

Volunteer Spotlight

Chris Barovich Makes a Difference

FFCR volunteer Chris Barovich was moved to action by the heartbreaking murder in 2011 of ten year-old [Nubia Barahona](#) by her adoptive father. Nubia and her brother were placed with their adoptive parents despite red flags, including resistance from her Guardian ad Litem. Following the news coverage, Chris considered becoming a Guardian ad Litem but was unable to make the required time commitment due to work. Determined to help prevent future tragedies like Nubia's, Chris searched for another way to help and discovered FFCR. Volunteering on the Citizen Review Panel (CRP) turned out to be a great fit for Chris, allowing him to achieve his goal of helping ensure the safety of other children in foster care.

Chris has been with FFCR for approximately three years and a panel chair on the CRP for nearly a year. As panel chair, he actively works with FFCR's staff Review Specialist to ensure that all services are provided to the children and youth whose cases are presented, and that the well-being of each youth is addressed by all the parties responsible for managing the case.

When asked what keeps him motivated, Chris said that the greatest reward is seeing youth progress despite of the heavy odds stacked against them. "The optimism of these kids is amazing," said Chris. "Some of the youth have had everything go wrong that could go wrong, and yet they move forward. That's incredibly inspiring. Their spirit and determination is what brings me back each month."

Chris' calm demeanor and active listening skills enable many youth to feel comfortable during reviews. He also regularly encourages all panel members to attend trainings to stay current on the ever-changing child welfare system. Last year, Chris further extended his support for abused and neglected children by selecting FFCR as his cause in a boxing event for charity.

