

# "Where Do We Live, Grandma": Two Ohio Kinship Housing Programs

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# Grandparents/Grandchildren Initiative (GP/GCI)

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- GPGCI - started in 1996
- Began 10/1/97 with a meeting of 14 community agencies
- Surveyed local caregivers & agencies to determine needs
- Applied for a federal Health Resources and Services Administration grant
- Hired a program coordinator



# GP/GCI Program

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- Surveys, focus groups, & agency/client interviews
- Child health and Juvenile Court surveys
- Coalition growth to 41 community agencies and several caregivers
- Coalition meets 6 times yearly and has a variety of projects



# Program Accomplishments

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- Caregiver/professional education thru:
  - Conferences/educational through local, state, and national programs
  - Quarterly newsletter – *Links*
  - Media publicity – *Nightline*, newspaper, magazine, community newsletters
  - Written resource materials – Levels of Custody pamphlet, library bibliography



## Program Accomplishments (cont.)

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- Local kinship housing program
- Grandparent Friendly Providers – encouraging agencies to be caregiver friendly
- Planning summer children's day camp
- Kinship Navigator program
- Kinship Kloset



# DMHA Facts

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- Approved by the Ohio Board of Housing Commissioners
- May 8, 1934
- Established to
  - Provide decent, safe, sanitary housing at affordable rent to low income families



# DMHA Facts Cont.

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- DMHA largest landlord and property owner in Montgomery County
- 7,000 families, (14,900 individuals) served
- 4,474 apartments
- 2,880 apartments administered through Section 8 Housing Assistance Payment Program



# Woodview Courts

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- Idea came about from a past DMHA employee
- Site selected by DMHA officials
  - Only 56 units, 3 bedroom ranch apts.
  - One floor
  - Close to shopping
  - Public transportation available



# Problems with Program

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- Dedicated staff
- Coordination problems- available housing units when kinship families are interested
- Kinship families negative about DMHA and neighborhood
- HUD rules – bedroom guidelines



# Success

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- Support group
- Navigator on site
- On site office
- Increase communication between Navigator and DMHA
- Personnel



# Legacy H.R. 2628

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- Provide affordable housing opportunities for families that are headed by grandparents and other relative of children
- 6/26/2003 was introduced to house
- 12 co sponsors



# Future housing program

- Develop an action plan with DMHA manager and committee
- Establish a timeline
- Communicate with property manager and other DMHA staff
- Expand housing committee - include DMHA advocates