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New Venture Guardian Home Health to Open Doors January 1

Acquisition of Jill's Helping Hands Ensures Continuity

A new home health agency will be serving the 18-county northwest Kansas area in 2018, with the opening of Guardian Home Health, LLC. [Jill's Helping Hands](#) has dedicated the past 20 years to providing in-home care services to hundreds of elderly and disabled clients in 18 northwest Kansas counties. The company's immediate focus will be to honor and maintain their current client's continuity of care. The Norton-based [Guardian Home Health, LLC.](#) is a new venture started by Chase and Abby Rice, who also own [Moffet Drug](#) and [Define Gym and Salon](#) in Norton as well as [Ward Drug](#) in Oberlin. "This acquisition establishes a solid foundation of clients currently being served by an experienced workforce. Our business will have an established referral network which allows us to expand services in the Home Health arena," said owner Abby Rice. Home Health is considered medically necessary and doctor-prescribed care that is performed by a combination of medical professionals, such as a registered nurses, physical therapists, occupational therapists, social workers or home health aides. Home health agencies can provide a wide variety of services such as administering medications, changing wound dressings or helping with prescribed exercises.

According to the Global Coalition on Aging, 70% of adults aged 65 and older will need assistance with daily activities of living at some point. In-Home care fills a critical gap for seniors between nursing home care, hospital stays, and care provided by family members and friends. "There is an unmet need in Northwest Kansas for more in-home health services regardless of a person's income bracket and we plan to help fill some of that need for our neighbors," says CEO Tim Miller, also of Norton. Tim comes to Guardian with 18 years of experience in the healthcare industry ranging from primary medicine to psychiatry with time spent in both outpatient and inpatient settings. One of Tim's primary initiatives will be to instill and protect the quality and value of patient care. He will lead the charge in expanding and developing new collaborative partnerships with local, state and federal organizations with an emphasis on Integrated Care Coordination between patients and their community-based providers.

Guardian will retain the current employees of Jill's Helping Hands, including founder, Jill Edgett of Edmond, KS. "We are thrilled that Jill has agreed to continue leading the existing in-home care services to include the HCBS Waiver program. This will allow our new staff to focus on launching the skilled services team and necessary state and federal licensure and certifications," says CEO Tim Miller. "I wanted to make sure we had a long-term plan in place for our clients and Guardian has filled that need.," says now acting Program Director, Jill Edgett. Jill also said, "I'm happy a local business with people who know the area and our culture have agreed to invest in my local business."

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About Jill's Helping Hands

Launched on Jan 1st, 1997, Jill and her dedicated team have helped hundreds of elderly and disabled Kansans remain independent in their homes. In the fall of 1996 it was apparent the Kansas Social & Rehabilitation Services (SRS) was going to privatize the Case Management and Homemaker programs. As a result, Jill took the leap and applied to become a private provider of these programs and 12 of her peers from SRS who were in line to be downsized became Jill's Helping Hands. Jill's 8 years of Case Manager experience with SRS In-Home

services program and 10 years with the Norton State Hospital as a Licensed Mental Health Technician IV supervising the geriatric program and "mainstream training" of the developmentally disabled made her a great fit for the many clients in northwest Kansas so desperately needed.

As a testament to her commitment to quality and service, the Kansas Office of Minority and Woman Business Development awarded Jill's Helping Hands the "Kansas Woman owned Business of the Year" in 2006. Today, much of the company's business centers around the Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) program for Kansans in the Frail and Elderly/Physically Disabled population and programs with the Northwest Kansas Area Agency on Aging. Those services include but are not limited to; physical assistance or support with shopping, house cleaning, meal preparation, laundry services, supervision of medication cueing and reminding, life management (financial matters, bill paying), bathing, grooming, dressing, toileting, transferring, walking/mobility, eating, and accompaniment to obtain necessary medical services.

About Guardian Home Health

Guardian strives to be the leader in home care and community-based services in Northwest Kansas. Guardian's 2018 roadmap included expansion of services into Home Health, which many northwest Kansan's so desperately need. *The Mission is to strive to preserve our client's independence and dignity, and instill hope while providing whole-person care. The Vision is to strive to provide emotional, physical support and care with daily activities whether the needs are ongoing or short-term due to an injury or illness. We place special emphasis on collaborating with our clients to create patient-centered plans of care they can understand. Our primary goal is to see that our clients remain in the comfort of their homes and avoid unnecessary hospitalizations for as long as possible. Our road map starts with personal Home Care support services followed by growth into a variety of skilled care services. Our highest priorities are: to deliver high quality services, to operate with integrity, to adapt to change, and to communicate with sincerity and compassion.*

Learn more about how Guardian Home Health is changing the face of healthcare today.

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