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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Judge Halstead Honored as Person of the Year

Vulnerable children and adults are better off because of Probate Judge Donald R. Halstead, according to Guardian Finance and Advocacy Services. Guardian recently announced the judge as their “Person of the Year” for his wisdom and commitment to the community.

This population is most likely to be scammed, defrauded or physically/mentally harmed because of learning disabilities, mental illness, physical handicaps or simple old age. The handicaps render them more susceptible to predatory individuals. There may also be a lack of stable home life and support system.

Judge Halstead has served Kalamazoo County since first being elected in 1980. He is one of the state’s leading judges and one of the longest serving. He has contributed to the furtherance of fair treatment for all at-risk children and adults. He has wisely adjudicated in thousands of cases involving disadvantaged and neglected children and adults

The board meeting room was packed as Attorney Jeff Gettings, a Guardian board member, made the presentation. “Judge Halstead sets the standard quite high; he requires that you do more than what’s expected. He seeks excellence.” The judge was humble and reflective as Gettings issued his remarks.

He was equally gracious in both accepting recognition and acknowledging the role Guardian plays in the community. “Actions speak louder than words, and Guardian is an agency that has consistently followed that saying,” noted the judge. “Guardian, and its work, should be replicated across the country.

“The work you’re doing is tough, but I rely on you.”

Halstead frequently relies on the nonprofit to serve as a legal guardian or legal conservator for a vulnerable adult. Often this is after some major abuse has occurred and Guardian is tasked to straighten out matters and protect the individual and his or her assets.

“Safeguarding At-Risk Adults,” Guardian Finance and Advocacy has provided trusted service to the people of Kalamazoo and Calhoun Counties for over 45 years. More information is also available at www.yourguardian.org, or Toll Free 866.344.0688 ext. 453.

Guardian is a United Way organization.

CAPTION: Judge Halstead (left) accepts the “Person of the Year” award from Guardian Finance and Advocacy Services, presented by board member Jeff Gettings.