



Retired Senior Volunteer Program

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To Whom It May Concern:

I write today in support of Guardianship Corps, a not-for-profit organization that is dedicated to representing indigent people in need of guardianship on Long Island. Since its inception in 2018, Guardianship Corps, working with a small paid staff and network of volunteers from RSVP Suffolk (Retired Senior Volunteer Program of Suffolk County), has demonstrated its capability to provide high-quality guardianship services to its clients at a small percentage of normal costs.

The individuals that Guardianship Corps are appointed to, by the Court, are the most vulnerable members of our communities. All of their cases are from low-to-moderate income status and lack the alternative support systems in the community to insure their welfare and are impacted with Alzheimer's Disease, traumatic brain injuries and/or a general decline in cognitive abilities leaving them vulnerable. With a shortage of guardians in Suffolk County, coupled with a senior population significantly aging over the last 20 years, a major public welfare issue is arising. Guardianship Corps is doing its best to bridge a very large gap to insure all individuals in this position are cared for and monitored for their well being.

Guardianship Corps was originally funded by a Senate Initiative in the 2018/19 New York State budget and is now providing guardianship services to 40 wards, who through this involvement, have been able to maintain their quality of life while reducing costs to the health care system. However, Guardianship Corps is now in need of sustainable funding to keep up their admirable work. To assist the growing caseload into the future, we are in support of on-going funding for this program of \$250,000 through fiscal year 2020-2021. Without this critical funding, the loss of their capacity would leave helpless individuals in terrible situations.

We ask that you join us in supporting their efforts.

Sincerely,

Pegi Orsino
Executive Director

RSVP's mission is to provide diverse volunteer opportunities for people 55 and older. RSVP supports Older Americans who wish to remain active and make a difference in their communities.