

DIRECTOR'S REPORT | *Kim Watson*

GUARDIANSHIP OPTIONS FINANCIAL REPORT

In 2019, Guardianship Options

- Served more than 1,388 individuals
- Provided more than 61,700 hours of direct service to individuals
- Restored 14 individuals to independence
- Managed \$51,613,843 in assets for 312 individuals

We maintain a strong commitment to personalized and high-quality care. We meet regularly with the individuals we serve to ensure their personal preferences are carefully considered when making decisions on their behalf.

Every transaction completed by LSS Guardianship Options is required to be reported and approved by the county probate court and the Conservator Account Auditing Program (CAAP).

LSS Older Adult Services

With the right community supports, older adults in Minnesota and North Dakota are '**Abundantly Aging**': staying healthy, choosing to live at home longer, giving back as volunteers and remaining as independent as possible.



Guardianship Options has been supporting individuals with compassion, ethical decision making and a person-centered philosophy for more than 30 years. We began in 1988 with just one employee. Our services are now available throughout Minnesota and North Dakota with offices in 14 locations. Our suite

of services include Guardianship and Conservatorship, and also Supported Decision-Making services, which are comprised of Health Care Agent, Power of Attorney and Personal Representative of the Estate.

Our Supported Decision-Making services differ from the substitute decision making of Guardianship and Conservatorship in that we support individuals with decision making when they need us to, at their request.

Our focus on person-centered services means we use the least restrictive means of supporting individuals who need help with legal, medical and financial affairs. Maintaining an individual's right to personal sovereignty as much as possible informs how we do our work. With LSS, older adults and individuals with disabilities lead healthy, meaningful lives and are able to live as independently as possible. As always, we are attuned to the safety and well-being of the individuals we support.

Our dedicated team serves with deep care, integrity and expertise to promote quality of life for older adults and individuals with disabilities.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kim Watson'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Kim Watson

Senior Director, LSS Guardianship Options
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LSS GUARDIANSHIP OPTIONS:

Bringing peace of mind through management of legal and financial affairs for older adults and people with disabilities.

SERVICES INCLUDE:



Conservatorship



Guardianship



Pooled Trust

Supported Decision Making



Health Care Agent



Personal Representative of the Estate



Power of Attorney

REGAINING INDEPENDENCE

Nancy's struggles with substance use and self-neglect eventually led to her being under the care of LSS Guardianship. With support, she took charge of her life and began to be proactive about her choices and self-care.

A year ago, Nancy was living in adult foster care. Today, she is living independently and is no longer under Guardianship care.

Nancy is fortunate to have strong support from family and friends, as well as her LSS Guardianship team. While she had advice along the way, she took the lead on designing her goals and proactively set about bringing them to life.

She worked hard to learn how to manage her health issues, including diabetes, and to secure a new job. On her path to independence, Nancy learned to drive and obtained her driver's license. She researched her living options with an eye towards greater independence and moved into her own apartment this past spring without the assistance of her Guardian. She created her own budget to accommodate her new living situation and took on managing her money. Nancy's new apartment was closer to her work and supportive services helped her gain skills to overcome things that remained challenging.

During regular meetings with Nancy, her LSS Guardian noticed her growth towards independence. This year she completed her taxes without any prompts, remembered to take care of maintenance on her car, and to pay her bills on her own without support. Realizing Nancy is now able to make reasoned decisions on her own, her LSS Guardian recommended she be restored to full independence.

Nancy continues to thrive. She gathered together all the materials needed to petition the court for restoration of her independence. With her friends and family at her side, she is poised for a full life on her own.

It has been an honor to serve Nancy and we wish her all the best as she moves forward.



**Lutheran
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of Minnesota

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LSS Guardianship Options is a service of Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota, which serves **all people** regardless of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, disability or age.