

# FRANKLIN COUNTY GUARDIANSHIP SERVICE BOARD ANNUAL REPORT – 2024



Franklin County Guardianship Service Board  
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Phone: 614.525.2279 | [www.guardian.franklincountyohio.gov](http://www.guardian.franklincountyohio.gov)



Dear Supporter:

The Franklin County Guardianship Service Board continued to be the guardian of last resort for nearly 500 people in 2024. While the services we provide often come with many challenges, the work we do continues to be rewarding and essential to many in our community.

Ensuring someone has all they need to be successful while maintaining autonomy and self-respect is our goal with each client every day. FCGSB social workers and support staff continue to use a gentle approach to meet clients where they are. In addition, we continue to build professional relationships and strong rapport with community partners and local providers who provide vital daily services to our clients.

We are grateful for the continued support from the Franklin County Probate Court, Alcohol Drug and Mental Health Board of Franklin County, Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities, Franklin County Office on Aging via Adult Protective Services, Franklin County Board of Commissioners, Mount Carmel Hospitals, Ohio Health Hospitals, and The Ohio State University Hospitals. These partnerships are essential in a variety of ways for our agency and those we serve.

Sincerely,

Melissa G. Messina, Esq., MBA  
Director

Jane Higgins Marx, Esq.  
Board Chair

**2024 Franklin County Guardianship Service Board Members**

Jane Higgins Marx, Chair

Bob Ryan, Vice Chair

Nikki Mesnard, Secretary (January-August)

Michael Wilkos, Secretary (appointed in August)

**Mission Statement**

The mission of the Franklin County Guardianship Service Board is to implement the laws enacted by the Ohio Legislature in a professional and dedicated manner to ensure accessibility, fairness, and courtesy in the administration of guardianship services to assigned wards in Franklin County.

# A New Place to Call Home

Mary, an 87-year-old woman was living alone in an independent senior apartment building in the southeast corner of Franklin County. She was unsafe living alone, losing weight, not showering, and wearing the same clothing day after day. Mary took her dog Holly outside and consistently couldn't find her way back to her apartment, so her neighbors would bring her home. One time she became lost off property and was brought back by a stranger. Mary refused to go to the doctor, accept any help, was defensive, and lacked insight into her condition.

APS, Mary's family members and other natural supports couldn't garner her cooperation to put safety measures in place. She was adamant that there was nothing wrong, and that she didn't need any help. Once guardianship was established, FCGSB obtained an assisted living waiver, signed her up for Medicaid, and began to build rapport with her and her family.

One night, a neighbor found Mary wandering outside at midnight (there is a pond on the property). The neighbor brought her back and called the Sheriff. With FCGSB guidance, the local EMS was used to take Mary to the hospital. She was evaluated, and directly discharged to the only assisted living facility in Franklin County with a memory care unit. This was the best option for Mary to ensure her safety while also providing her with unintrusive care. She has gained a healthy amount of weight and has maintained a pleasant demeanor since moving. Her dog Holly has been re-homed to a loving family. While a bit difficult at first, FCGSB is proud to have been able to meet Mary where she was and patiently but successfully find her a safe place to live and thrive.

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## Memorial Service

This year we honored 61 clients at our annual Memorial Service, 12 of whom were veterans. Though we may not have been in their lives long, we do feel honored to have filled an important role as their guardian. During this service we find time to reflect and give pause to each unique person we have had the privilege to get to know and advocate for.

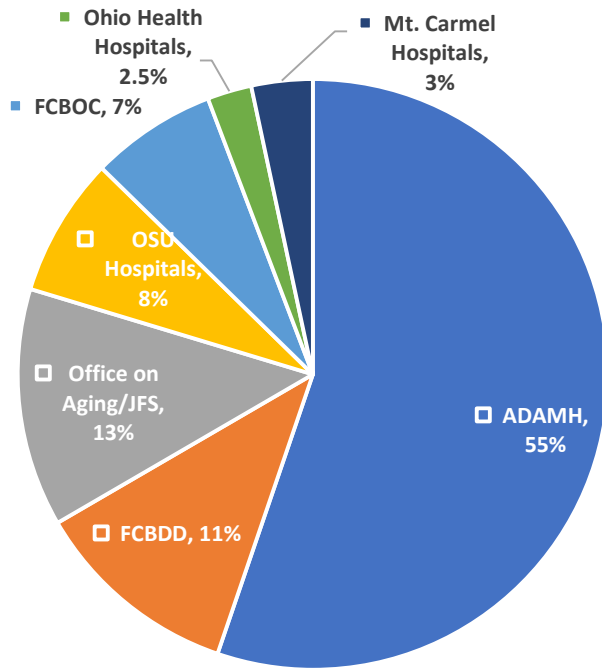


## Holiday Wish List

Thanks to generous contributions from organizations, local business, and the community, we were able to provide each client with a gift during the holiday season. There is nothing better than seeing a client's smiling face after opening a handpicked gift during the season of giving. Thank you to all those who have supported and continue to support our efforts in spreading smiles all over Franklin County!



# FCGSB 2024 Financials



ADAMH	\$2,000,000
FCBDD	\$412,000
FCBOC	\$250,000
FCOOA/APS	\$472,500
OSU	\$276,250
Mt. Carmel	\$121,500
Ohio Health	\$88,000

**Total Revenues** **\$3,620,250.00**

Salaries and Wages	\$2,330,550.92
Benefits	\$1,116,627.39
Materials and Supplies	\$190,253.73

**Total Expenditures** **\$3,637,431.73\***

## Revenue Descriptions

**ADAMH** - annual contribution as provided for in the 2020 ADAMH Levy

**Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities** - annual contractual contribution

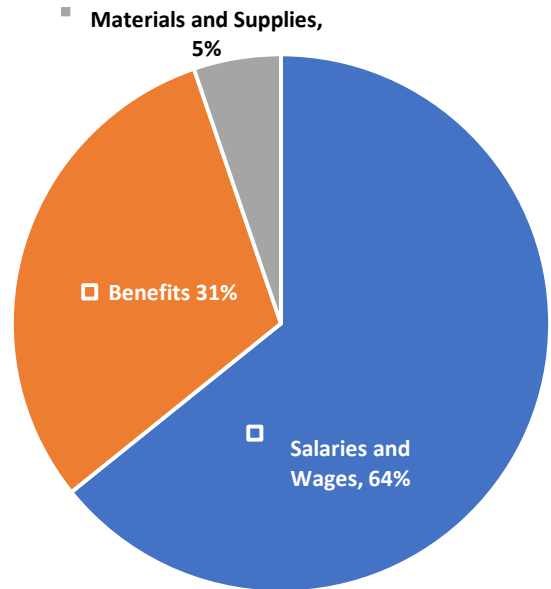
**Franklin County Board of Commissioners** - annual contribution, both monetary and in-kind

**Franklin County Office on Aging/Adult Protective Services** - 15-month contractual contribution for October 2023-December 2024 - funded with money from Franklin County Jobs and Family Services

**Ohio State University Hospitals** - annual amount per the 2023-2025 contract

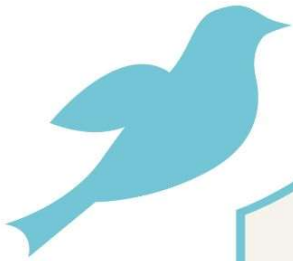
**Mount Carmel Hospitals** - amount earned under Guardianship Referral contract

**Ohio Health Hospitals** - amount earned under Guardianship Referral contract



*\*Expenditures supplemented with roll-over funds in the Probate Court Mental Health Fund*

# 2024 IN REVIEW



**499  
CLIENTS**

**AGE 18-59: 219**

**AGE 60+: 280**

**82%  
OF CLIENTS  
HAVE A  
MENTAL  
HEALTH  
DIAGNOSIS**

**3274  
CONSENTS  
PROVIDED**

**3633 FACE TO  
FACE VISITS**

**103 NEW REFERRALS**

**95 NEW  
GUARDIANSHIP  
APPOINTMENTS**

**33.5%  
LINKED  
WITH THE  
FRANKLIN  
COUNTY  
BOARD OF DD  
SERVICES**

**519 CALLS  
HANDLED AFTER  
HOURS**



**BUDGETED FULL TIME  
EMPLOYEES: 38**

**20 SOCIAL WORKERS  
2 ATTORNEYS  
12 SUPPORT STAFF  
4 VACANCIES**

**CLIENT LONGEVITY WITH  
THE GSB**

**LESS THAN 1 YEAR: 85**

**1-5 YEARS: 297**

**MORE THAN 5 YEARS: 117**

Statistics as of December 31, 2024