

WEST MICHIGAN GUARDIANSHIP

West Michigan Guardianship was appointed by the probate court as a guardian for Client “M”, a 96-year old lady in June, 2009. The first visit with “M” was held at her own apartment, where she lived alone. She stated that she was able to get around, despite being blind; she knew where everything was in her home. She had rubber bands around her medications so that she could identify when to take them and what they were. She also had the most helpful and kind-hearted neighbor who would frequently check on her throughout the day. By August of 2009, she was having difficulty with her medications and her neighbor was no longer able to visit with any regularity. It became evident that she was no longer able to live safely on her own. She was chair ridden, not making it to the restroom, and her circulation was so poor that her feet were purple. When changing a placement for our guardian clients, we always look for a placement that is the least restrictive environment. Moving a client is never an easy decision, but after examining all the problems “M” was encountering, it was determined she should be placed in an assisted living home for the elderly. She was nervous and unsure of what it would be like. She had lived alone for so long that she didn’t know how to process any other living situation. WMG staff helped her pack her belongings, arranged for transportation and moved her to the new home. She was greeted by a warm, smiling staff. They showed her to her room, WMG staff put away her things and set up her sentimental items and let her take it all in. For a while she was angry with WMG staff for taking her away from everything she knew, but that was okay, she was allowed to express those feelings. WMG had to do what was in her best interest. It took about a month for “M” to fully accept her new placement. She is now happy, her health has improved and she is enjoying building relationships with her peers.



Community Impact of West Michigan Guardianship

- 100% of all clients are provided safe and appropriate housing.
- 58% of all guardian clients resides in Adult Foster Care homes with the least restrictive environment possible/
- 94% of agencies and referral sources felt that WMG clients received an appropriate level of response from their WMG Case Manager.

Client “A” is a 25 year old developmentally disabled young man. He resided with his Mother in Benton Harbor. He lived in an unsafe neighborhood, at times police would bring him back home as he wandered off for hours at a time. His care was neglected, including his medications. He did attend Blossomland Learning Center, but soon his behavior became too hard for them to handle. With the coordination of the Department of Human Services – Adult Protective Services and Riverwood Center, guardianship was granted to West Michigan Guardianship. WMG was able to move “A” into a Supported Independent Housing apartment where he receives 24 hour care. His medications are now properly managed. He has enjoyed many new experiences, including the car show in Chicago. Client “A” adjusted fairly well to his new home. He will graduate from Blossomland this June and WMG looks forward to what is in store for his future.

