



# Guardianship

## Meet the People We Help...

### **Problem**

Jerry is a 24 year old young man who has been diagnosed with pancreatic and kidney cancer. Jerry's cancer is not curable and he was faced with having to make end of life decisions on his own. Jerry also has limited understanding of medical terminology and treatments due mild mental retardation.

### **Solution**

Through a Power of Attorney, Jerry appointed JF&CS to make health care decisions on his behalf when the time would come that he would be unconscious, mentally incompetent or otherwise unable to make such decisions. JF&CS staff are trained and educated on communication methods to help the impaired understand medical treatments to make sure we get a thorough understanding of a client like Jerry's wishes, values and preferences regarding his/her healthcare. There were many wishes that Jerry declared he wanted or did not want once end of life treatment was needed.

### **Outcome**

Without putting in a POA for advanced health care directive, Jerry's voice would never be heard once he is no longer able to communicate. Now with the POA in place, these wishes of Jerry's will be executed when the time comes.