



REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

The first step on the
path to possible.





Providing a hand up to children and families for 159 years

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My son has really opened up.

HE USED TO GO TO HIS PRIOR CHILDCARE UPSET, NERVOUS. NOW HE'S OPEN, HE'S HAPPY, HE'S EXCITED TO JOIN SCHOOL EVERY MORNING. FOR ME AS A PARENT, IT GIVES ME AN EASE TO KNOW HE'S OKAY, HE'S SAFE, AND HE'S LEARNING. AND EVERY PARENT SHOULD HAVE THAT OPPORTUNITY.

- Brittany, *Childcare Parent*

Looking Back, Looking Forward

DEAR FRIENDS,

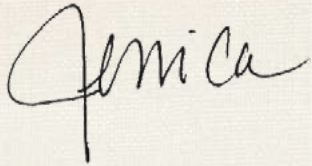
I am thrilled to share our Annual Report to the Community with you. It is an opportunity to look back at what we've accomplished together, and to look forward to the hard work still ahead of us.

2017 was another busy and exciting year at Guardian Angel Settlement Association. At our Child Development Center, we provided high-quality early childhood education and care for 228 infants, toddlers and preschoolers. 44 children graduated from our program last year – all of whom, once again, were assessed as kindergarten-ready!

At Social Services, we continue to enhance our self-sufficiency programming while maintaining our commitment to meeting emergency needs through food, rental, and utility assistance. I am proud to report that 555 individuals participated in at least one of our self-sufficiency workshops last year. Financial literacy, nutrition, job skills, housing rights, stress management, health care options – these are just some of the many critical topics taught at our interactive workshops.

2017 was also the year we took a big step toward a long-held goal: finding a permanent home for our Social Services program. Last fall we launched the *Path to Possible* campaign to turn this dream into reality. I urge you to take a look at the section in the middle of this report to learn more about this amazing project.

These are exciting times at Guardian Angel, and I am deeply grateful to have your support. On behalf of all those we serve, thank you!



Jessica Brandon, MBA, MS, NCC
President & CEO



Over 1,880
partners served
directly by
Guardian Angel

The Path to
Possible



100%
of the 44 graduates
assessed as
kindergarten ready

The Path to
Possible

Giving Back: Shardel's Journey

Shardel has been through a lot in the past few years. She has been caring for her children – Ameya, Alexander, and Darnell – on her own. At times, she has struggled to keep up with bills, especially when her hours at her job have been cut. Yet Shardel meets every challenge head-on. Last year, she decided that she wanted to complete her education, and she is now attending classes in pursuit of a degree in Social Work. In her very minimal free time, Shardel loves to sew. “I love creating things,” she says. “I’m a real crafty person. I love to do that kind of stuff.”

Shardel credits Guardian Angel with being there for her during tough times and helping her juggle her many responsibilities. Shardel has accessed several services at Guardian Angel, including the client-choice food pantry, emergency utility assistance, and the annual Back to School Program. She has also attended a number of our self-sufficiency workshops, which have given her the skills and confidence to pursue new things. According to Shardel, “the workshops are really informative. You get all kinds of information about things you can do to help with your finances, things you can do in the community, food you can cook.”

Working with Guardian Angel has inspired Shardel to continue to strive for a better life, to never give up, and to dedicate her life to helping others. “Basic things matter, and you guys provide that, and you help us feel you can go to school, you can get that degree, and you can come back and do for someone else what we’re doing for you.”



Shardel is very grateful for all the support Guardian Angel receives from the community. "If you are giving to Guardian Angel, you are helping an entire community. Thank you, and God bless you. From the bottom of my heart."

The people, the services, the friendliness.

YOU GUYS MAKE US FEEL WELCOME. EVEN THOUGH WE'RE KIND OF DOWN ON OUR LUCK, YOU DON'T MAKE US FEEL BAD ABOUT THAT.

– **Shardel**, *Social Services partner*

The Guardian Angel Difference: CARING FOR CHILDREN AND A HELPING HAND FOR PARENTS

Natavia's children have thrived in Guardian Angel's Early Childhood Program. Jayden, 7, and Kyndall, 5, are both recent graduates of the program. Natavia credits Guardian Angel for providing an ideal learning environment for her children. What really sets Guardian Angel apart, though, is all the support given to parents like herself. Family advocates work with parents to ensure they have the support to care for their families. In Natavia's case, Guardian Angel's annual Back to School Program has helped her provide her children with school supplies. "They have been so supportive by helping me find resources and helping with school supplies," she says. This fall, Kyndall will be joining her brother in elementary school. We wish them both a great school year!



The Best Measure of our Work

IS HOW QUICKLY WE'RE NO LONGER NEEDED

SOCIAL SERVICES

555

individuals attended a workshop at Social Services.

161

families received utility assistance.



81

families received rental assistance.



CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

100%

of the 44 graduates assessed as kindergarten ready.

228

infants, toddlers, and preschoolers cared for in 2017.



ANNUAL & ONGOING PROGRAMS

571

children were served by the annual Back-to-School Program.



775

individuals and 392 families served by food pantry.



VOLUNTEERS AND PARTNERS

6,400
Hours given.



1,880

partners served directly by Guardian Angel



EVENTS

124

golfers played and raised over \$92,300.



254

people attended last year's Dinner & Auction and raised nearly \$204,400.



775

individuals and
392 families served
by Food Pantry

The Path to
Possible



COMMITTED TO THE COMMUNITY. COMMITTED TO OUR PARTNERS.

At Guardian Angel, we have partners, not clients – clients are served but partners are equals working together toward a shared goal. The path to possible is guided by the dreams of each person and each family.

Lives grow through our programs and services. Guardian Angel's Early Childhood Center inspires academic preparedness and achievement for children from birth to the time they are ready for kindergarten. Guardian Angel's Social Services program offers a wide range of services for individuals and families, connecting them to what they need to become what they want.



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

As a licensed and accredited center, Guardian Angel puts children on the right path. Each teacher at Guardian Angel's Child Development Center is a highly trained, devoted, and caring professional committed to helping children thrive. The program is a Head Start/Early Head Start provider, offering a sliding fee scale to ensure that low-income families have the same access to high-quality early childhood education.

The first step on the path toward academic achievement that increases the chance children stay in school and even go to college.

A man in a red t-shirt is kneeling on a paved surface, working on a bicycle. He is focused on the front wheel area. A young boy in a blue t-shirt is kneeling next to him, looking on with interest. The man's shirt has "TURINA" and "VOLUNTEER" printed on it. In the background, another green and black bicycle is visible. The scene is outdoors, possibly at a community event or bike repair station. A circular graphic in the top left corner contains text about volunteer hours.

**6,400
VOLUNTEER
HOURS**

**The Path to
Possible**

SOCIAL SERVICES

SELF-SUFFICIENCY PROGRAMS

Individuals and families count on Guardian Angel Social Services to provide life skills training and referrals to education and employment opportunities. Self-sufficiency workshops cover a range of important topics, including financial literacy, nutrition, job skills, computer training, and more. The program also includes individualized goal-setting and household budget assistance, as well as connections for seniors and those with special needs to help them find a living environment that best meets their needs.

The first step on the path toward independence that creates stronger, more vibrant communities.

EMERGENCY SUPPORT PROGRAMS

Emergencies challenge each of us. People count on Guardian Angel to help them through hard times. This short-term assistance includes a client-choice food pantry and help with rent and utilities.

The first step on the path toward stability that provides a hand-up when needed most until individuals and families can get back on their feet.



555
individuals
attended a workshop
at Social Services

The Path to
Possible

SHOP WITH A MISSION

Guardian Angel's Angel Boutique Resale Shop is a social enterprise that offers much to members in the community: affordable prices on gently used clothing and household goods; a training site that provides work experience to adults and youth, alike.

The Angel Boutique is a great way to support our work through volunteering, donating items, or shopping for that unique treasure. Located at 2700 Cherokee Street, the store accepts drop-offs Monday through Friday, 9 am to 6 pm, and Saturday, 11 am to 6 pm. To coordinate a pick-up of larger items, please call us at 314-773-9027.

The first step on the path toward meeting the needs of families today while providing training and experience that prepares individuals for tomorrow.



SEASONAL PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Guardian Angel meets specific needs through seasonal programs and events. At the annual Back to School Fair, nearly 600 children receive a backpack, a new pair of shoes, and all required school supplies. The Christmas Program brightens the season for hundreds of families and seniors by providing gifts and holiday meals. During the school year, the Teen Outreach Program works with young people in the areas of life skills, decision-making, and community service.

Guardian Angel also provides opportunities for individuals and corporations to serve the community through volunteer work and financial and in-kind gifts. Our fun and festive Dinner and Auction in April engages supporters throughout the region, and features sponsorship opportunities and silent and live auctions. The Golf Tournament, held in June, is a great time on a beautiful course – and another ideal way to support our work. Volunteer opportunities – whether ongoing or just for a day – are available throughout the year. Please call 314-231-3188 or visit www.gasastl.org for more information about our events and volunteer opportunities.

Please be sure to check www.gasastl.org regularly for an update on all the upcoming events and opportunities to support Guardian Angel's work.



THE ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT



2018 ANGELS IN THE VINEYARD DINNER AND AUCTION



To Our Supporters: Thank You!

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GIFT AMOUNT \$50 - \$99

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Zip Codes
served by Child
Development Center

**The Path to
Possible**



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161
families
receiving utility
assistance

The Path to
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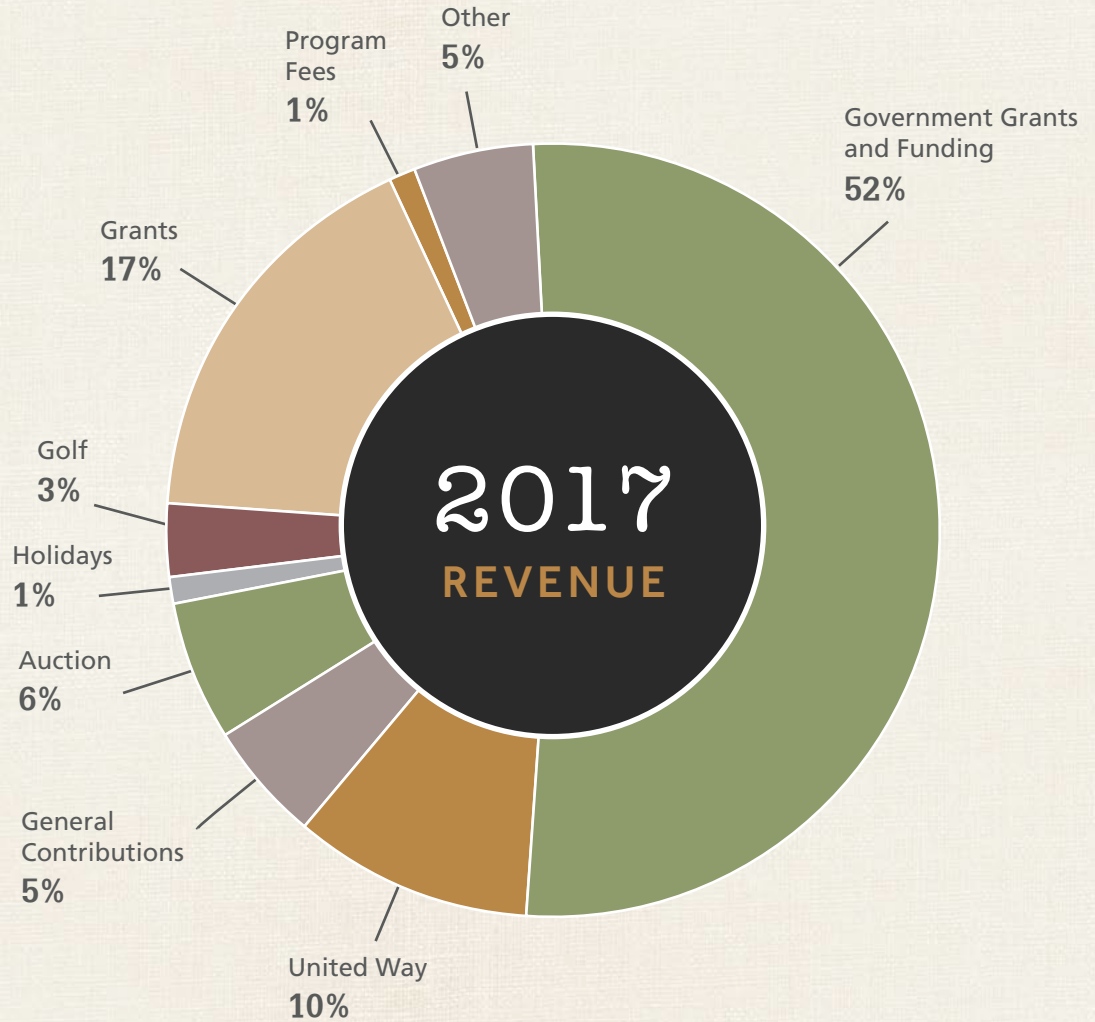
**GUARDIAN ANGEL HELPS OUT
A LOT OF PEOPLE. THEY JUST
DON'T TURN ANYONE DOWN.**

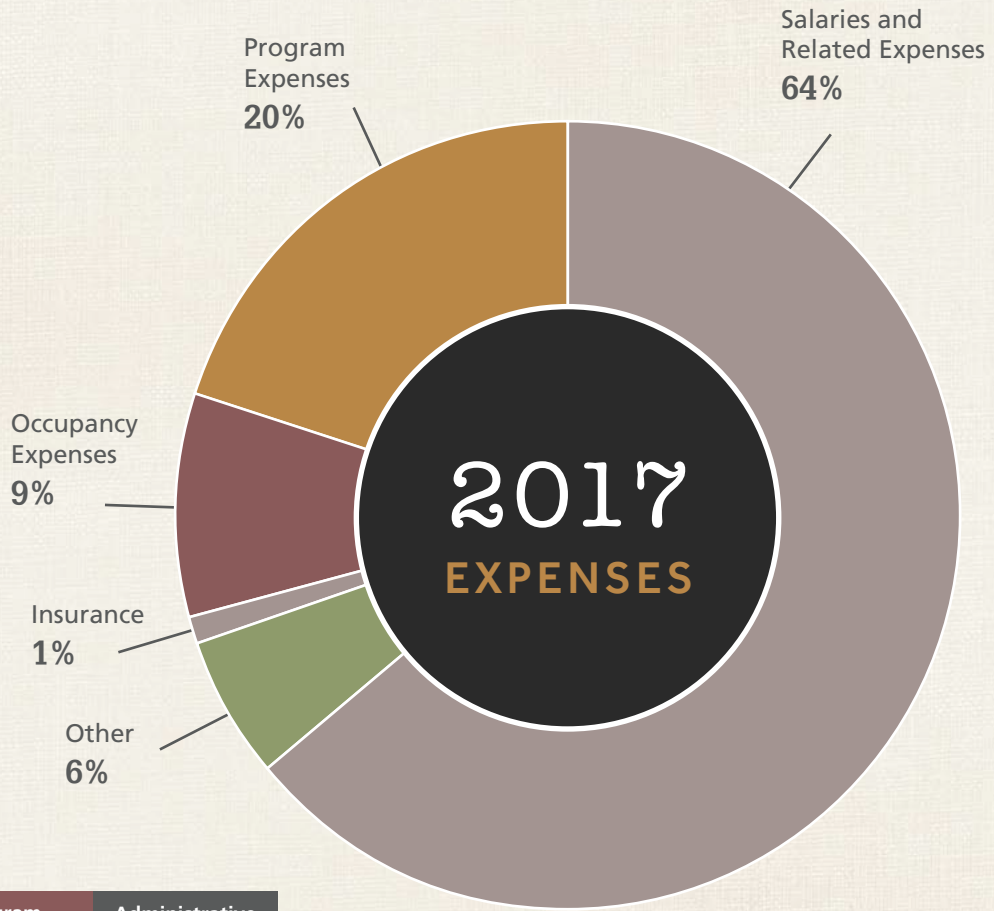
**If you
need help,
they're
going to
help you.**

**AND IF THEY CAN'T HELP
YOU, THEY'RE GOING TO FIND
SOMEONE TO HELP YOU.**

**- Tekiela, Social
Services Participant**

FINANCIALS: A YEAR IN REVIEW





Program Expense	Administrative Expense
83%	17%

INCOME
\$3,617,741

EXPENSE

Program	\$2,692,249
Management & General	\$422,716
Fundraising	\$109,578

EXPENSE TOTAL
\$3,224,543

NET ASSETS END OF YEAR
\$5,826,657



81

families receiving
rental assistance

The Path to
Possible

The first step
on the path to
possible.

Early Childhood Education

Self-Sufficiency and Emergency
Support Services

Angel Boutique Resale Shop





1127 North Vandeventer Avenue
Saint Louis, MO 63113

To donate, volunteer, or simply learn more
about Guardian Angel, call 314.231.3188, or
visit our website, www.gasastl.org.

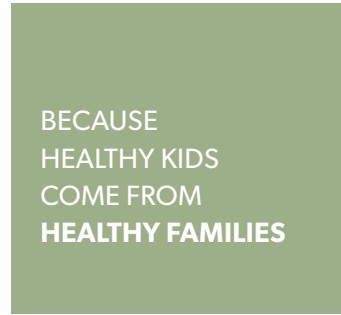
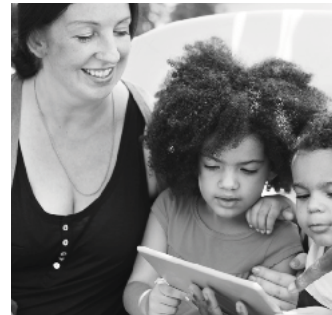
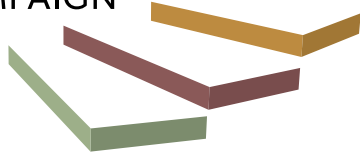
CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER AND
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
1127 North Vandeventer Avenue
Saint Louis, MO 63113
314.231.3188

SOCIAL SERVICES AND
ANGEL BOUTIQUE RESALE SHOP
2700 Cherokee Street
Saint Louis, MO 63118
314.773.9027



The Path to Possible

CAMPAIGN



GUARDIAN ANGEL AIMS TO CROSS FINISH LINE FOR New Social Services Facility

Dear Friends:

It is with eager anticipation that I share the news about our plans to relocate our Social Services programming to a dynamic new facility on Jefferson Avenue. Please be part of this historic moment and consider supporting Guardian Angel's \$3 million *Path to Possible Campaign*.

As you know, Social Services are at the heart of our mission. Thousands of children and families count on us in times of crisis. Over the years, we have been transforming from a "hand-out" to a "hand-up" model. Our partners are eager for the opportunity to build a better future for themselves and their families. With the help of our 1:1 case management and self-sufficiency workshops, they are working hard to achieve gainful employment, maintain stable housing, and manage their finances.

Our current leased space on Cherokee Street was a temporary stop on this journey. In 2017 we seized an opportunity to purchase a vacant building on an entire block of Jefferson Avenue and cannot wait to repurpose it into a community asset!

In October 2017 we formally launched the Campaign, seeking \$3 million to cover the costs of building acquisition and all renovations. As of this printing, we have raised \$2,615,250 including a magnificent \$1 million gift from an anonymous donor. This gift was a huge

inspiration for others, including gifts from our wonderful board and former board members, corporations, associations, and foundations. We are also very grateful to the J.E. and L.E. Mabee Foundation of Tulsa, Oklahoma, who awarded us with a prestigious challenge grant to raise our balance by January 2019.

We are so grateful to the many donors who have already supported the campaign. With less than \$400,000 to go, the finish line is in sight and you can help us get there! As you consider becoming a campaign donor, remember that there are two paths out of poverty: education and employment. A new Social Services Center, complemented by our quality early childhood education, is a critical piece to fulfilling this vision.

A groundbreaking celebration will be held in September. Renovations will begin later in the fall and are expected to last six – nine months. Once complete, we will be able to dramatically increase our capacity and serve many more families in need.

Stay tuned and, in the meantime, our doors are always open to you!





700%



SELF-SUFFICIENCY WORKSHOPS

Currently, we have space for 300 people. In the new space, we will have the capacity to serve 2,400.



250%



INDIVIDUAL SELF-SUFFICIENCY MEETINGS

1,100 visits now.
Projected after the move:
3,850, so more than
tripling in capacity.



200%



CLIENT-CHOICE FOOD PANTRY APPOINTMENTS

Currently, we provide 1,750 visits. The new space will allow for 5,250 visits.



STEPPING ONTO THE PATH TO POSSIBLE CAMPAIGN

A Q&A with Donors Tom and Jane Akers



Tom and Jane Akers, long-term Guardian Angel supporters, share their thoughts on why they made a pledge to the Path to Possible Campaign.

How and why did you first become involved with Guardian Angel?

Jane: I had a friend whose father was involved and they invited us to their dinner dance. Once I heard their story I knew we had to help. First I started volunteering at the food pantry and worked my way up to a board member.

Tom: Once Jane got involved we started going as a family to various events like the Thanksgiving dinner. We brought our daughters and grandkids, too.

What is the best thing that Guardian Angel does for the community?

Jane: It's so far reaching! I like that it's a work in motion – whatever the needs are, they adjust and make things happen for the people who need it most.

Tom: The idea is to try to help break the cycle of poverty and we've seen examples of that. It's a mission that we embrace.

What parts of the project are most exciting to you and why?

Jane: The whole project is necessary. The rented building had pitfalls and I saw a real need to have a home of our own. And the self-sufficiency component is so critical. It's nobody's goal to keep going to the food pantry all the time, it's to get people on their feet and not needing the emergency programs anymore.

Tom: The growth of the agency is important – to reach out and be able to better serve more of the working poor.

How did you go about making a decision on becoming a donor to the campaign?

Jane: We feel very strongly about the leadership. We know that when Jessica says she's going to make something happen, it happens. Given the fact that the new building goes right along with our mission and the leadership is there, it's the right time to do it.

Tom: We also support Guardian Angel because they've stayed true to their mission. For 159 years they've always been about helping the poor.

What would you share with someone who is considering supporting the campaign?

Jane: I'd say that when you donate to Guardian Angel, you know exactly where your donation is going to go.

Tom: I'd say just go and visit! See for yourself that this program really works.