



Links

linking kinship caregivers

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Second Annual Day Camp for Kinship Children First Program in Dayton Exclusively for Kinship Children

We are proud to announce that, for the second year in the community, there will be a two-week day camp completely devoted to children living in a kinship care situation. The Junior League of Dayton along with the Center for Healthy Communities will sponsor the day camp this summer. The day camp will be held Monday through Friday, June 28 through July 9, 2004. The camp will be held at the Dakota Center, 33 Barnett Street, Dayton. Children ages 7-12 are eligible to attend the camp. The first 30 children enrolled will receive a scholarship. With the scholarship, the cost to the caregiver for the day camp will be \$30 per child. For children not eligible for scholarships, the cost is \$60 for the first child for the two week session. Enrollment fees for additional children in the same family will be discounted. Enrollment can be completed at the Dakota Center or by calling (937) 228-8961. Applications will be accepted after May 28, 2004. Transportation to the day camp will not be provided.

Caregivers who have children attending the camp will be asked to do two things:

- Commit to having the children attend the full day camp every day of the session unless the children are ill.
- Attend a session on the first morning of the camp and the last afternoon of the camp. This is to learn what the children will be doing during the camp experience and hear what the children have accomplished by the end of the camp.



Also ideas will be provided for caregivers to implement after the camp has ended.

In addition to usual camp activities, the children attending the Kinship Camp will have the opportunity to discuss the joys and concerns of living in a kinship care situation by participating in a special curriculum, *Grand Ideas for Grand Kids*, developed by Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

This curriculum will lead the children through discussions and activities focused around subjects such as *All About Me, Families Are Special, Friendship, Anger, Fear, Guilt* and other topics. A Wright State University graduate student, Anthony Rivers, will be returning this

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Welcome to Our New Kinship Services Aide

Keep Safety in Mind When Gearing Up for Summer

Use Your Head. Wear a Helmet!

In a major new study on traumatic brain injury and wheel-related sports, the National SAFE KIDS Campaign found that nearly 51 percent of children ages 10 to 14 who experienced a serious bike injury were diagnosed with traumatic brain injury. This was true for 44 percent of children ages 5 to 9, and for 38 percent of children ages 4 and under.

Older children tend to have higher rates of traumatic brain injury than younger children because they are less likely to wear safety helmets and more likely to take chances when skateboarding or riding bikes. Nearly 28 million children ride bicycles and the popularity of scooters, skateboards and inline skates continues to rise. SAFE KIDS urges parents and kids to wear helmets on any wheel-related activity. A helmet can reduce the risk of brain injury by as much as 88 percent.

To find out how serious the problem of traumatic brain injury was for children, SAFE KIDS selected data from the National Pediatric Trauma Registry from 1994 to 2001 and looked closely at the number of children who have suffered a traumatic brain injury. In addition, SAFE KIDS commissioned a national survey with teens to look at their attitudes and behaviors toward helmet use during all wheel-related activity. Their findings are documented in a report titled *A National Study of Traumatic Brain Injury and Wheel-Related Sports*.

Marjorie Waggoner joined the Grandparent/Grandchildren Initiative as a Kinship Services Program Aide. Marjorie worked for Franciscan Medical Center for thirty-five years as a lab technician and is now retired. Marjorie enjoys working with people and spending time with her grandchildren. She has two children and two grandchildren, and is expecting a third grandchild in June.



Marjorie decided to re-enter the workforce because she missed being around people. She saw an ad in the newspaper placed by the Senior Employment Center and decided to call to inquire about the program.

The Senior Employment Center is a training and work experience program designed to: 1) aid economically disadvantaged older persons to supplement their income by re-entering the workforce and expanding community services, and 2) demonstrate that persons who may be considered unemployable actually have much to offer an employer in the private sector.

Marjorie says she is pleased with her decision to re-enter the workforce. We are very pleased to have Marjorie working with us as a Program Aide.

If you would like more information on the Senior Employment Center, please call (937) 222-6647.



Big Brothers/Big Sisters of the Greater Miami Valley

Contributed by Lisa Brown

Big Brothers/Big Sisters of the Greater Miami Valley is a youth development program that matches a child with a reliable, fun loving, safe adult mentor whom we call a "Big." Our Bigs help to build and support the child's life skills of confidence, social competence, and caring.

A Big provides time and does activities like visiting the library, going to a museum, attending a local community event, skating or other sporting activities, as well as the opportunity to just hang out and talk.

Who are the Bigs?

Big Brothers/Big Sisters aren't teachers. Big Brothers/Big Sisters aren't parents. Big Brothers/Big Sisters are friends who help with problem solving, setting goals, and making good choices.

The Big Brothers/Big Sisters program gives school age youth the chance to have an adult friend in their life. Big Brothers/Big Sisters are carefully screened volunteers from the local community who spend a few hours each month

with their "Littles." Volunteers participate in activities such as fishing, playing board games, baking cookies or going to ball games.

Who are the Littles?

The ideal Little candidate for our program:

- Is 6-13 years old. Females may enter at an older age than their male counterparts.
- Wants to have a Big Brother/Big Sister. Our program is voluntary so both the youth and their parent(s)/guardian(s) need to be supportive of the youth's involvement.
- Is available to meet with a volunteer weekly or biweekly for at least one year.
- Lives in Greene, Miami, Montgomery or Preble County. They may live in foster care or other familial housing.

An excellent Little applicant would be a youth who is capable of and can benefit from a one-to-one relationship with an adult. Our volunteers provide the youth with a valuable friendship that will increase their self-esteem, promote academic motivation, increase interpersonal skills, and supplement the youth's support system.

These services are free. In addition, our social work staff provides ongoing support and guidance to assure the success of the match relationship.

If you are interested, please call Big Brothers/Big Sisters at (937) 220-6850.

Kinship Care Daycamp, continued from page 1

summer to guide the implementation of this curriculum into the day camp program. Anthony, who was raised by his grandmother, has a strong background in working with children and understands some of the concerns facing kinship care children.

The camp will be open to everyone but camp sessions will be exclusively for children in kinship care situations. Dakota Center will offer their own curriculum to all other children attending the camp.



Legal Talk

Ohio HB 130: A Positive Step Toward Kinship Caregiver Rights

Contributed by Crystal Allen

At the April 12th GPGCI meeting the Legal Aid Society of Dayton shared that they would be able to help grandparents seek Power of Attorney (POA) and caregiver authorization affidavits as provided for in HB 130 after it becomes effective. Governor Taft signed HB 130 on April 19, 2004 and the bill will go into effect on or about July 18, 2004.

HB 130 - Power of Attorney and Caregiver Authorization Affidavit Bill

Sponsors: Representatives Reidelbach, Hagan, McGregor, Kearns, Faber, Otterman, Grendell, Williams, S. Patton, Cirelli, Allen, Clancy, Hollister, Gilb, Willamowski

PURPOSE

HB 130 supports extended family responsibility for the raising of Ohio's children. According to the 2000 Census, over 86,000 children are being raised by their grandparents; less than 20% have any type of legal custody, making it difficult to access needed services.

HB 130 establishes two new ways to grant caregivers legal authority to obtain educational and medical services for the children in their residential care, as an alternative to intrusive children services intervention or expensive legal processes.

These two new ways are 1) Power of Attorney and 2) Caregiver Authorization Affidavit. Power of Attorney (POA) provides legal documentation for the caregiver, in consensual arrangements, when the custodial parent(s) are temporarily unable to care for their child. Caregiver Authorization Affidavit provides legal documentation for relative caregivers when the location of the birth parent is unknown.

POWER OF ATTORNEY (POA)

This provision of HB 130 allows parent(s) or other legal custodian of a child to create POA when a parent, guardian or other legal custodian is temporarily unable to care for the child. Allows "attorney in fact" authority to the caregiver for the child's educational enrollment, access to records, and consent for activities as well as consent to medical, dental, and psychological treatment of the child. POA does NOT grant authority to caregiver to consent to adoption or marriage, nor does it give caregiver legal custody of child or terminate parental rights. POA is in effect, generally, for one year but can be terminated earlier, depending upon a number of circumstances, or extended for a second year.

POWER OF ATTORNEY FORM PROVISIONS -

Form is in legislation.

- Parent or other legal guardian initiates POA - Form must be signed by the parent, guardian or custodian granting it AND the caregiver designated as the attorney in fact
- Notary Public is required to witness signatures
- Specific notices are required - Parent must notify the non-custodial parent, and file the POA with the local Public Children Services Agency within 5 days; a second year of the POA must be filed

with the juvenile court for the purpose of a best interest hearing

- **Instructions to School Officials - POA** authorizes enrollment in district of caregiver residence

POWER OF ATTORNEY PARAMETERS (in addition to those mentioned under "Form")

- **POA signature requirements** for custodial/non-custodial parents
- **Specific reasons for temporary inability** of parent to care for child
- **Judicial circumstances in which use of POA is prohibited**, such as custodial hearings pending or in progress
- **Good Faith Immunity for Professionals Relying on POA** - Does not include actions that are reckless, wanton, or inconsistent with professional standards
- **Military Use of POA** - Consistent with the National Defense Authorization Act, allows Ohio POA to stay in effect beyond the one-year limit

CAREGIVER AUTHORIZATION AFFIDAVIT

To be used in situations where a caregiver has made reasonable attempts to locate and contact both of the child's parents, or child's guardian or custodian, but has been unable to do so. This provision of HB 130 allows a "qualified relative" the authority to exercise care and control of the child. This authority includes the ability to enroll the child in school and to consent to medical, psychological or dental treatment for the child. As with POA, it does NOT give a caregiver authority for adoption, marriage, nor does it grant legal custody of the child or terminate parental rights. A caregiver authorization affidavit terminates in one year or earlier, depending upon certain circumstances.

CAREGIVER AUTHORIZATION AFFIDAVIT FORM - In legislation

- **Qualified Caregiver** initiates
- **Notary Public** is required to witness signature

- **Specific notices are required** - The relative caregiver must file the Affidavit with the local Public Children Services Agency within 5 days
- **Instructions to the Relative Caregiver - Definition of "Qualified Relative"** (includes blood relatives, excludes adult that has caused a child to be adjudicated as abused or neglected, excludes child's parent in case of divorce or annulment; lists required notices upon Affidavit termination.
- **Instructions to Health Care Provider** - Imparts good faith civil, criminal, and professional disciplinary immunity for competent care provided, based on signed Affidavit; instructs health care provider to accept decisions of relative caregiver; allows a parent to reverse a caregiver decision through written notification, such action will terminate the Affidavit.

CAREGIVER AUTHORIZATION AFFIDAVIT PARAMETERS (in addition to those mentioned under "Form")

- **Judicial circumstances in which use of Relative Caregiver Affidavit is prohibited**, such as custodial hearings pending or in progress
- **Parent Reversal or Negation of any decision** - May be done *in writing* at any time, unless it would jeopardize the health or safety of the child; regardless of application, it will immediately terminate the affidavit
- **Good Faith Immunity for Professionals Relying on an Affidavit**- Does not include actions that are reckless, wanton, on inconsistent with professional standards

If you have questions about HB 130, please contact Dionne Henderson, Program Director, GPGCI (see page 6 of this newsletter for contact information), or the Legal Aid Society of Dayton, (937) 228-8104.

Kinship Kloset Update

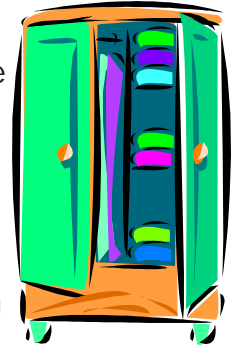
Like most of you, we are doing some spring cleaning at the Kloset. Once again we are asking for your assistance. During a recent inventory, we noticed that the larger sizes of childrens' clothing are the most requested and at this time we have a very limited supply. Currently, the Kloset is in need of boys clothing, sizes 8 - 20, girls clothing sizes 8 - 16, and junior sizes for women.



Due to space limitations we are only accepting seasonal items.

Thanks to those of you who have recently made donations to the Kinship Kloset.

If you would like to make a donation to the Kinship Kloset, please contact Dionne Henderson at 937-775-1116.



For more information or to make suggestions, please contact Dionne Henderson, Program Director, Grandparent/Grandchildren Initiative, at the Center for Healthy Communities, 140 E. Monument Avenue, Room 315, Dayton, Ohio 45402; (937) 775-1116.

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