

Philanthropy Journal

OF NORTH CAROLINA

Guardian angels

Kids get a voice in court

Each year in North Carolina thousands of children are abused and neglected. Thanks to a program that matches community volunteers with these victims, children now have a special guardian who looks out for their best interest.

By KATHERINE NOBLE

Seven-year-old Timmy remembers his daddy's drunken rages. He remembers violent fights. And he remembers that his mother often wasn't there for him and his three-year-old sister, Christi.

Now, Timmy and Christi live in a foster home.

Ten years ago, children like these might have been lost in the shuffle between foster homes, falling through the cracks in an overburdened juvenile court system.

Today, Timmy and Christi have someone to look out for them, someone to make sure their best interests are heard, and considered, in court: a volunteer guardian ad litem.

A guardian ad litem, which means "guardian for this litigation," is appointed, along with a lawyer, to every case where a child is removed from his or her home by a county Department of Social Services.

In Durham, the department has come under fire recently for leaving abused and neglected children in their homes too long. Two children have died and several others have been permanently injured.

The guardian ad litem office doesn't find out about cases until after social services files a petition with the court.

"If the problem is a pre-petition problem, which was the case in Durham, then there's nothing we can do," says Ilene B. Nelson, administrator of the program for the state.

It's a recent day in Wake County District Court. A hearing is being held to decide whether Timmy and Christi's father can visit them without supervision — and whether the children are ready for unsupervised visits with him.

Sue Carlton, the children's guardian ad litem, is cautious. And she is determined to make sure that Timmy's and Christi's lives get better.

But how could she know, better

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Rebuilding from the grassroots up

Coalition revives inner-city Greensboro

An unusual partnership of nonprofits, foundations, government, businesses and community residents in Greensboro has launched a neighborhood rebuilding project in Eastside Park, an historically black, low-income area south of downtown. Organizers say the project has worked because residents have a say — and a stake — in its outcome.

By BARBARA SOLOW

When Linda Jones began knocking on doors in the Eastside Park section of Greensboro two years ago, she discovered a neighborhood in which people were living like prisoners in their own homes.

Jones, who is director of Family Services for Greensboro Episcopal Housing Ministry, was conducting a survey to test support for a new housing initiative proposed for the crime-ridden neighborhood south of downtown.

Besides fear, she found a deeply-held cynicism about the aims of urban renewal projects.

"One older lady said to me, 'just do me one favor, help me get some-

where - into a home or somewhere - because I know they're going to come in and move me out.'"

Jones and other nonprofit leaders were determined not to let that happen. Working closely with city government, they created a neighborhood housing project that has been hailed as a model for community-based renewal.



Anna Pearl Moses has lived in the Eastside Park section of Greensboro for more than 30 years.

Photo by John Fletcher Jr.

Responsibilities are divided up among the partners:

- A group of five rotary clubs serves as the fundraising arm for the \$1.5 million goal under the umbrella of Neighborhoods United of Greensboro Inc. The group has pledged to raise \$5,000 for each new housing unit and \$7,000 for each renovated unit.

- A coalition of nonprofits provides housing and social services to low-income families that include low-interest mortgages, loans and other financial support needed to buy homes in Eastside Park.

- The city contributed \$200,000 for land acquisition and pays a project manager to coordinate the work of nonprofit contractors and social service agencies.

- The Foundation for Greater Greensboro provided \$5,000 for the planning phase of the project and helped the rotary clubs set up an official fundraising channel.

- Residents are involved through membership in a new neighborhood association and a steering committee that controls the direction of the revitalization project.

Since the Eastside Park project broke ground in February, 22 new homes have been built, says project manager Bob Powell. Another nine

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Burdens of wealth

The final philanthropy of Doris Duke

After inheriting a fortune as a teenager, Doris Duke spent her life looking for love in what she frequently concluded were all the wrong places. In her will, she left a fortune worth more than \$1 billion under the control of her former butler. Scholars say Duke's life and philanthropy offer valuable lessons in how not to handle the stewardship of wealth.

By TODD COHEN

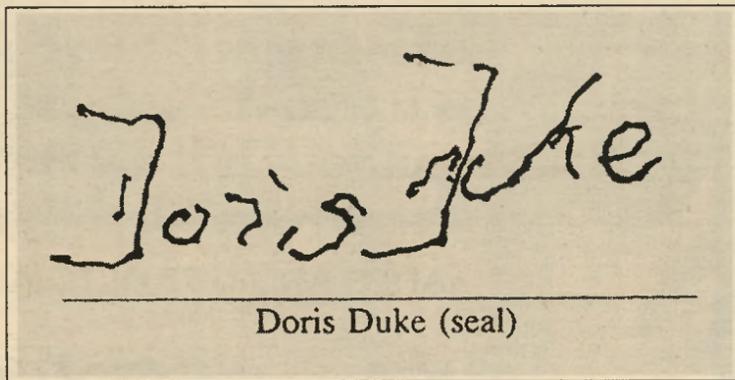
In death, as in her life, she was ruled by riches.

Doris Duke, who died Oct. 28 at the age of 80, spun the threads of her privileged but isolated and sad life into her will. That 40-page document transfers control of one of America's great fortunes to the man Duke hired six years ago as her butler.

Duke's final instructions for the stewardship of her fortune culminate - and perhaps unwittingly mimic - a life that many believe was unraveled by the burden of that fortune.

Her legacy also stands in stark contrast to the philanthropic stewardship of her father, James B. Duke, the tobacco and utility magnate.

"She in effect cast the money to the winds," says Waldemar Nielsen,



Doris Duke, who died in October at the age of 80, signed her will last April.

director of the New York-based Program for the Advancement of Philanthropy, an arm of the Aspen Institute in Washington.

Doris Duke's final act of philanthropy, once the legal tangle of the will is peeled away, reveals much about her life, says Nielsen, who has written extensively about philan-

thropy, foundations and American wealth.

"She was a sad, maybe tragic, tormented human being through her life," he says. "The way she set up her foundation reflects all these things."

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Making reform a reality

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FOUNDATIONS

Education funds expanding role

Local education funds, in addition to raising money, want to get their communities involved in school reform.

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VOLUNTEERS

High school students work as volunteers

To graduate from Chapel Hill-Carrboro High, students must perform 50 hours of community service. North Carolina joins a national trend.

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FUND RAISING

Children's museum sets ambitious goal

Fundraisers for the proposed Children's Museum About the World are racing against the clock to raise \$8 million privately or risk losing \$12 million in public funds.

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