



## More About LMM's Guardianship Services serving Cuyahoga and Lorain counties:

### OUR VISION

LMM's Guardianship Services will be the expert provider of comprehensive guardianship services. We will have sufficient resources to meet the diverse needs of those we serve, to educate the community about guardianship, and to advocate for a just system of care. We will protect and enhance the well-being of those served through strong leadership, an active and qualified board, efficient and well-trained staff and volunteers, and positive collaborative relationships.

### CORE VALUES

**ADVOCACY** – We believe that we must represent and defend the best interest of our wards in accordance with guardianship law. We believe that educating and influencing the community is our concern. We believe that influencing public policy for the welfare of our wards is our concern.

**VOLUNTEERISM** – We respect the dedication, contribution, and unique commitment of our volunteers.

**JUSTICE** – We acknowledge and shape our work according to the fundamental human rights and needs of the individual.

**INTEGRITY** – We are guided by and committed to the highest ethical standards.

**DIGNITY** – We recognize and uphold the dignity of each ward with sensitivity.

**COMPASSION** – We serve our wards in a spirit of empathy and selflessness. We are dedicated to providing our wards with the highest quality of care.

**COLLABORATION** – We value strong relationships with the individuals and organizations with whom we work. We interact with others in a spirit of inclusiveness, cooperation, and trust.

**SHALOM** – We are committed to the well-being of our wards and each other. We value peace in the lives and the hearts of our wards.

### GUARDIAN PRINCIPLES

The following are the main principles under which guardians function:

- Guardians share the qualities of compassion, commitment, honesty, and integrity.
- Guardians treat their wards as individuals with needs and rights, and share a desire to help those who cannot help themselves.
- Guardians guide their wards using substituted judgment and best interest standards so the ward may achieve and maintain the highest level of independence.
- Guardians determine what is least intrusive, most normalizing, and ultimately, best for the ward.

### QUALITY INDICATORS

- Staff attend various ongoing professional development seminars and ethics roundtables throughout the year.
- Guardianship Services has an Ethics Committee that meets quarterly; an ethicist is also available for emergency consultations.
- The program operates under the Standards of Practice of the National Guardianship Association (NGA) and are members of NGA and the Ohio Guardianship Association.
- Staff serve on numerous committees in Northeast Ohio that address the needs of the elderly and the mentally ill.
- Guardianship Services is accredited by the Council On Accreditation.