

Guardian Angel Residential Program



Our Program Spotlight series continues by highlighting how our Guardian Angel Home residential program is **continuing** to provide services in this **Q & A** with Program Coordinator, **Scott Hassett**.

Q: How has the current shelter in place mandate affected how we deliver the various services at Guardian Angel?

A: All of the treatment services we regularly provide, or have provided for us, continue. **All of our team** has been coming to work as “normal”. We have had our

external providers conducting video and telephone services. In addition, not being able to take kids for any off-grounds activities has been sad because **Guardian Angel Home** really focuses on helping kids prepare for life after GAH.

Q: Tell you your biggest wins for your program so far during this crisis. What are you most proud of?

First, our kids have **exceeded our expectations** in how they have adjusted to wearing masks and not having in-person visits. Our team here at GAH deserves a **significant amount of credit** for this adjustment. Our team has not complained, has made sure to plan for activities on-grounds, become “teachers” in this e-learning environment, and really proven their commitment to our kids. The **team sets the tone** for our kids and the kids have reacted positively as a result.

Q: What have been your biggest obstacles?

The area most negatively affected by shelter in place is our **inability to have our kids visit in person** with their families. They are having video calls, but you cannot replace being physically with your family. We also have not been able to move forward on transitioning some of our kids to **new, less restrictive placements**. Unfortunately there is no substitute for in-person transitional visits and transition visits are key to a successful placement.

Q: If someone reading this wanted to help our Guardian Angel program right now during the pandemic, what you would say is your greatest need?

Since we are on-grounds we could use the following: Arts and crafts (beads, pre-framed painter’s canvas, sketch pads, water color paper) puzzles-100 to 1000 pieces, slip and slides, and journal books.

For more information on Guardian Angel Home, check out our website at:

<https://www.cyfsolutions.org/services/guardian-angel-residential-program-youth/>

