

THE FACE OF

By: Jeri Rowe

In 1989, Patricia Jones joined the network of people looked after by Guidance Carolina. The nonprofit, known as GC, became her general guardian, managed her estate and helped her with every decision she made, from healthcare to personal care.

And Guidance Carolina (GC) made sure Patricia was never alone. Her life shows the depth of what GC does and what it can do. Patricia suffered with paranoid schizophrenia, and GC made sure Patricia could be Patricia. With the nonprofit's help, Patricia became a beloved fixture at one of the most popular corners in Greensboro. She knew everyone, and everyone knew her.

At the intersection of Walker and Elam, a place locals affectionally call The Corner, Patricia would sit. No one could miss her. She would sit for hours yoga-style on the sidewalk underneath an awning in her long hippie-style dress. Patricia did that for years. She was known by a handful of names -- Pat, Patricia or the "Lindley Park Lady."

There, she was the happiest.

"That was what she loved," says Dorian Sylvester, the Executive Director for Guidance Carolina. "Being out in the community and talking to people, particularly at The Corner. But people knew her beyond The Corner. She was friends with homeless people and people from all over because she would wander about town. "So many people thought she was homeless, but we paid for her to have bus passes so she could get out in the community. That is what she loved to do."

In January 2023, the day after her 70th birthday, Patricia died after suffering multiple strokes. GC staff were holding her hand when she passed away. After her death, her friends at The Corner created a makeshift memorial. A liquor-bottle vase of fake flowers was placed in the very spot where she always sat. Above the flowers was a photo of Patricia taped to a poster. In the right corner was a card with a sunflower and the line: "What would life be if we had no courage to attempt anything."

With GC's help, Patricia lived her life the way she wanted to live. That is GC's mission, to make sure everyone they serve presents their best self and lives their best life as best they can with whatever they face.

And Patricia did.

[Coproration of Guardianship (CoG) changed their name to Guidance Carolina (GC) as of January 2025. The above article, originally published in 2023, has been updated to reflect this.]

Patricia Jones



PATRICIA WEARING ONE OF HER SIGNATURE FLOWY SKIRTS.

Checks can be made payable to Guidance Carolina and mailed to 122 North Elm Street, Suite 601, Greensboro, NC 27401



PLEASE CONSIDER A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION TO GC SO THAT WE CAN SUPPORT MORE INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES LIKE PATRICIA, TO LIVE WITH THE DIGNITY, PROTECTION, AND ADVOCACY THEY DESERVE.