You are cordially invited to attend...

A fun dinner with an important purpose! That’s how we describe the GSS Annual Awards Banquet. We hope you will mark your calendars and plan to join us for our fifth annual event which is scheduled for Tuesday, October 8, 2013 at Skyland Pines. It’s a great opportunity to honor some very deserving volunteers and professional caregivers.

We value the people who provide acts of kindness, love, and compassion while working with adults as they grow older and become more dependent. It’s often not an easy job but one that can be life-changing for both those giving and receiving the care.

The awards dinner was developed out of a desire to honor those dedicated individuals who serve our elderly citizens. The event honors volunteer guardians and health care employees who give exemplary service to the elderly population. Nominations are received from area care facilities for the outstanding “Guardian of the Year” and the outstanding “Health Care Employee of the Year.” Among the nominees, one guardian and one health caregiver are given top honors. A selection committee from GSS reviews the nominations and selects the two top award winners.

We are pleased to say that each year the event has grown and we look forward to an even bigger and more exciting event this year. To keep that excitement growing, we are pleased to announce that former Canton Mayor and current Stark County Commissioner Janet Weir Creighton will serve as our emcee.

GSS cordially invites you to attend this very important event, Tuesday, October 8, 2013, at Skyland Pines at 3550 Columbus Rd., NE Canton. Tickets for the dinner are $20. Doors open at 5:30 pm and dinner is served at 6:00 pm.

Event and table sponsorships are available as an excellent way to show your organization’s support of this important event. Please contact our office at 330-437-3720 for more information on sponsorships and to make dinner reservations.

Practice random acts of love.
“Practice random acts of love.” The news is filled with crime, hateful acts of violence and just plain spitefulness. People have lost the ability to “disagree agreeably”. It is tiresome and depressing.

I like positive, inspiring stories that show the goodness in people. One of my favorites is to hear of people who drive through McDonald’s and pay for the meal of the person in the car behind them. What an unexpectant blessing to the giver and the receiver. Practice random acts of love.

One of our guardians has a ward (Ed) who is on a pureed diet but he still remembers how good gingerbread cookies taste and smell. The guardian, who works and has a family of her own, took the time to bake Ed some of the treats. She included a thermos of milk so that he could dunk them. Practice random acts of love.

I chuckle at the story of the guardian who took time out of a busy day to take her ward shopping for shoes. It’s not an easy task to find something in a ladies size 11. After much discussion and many choices, the ward selected something in a hot pink! Practice random acts of love.

One of our wards was transferred to a different facility. The guardian was worried about how the ward would handle the change. So he was there when the ward arrived to help calm his fears. Practice random acts of love.

GSS guardians are making positive, inspiring stories as evidenced by these random acts of love.

Training Sessions:
The next guardianship training session is scheduled for Saturday, October 19 from 9:00 to Noon at the Goodwill Campus on 9th Street, S.W. The speakers include Susan Strutner, licensed nursing home administrator, Sandra Watkins Cleaver, elder law attorney and Diana Espenschied, Executive Director of GSS. Anyone who is interested in attending should rsvp by October 17. A continental breakfast is provided.

Guardian’s Quarterly Meeting:
GSS holds educational topics of interest to assist the guardians in performing their duties. The last Guardian’s Quarterly Meeting was held in June with 14 participants. The speaking portion lasts 30 minutes. The guardians share questions and concerns for the remainder of the time. The next scheduled meeting is September 19 at 7:00 pm and will be held at the Goodwill Campus. The speaker will be Linda Adams, assistant director of nursing at Canton Health Care Center. She will speak on “Dealing with wards with a mental illness”. 
Karen Mostov has a passion for helping people, both in her professional field and in her private life.

She was born and raised in Youngstown, moving to Canton in 1971. She graduated from the University of Akron, BASW and LSW, magna cum laude and is a licensed social worker. In her professional career, Karen has held a variety of private sector and public social services jobs.

In the 1990s, she worked at Quest as a case manager for those diagnosed as HIV positive. She served a five county area including Stark County. Her duties included assisting people in finding housing, food, clothing, dealing with landlords and employers and assisting with securing Medicaid and SSI benefits.

She worked as a clerk in the Canton City Health Department where she maintained medical records and charts, compiled, recorded and reported statistical activity and also at the Shipley Clinic in the Help Me Grow program as a services coordinator/DEAT member.

During her professional life, Karen has worked with children and HIV positive individuals but she always has had a heart for older people. She saw a GSS ad in The Repository under the Sunday volunteer section and decided this was another way to help people.

Volunteering is an outlet for her passion to help people. She has volunteered for four years with Ohio Reads helping children with reading problems and two years with Guardian Support Services, Inc.

She is a compassionate, caring guardian who advocates very skillfully for her wards. GSS is very fortunate to have Karen as one of our wonderful volunteer guardians.

Karen is the proud mother of two adult daughters and the very proud grandmother of one eight year old girl.

Interested in volunteering?
Please contact us at 330-437-3720

Learning about elder abuse...

What types of things are considered abuse?

Abuse is the infliction (by one’s self or others) of injury, unreasonable confinement, intimidation or cruel punishment with resulting physical harm, pain or mental anguish. Abusive maltreatment includes neglect, exploitation, and physical, emotional and sexual abuse.

• Neglect is the failure of an adult to provide the goods or services necessary for his or her own safety and/or well-being – such as avoiding physical harm, mental anguish or mental illness – or the failure of a caretaker to provide such goods or services.

• Exploitation is the unlawful or improper act of a caretaker using an adult or his/her resources for monetary or personal benefit, profit or gain.

• Physical abuse is the intentional use of physical force that results in injury, pain or impairment. It includes pushing, hitting, slapping, pinching and other ways of physically harming a person. It can also mean placing an individual in incorrect positions, force feeding, restraining or giving medication without the person’s knowledge.

• Emotional abuse occurs when a person is threatened, humiliated, intimidated or otherwise psychologically hurt. It includes the violation of an adult’s right to make decisions and the loss of his or her privacy.

• Sexual abuse includes rape or other unwanted, nonconsensual sexual contact, but it can also mean forced or coerced nudity, exhibitionism and other non-touching sexual situations, regardless of the age and the perpetrator.

What is the best way to report suspected abuse or neglect?

To make a report of abuse, exploitation or neglect, contact the county department of Job and Family Services in the county where the adult resides or where the incident occurred. During non-business hours, contact local law enforcement. To find the phone number and location of the county agency, go to http://jfs.ohio.gov/county/County_Directory.pdf.

The contact number for Stark County is 330-451-8998 or 330-455-5437.

(Information taken from Ohio Department Job and Family Services Fact Sheet Adult Protective Services 03/2013)