

# Volunteer Guardians



*Make a big difference  
in a small amount of time.  
Be that someone!*

**Wouldn't it be nice to have someone on your side, looking out for you when you have to make big decisions?**

**All it takes is a few hours a month, a willingness to get to know someone and an interest in helping them reach their goals.**

Volunteer Guardians act in the best interest of the assigned person, serving as an advocate and substitute decision-maker in the care and management of the person's medical and personal affairs. Volunteer Guardians are appointed by a county probate court.

Cuyahoga DD's general counsel guides Volunteer Guardians every step of the way - - through the legal process, formal appointment and anytime there are questions. The person's support team of professionals and direct care provider(s) serve as partners to ensure the person reaches his/her goals.

## **Volunteer Guardian responsibilities**

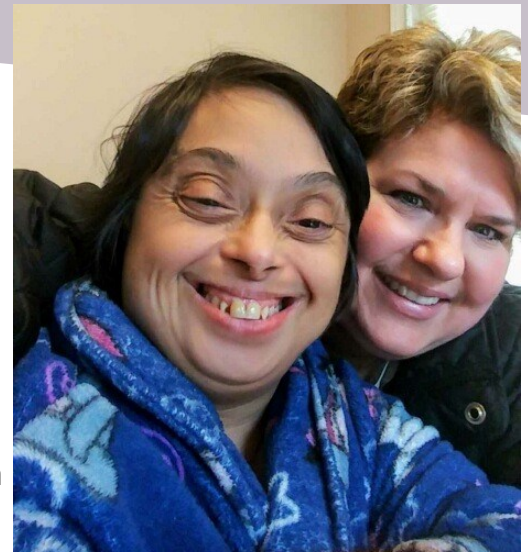
- Meet in person with individual at least six times per year. Conduct other activities as needed.
- Have telephone/digital contact with the person and/or care provider (day or residential) to discuss the person's well-being during the months you are unable to make a visit.
- Prepare and maintain records and reports concerning activities with or on behalf of the person you're supporting as required by Probate Court, Cuyahoga DD, and/or other service providers.
- Record service hours online (monthly) spent carrying out your role and responsibilities as a Volunteer Guardian.
- Participate in annual continuing education/training (encouraged and may be required).

## **How to become a volunteer**

- Be at least 21 years old.
- Complete our volunteer application process including an application, reference check, interview, orientation and background and criminal record checks.
- Complete the required training offered by the Supreme Court of Ohio, available online.

## **Learn more**

Contact Jimmy Lowe, Community Inclusion Specialist  
Phone: 216-736-8378 or Email: [lowe.jimmy@cuyahogabdd.org](mailto:lowe.jimmy@cuyahogabdd.org)



*When I first learned about the need for volunteer guardians, I thought this is something I can do to make a difference. Turns out it was a great decision!*

*I love being a part of Manjit's life and team, and I am honored in helping to keep her healthy, safe, and living her best life!*

*You will not regret this opportunity to make a difference!*

*~ Linda*

*Our mission is to support and empower people with developmental disabilities to live, learn, work and play in the community.*

[Cuyahogabdd.org](http://Cuyahogabdd.org)