



*Supreme Court of Suffolk County
John P. Cohalan, Jr. Courthouse
400 Carleton Avenue, Room S23
Central Islip, New York 11722
(631)740-3883*

*Hon. Richard I. Horowitz
Court of Claims Judge
Acting Supreme Court Justice*

January 15, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of Guardianship Corp. As the designated Guardianship Judge in Suffolk County Supreme Court, I have come to rely on Guardianship Corp's small paid staff, senior volunteers, social work students and nursing students to handle some of our most challenging and labor-intensive cases.

The organization's original Pilot Project funding stream has been exhausted. A new and permanent source of financial support is imperative to help protect our most vulnerable citizens. The program is an overwhelming success. It is a cost-effective model, which is being closely watched by both state and national advocates. Guardianship Corp has been cited in The Guardianship Project's recently published report entitled *Indigent, Incapacitated and Alone*, and its staff members have been honored as *People of the Year* by the *Smithtown/Northport News*.

Guardianship Corp now acts as permanent Guardian for more than forty (40) indigent individuals, who have little or no family support. Once assigned by this Court, Guardianship Corp will generally remain as an individual's Guardian for the rest of their lives. With each year, the demand for their services grows. Based upon the influx of Guardianship cases, I anticipate that Guardianship Corp will be called upon to take on an *additional* sixty (60) cases each year.

I ask that you do everything in your power to keep this critical safety net program available for those at risk of abuse, neglect and exploitation.

Please feel free to contact me in my Chambers at 631-740-3883 with any questions or concerns.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Richard I. Horowitz".

Richard I. Horowitz, A.J.S.C.

RIH/der