



Guardian ad Litem Program 1st Beginnings Project

Each day, many youth leave the foster care system and venture out on their own for the first time. It is an exciting but scary time, since most youth do not have the resources to get what they need for their new homes. By launching the 1st Beginnings project, the 2nd Circuit Guardian ad Litem Program is striving to make this transition a little less frightening.

1st Beginnings is a local project with the purpose of providing youth with everything they need for their first homes. Many youth enter their first abode with only a mattress to sleep on. There are no resources to provide the essentials for the home, such as furniture, dishes, towels, etc. As a result, our youth have to struggle to try to make a home for themselves.

Working with community partners, the 2nd Circuit GAL Program and its nonprofit, Guardian ad Litem Foundation Second Circuit, will collect donations to be stored in our local storage unit. This storage unit will be transformed to a 'store' that our youth can visit and 'shop' for all needed household items. Our goal is to provide every youth with a fully furnished home including all of the incidentals to start their independence. By affording them a good foundation, we will foster a good future.

To make 1st Beginnings a success, we need support from the community. We are asking for donations of new or like-new household items and furniture. We are also asking for community business partners to help us accomplish our goal by providing items and services our youth need as they enter the adult world. Community members and partners can also sponsor our youth in their journey to independence.

With the support of our community, 1st Beginnings will make a difference in many young lives. Together, we will help them not only have a place to live, but a place to call home.

For more information, please visit our website at www.gal2.org or call/email Deborah Moore at 850-606-1218/ 850-294-7545 and Deborah.Moore@gal.fl.gov.