

Senate Appropriations Committee | Senator Ray Holmberg - Chairman
Testimony via House Bill 1015 | March 17, 2021

Chairman Holmberg and Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee, my name is Margo Haut, I am Founder and Director of Guardian Angels, Inc., a nonprofit corporation located in Jamestown, ND. I respectfully request the consideration of the Public Administrators Support Services (PASS) Funding via the OMB Budget to include your support of the appropriation level of \$2.5 million. Approval will allow Guardianship Agencies to serve additional Protected Persons in need of Guardianship Services throughout ND.

A Few Protected Persons served by “Guardian Angels, Inc” via PASS Funds include

- **Randy** is a 71-year-old man who lived on the streets in Fargo or a homeless shelter over the course of past 40 years. Upon becoming his Guardian, Randy experienced a significant change in health resulting in End of Life decisions and admission to Hospice. Randy transitioned from the Medical Hospital to a Nursing Home, with support of Hospice and Staff of SNF, Randy transitioned and continues to reside at a Basic Care facility in Fargo. A professional relationship assures Randy that he is not isolated nor alone with Randy expressing appreciation. Monthly visits and/or communication occurs on a regular basis.
- **Matt** is a 30-year-old who grew up in the system transitioning to an Adult Group Home at age 18. Per our continued involvement and assistance with Matt’s Team of Professionals, Matt was able to transition to his own apartment via a less restrictive environment with wrap-around services. Matt is very appreciative of the continued support consisting of availability via phone, text and email to assist in meeting any potential needs allowing continued communication and support.
- **Melissa** is a 42-year-old woman who resided in a Transitional Living Group Home experiencing readmissions to NDSH due to medication non-compliance. Numerous meetings occurred with Melissa, staff of the TL Group Home and potential resources. Medication monitoring was established resulting in a successful transition to her own apartment. Meeting directly with Melissa occurs on a monthly basis with weekly calls and/or availability to assist Melissa at any time. Over the course of this past year, Melissa obtained a valid driver’s license; with the assistance of her family, a vehicle was obtained allowing more independence.

Ultimately, there's People behind the Paper – Randy, Mat, and Melissa are a few examples of many Protected Persons served by Guardian Angels, Inc. via PASS Funds.

PASS Funds are crucial for Protected Persons who lack a funding source to pay for Guardianship services.

PASS Funds directly affect the feasibility for Guardian Angels, Inc. and other Guardianship Agencies to serve not only our current caseloads, but those on waitlists being in dire need of Guardianship services with the hope to serve in the future.

Chairman Holmberg and Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I respectfully urge your approval of the appropriation level of \$2.5 million.

Thank you for your time and consideration.