered services they need; and,

WHEREAS, there are 85 Guardian ad Litem child advocates in Gaston County and more than 4,800 statewide who donated nearly 467,000 hours of service to children in North Carolina in 2015.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners hereby proclaims April 2016 to be

GUARDIAN AD LITEM CHILD ADVOCATE MONTH

in Gaston County and encourages all citizens to join in this important observance.

Tom Keigher, Chairman

Chad Brown

Tracy L. Philbeck

Joe D. Carpenter

Mickey Price

Allen R. Fraley

Jason Williams, Vice-Chairman