

Volunteer Support and Technical Assistance

To assist you in carrying out your responsibilities as guardian, you will receive:

- A comprehensive training and reference manual
- Ongoing support, training and technical assistance from the VGA Volunteer Director
- Free continuing education opportunities
- Services of a volunteer attorney for legal advice concerning guardianship

Being a Volunteer Guardian Angel may seem like a huge responsibility, but experienced Volunteer Guardian Angels will tell you it's the opportunity of a lifetime. Benefits to you as a volunteer include:

- Knowledge of nursing homes, medical procedures, hospitals and hospice
- Interactions with a variety of professionals including doctors, nurses, therapists and social workers
- The satisfaction of enhancing the quality of life of another human being.

Contact Life Essentials:

Phone: (937) 586-0545

Address: 40 South Perry Street, Suite 130
Dayton, OH 45402

Web: www.lifeessentials.org

Life Essentials Volunteer Guardian Angel Program

Serving Montgomery and Greene Counties



"I am the voice that speaks for her when she shakes her head no. I am the eyes that keep a look out for her care and safety. I am the ears that listen and explain things to her so she can understand. Mary is my friend and I hope, in her own way, she thinks the same of me!"

- Volunteer Guardian Angel

Enhancing the Quality of Life



The Volunteer Guardian Angel Program is a member of the Ohio Guardianship Association and the National Guardianship Association and adheres to the NGA standard of practice.



Not Everyone has Someone



It is often assumed that everyone has someone who will take care of them when they are unable to care for themselves.

The fact is, not everyone has someone willing to be responsible for decision making. There are adults with mental incapacities in our community who do not have family or friends to assist them in this way. The need is growing.

The Volunteer Guardian Angel Program

The Volunteer Guardian Angel Program at Life Essentials is recruiting, screening and training people to be court appointed "Guardians of the Person." These guardians serve individuals who have no family able or willing to assist them, and whose daily ability to make decisions is diminished. Volunteer Guardian Angels do not have financial responsibility for the person.

Individuals served by Volunteer Guardian Angels are over 18 years of age, live in nursing homes or other group care settings and have some type of mental impairment. Whatever the reason, their ability to process information and conduct their affairs has deteriorated. They are alone and they need your help.

Volunteer Qualifications Include:

- Be at least 21 years old
- Have reliable transportation
- Give references
- Attend an interview
- Undergo a background check
- Complete training

Training & Matching Process

This process is an important one and may occur quickly or it may take several months. In order to ensure a successful match:

- You must attend a pre-service training program and sign an agreement making a one year commitment to the program. To maintain certification, you must attend a minimum of three hours of continuing education programs a year on guardianship topics.
- You will meet the person prior to approval to make sure you are comfortable with the match.



Guardian Angel Responsibilities

After you are properly matched with the right person, you will:

- Attend a hearing conducted by the Probate Court
- Develop a nurturing relationship with the person and visit at least one time a month.
- Participate in planning and giving consent for medical treatment and other services
- Enhance the quality of your person's life, monitor and protect their rights.
- You will have hands-on staff support from the Volunteer Guardian Angel Volunteer Director.

