



# Links

linking kinship caregivers ♦ Vol. 8 Iss. 2 Spring 2006

## Gearing Up for the 4th Annual Kinship Kamp

Contributed by Dionne M. Simmons

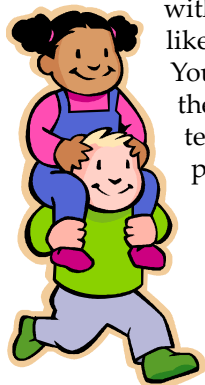
**W**e are gearing up for the **4<sup>th</sup> Annual Kinship Kamp**. The Kinship Kamp will begin **Monday, June 19 and run through June 30**. The Kinship Kamp sessions will be held at Dakota Center and Five Rivers Metro Park Adventure Central. Scholarships will be provided to the first 10 children who register at the Dakota Center. Dakota Center will begin accepting registrations on April 10, 2006. The Adventure Central all day program is only open to children that have participated in their programs through out the school year. Adventure Central has extended the invitation to other kinship families in the area that would be interested in attending the morning kinship session only.

The Kinship Kamp goals are to continue to work with children ages 7 – 12 that are being raised by grandparents and other relatives. Both programs offer an exciting curriculum filled with sports, field trips and crafts. In the last three years, we have seen children really appreciate the experience of bonding with children who are in the same or similar situation. It is a requirement that all parents and caregivers attend an orientation on the first day of camp.

We would like to welcome **Megan Feasel** as the Kinship Camp Coordinator this year. Megan is a recent graduate of Wright State University with a major in Marketing/ Communications. She has experience working with youth summer camps. We would also like to thank Dayton Urban League Summer Youth Program for providing teen workers the opportunity to work with youth. The teen workers are a great asset to the program.

To register for Dakota Center call, 937-228-8961 or for information on Adventure Central Programs call, 937-268-1037.

**For more summer camps, see page 2!**



### Caregivers Corner

**T**rotwood Madison Schools is forming a support group for kinship caregivers at Westbrooke Village Elementary. The Kinship Caregiver Coalition has partnered with this group to provide information and technical assistance. If you are a grandparent or relative raising children in your home and interested in a support group, please join them **on the third Thursday of the month at 6:00 p.m.** at Westbrooke Village Elementary. The June meeting will be held on June 15. All families in the Trotwood area are welcome to join this group.

**Note: There will be no meeting in July.**

Please call **Marsha Jones** for information at 937-854-7521.

Ms. Jones would like to share her story and hear some of yours!

*continued on page 3*

Inside  
Links

#### Table of Contents

4th Annual Kinship Kamp	1
Caregivers Corner	1
Summer Camps	2
Legal Talk	3
In the Spotlight	4
Federal Senate Bill 985	5

# Summer Camps 2006

*Please note: Based on a number of requests, we have tried to include a comprehensive list of camps throughout Montgomery County. We are not endorsing any of the programs listed below. We highly suggest you interview camp staff and tour the facility and talk to other parents about reputable summer programs.*

## DAY CAMPS

**CRUISIN' WITH KIDS CAMP:** Opportunity to make friends, play games, create art projects, swim and participate in lots of other fun activities. Each week has a different theme. One of the weekly highlights is a field trip – last year's trips included the Columbus Zoo and Young's Dairy. Each participant receives a camp t-shirt for the summer. Grades 1-6, 7a.m.-6p.m. June 5-Aug.18 @ Vandalia Recreation Center, 1111 Stonequarry Road, Vandalia. Cost \$20 resident; \$25 non-resident daily, \$90 resident; \$100 non-resident for a week. Information: 415-2340 or 415-2339. E-mail [mhelman@ci.vandalia.oh.us](mailto:mhelman@ci.vandalia.oh.us). Web site: [www.ci.vandalia.oh.us/Camp.cfm](http://www.ci.vandalia.oh.us/Camp.cfm).



**FAIRVIEW KIDS CAMP:** FROC Priority Board, 903 W. Fairview Ave. An outdoor camp, Action for Healthy Kids initiative to improve children's nutritional choices, physical activity and self-esteem. Camp will include field trips and swimming. Ages 6-11, 9a.m.-4:30p.m. June 12-23, June 26-July 7, July 10-July 21, July 24-Aug. 4. \$100 per session for City of Dayton residents; \$125 for non-residents. Registration deadline: May 31. Information: Verletta Jackson 333-2333. E-mail: [Verletta.Jackson@cityofdayton.org](mailto:Verletta.Jackson@cityofdayton.org). Web Site: [www.phoenixprojectdayton.org](http://www.phoenixprojectdayton.org).

**NORTHRIDGE FIRST STEP CAMP:** Physical fitness activities, arts and crafts, swimming field trips, academics and prevention, all with a focus on the development of healthy social skills. Grades K-5, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., June 12- Aug.11, Grafton-Kennedy Elementary School, 2655 Wagner Ford Road. Cost: Free. Information: 220-6624. E-mail: [dstumpf@uhs-dayton.org](mailto:dstumpf@uhs-dayton.org). Web Site: [www.uhs-dayton.org](http://www.uhs-dayton.org).

## CITY OF DAYTON CAMPS

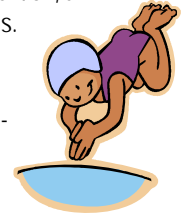
**C.A.T.S (Community Active Teens)** A positive summer experience for youth who have outgrown the traditional summer camp experience while introducing them to community service opportunities. Ages 12-17, 9a.m. - 4p.m., June 12-Aug 4, Bomberger Teen Center, 1306 E. Fifth St. Cost: \$100.

**FIRST STEP ELEMENTARY CAMP:** Physical fitness activities, arts and crafts, swimming, field trips, academics and prevention, all with a focus on the development of healthy social skills, ages 5-12, 7a.m.-6p.m. June 12-July 28. Corpus Christi/Recreation Center, 200 Homewood Ave. Cost: \$75 week full-time, \$50 week part-time.



Information: 220-6624. E-mail: [dstumpf@uhs-dayton.org](mailto:dstumpf@uhs-dayton.org). Web Site: [www.uhs-dayton.org](http://www.uhs-dayton.org).

**FIRST STEP MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMP:** Physical fitness activities, arts and crafts, swimming, field trips, academics and prevention, all with a focus on the development of healthy social skills. Ages 12-15, 10a.m.-3p.m., June 19-July 28, Longfellow Center, 245 Salem Ave. Cost: \$10 per week, \$50 entire summer. Information: 220-6624. E-mail: [dstumpf@uhs-dayton.org](mailto:dstumpf@uhs-dayton.org). Web Site: [www.uhs-dayton.org](http://www.uhs-dayton.org).

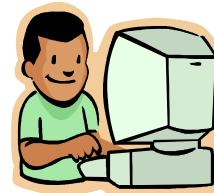


## MONTGOMERY COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION

**CAMP THUNDERBIRD:** Nature-oriented camp: hikes, creek, archery, canoeing, fishing, building Indian and pioneer villages in the woods, team challenges, crafts and historical re-enactments. Ages: 6-11 and 12-15, 9:30 a.m.-3:30p.m. June 19 - Aug.11, Art Van Atta Park, 3180 Benchmark Road, Vandalia. Cost: \$85/week. Information: 496-7134 E-mail: [parksrec@mcoho.org](mailto:parksrec@mcoho.org). Web Site: [www.mcoho.org/parksrec](http://www.mcoho.org/parksrec).

**CAMP OUT BACK:** Sports-oriented camp. Learn new sport each week, games, team challenges, crafts, some nature activities. Ages: 6-13, 9:30a.m.-3:30p.m. June 19 - Aug.11, Tom Cloud Park, 4707 Brandt Pike, Huber Heights. Information: 496-7134. E-mail: [parksrec@mcoho.org](mailto:parksrec@mcoho.org). Web Site: [www.mcoho.org/parksrec](http://www.mcoho.org/parksrec).

## WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY



**DISCOVERY 2006 AND CAMP ODYSSEY:** Academic enrichment program for students entering grades K-9. Courses are offered in science, mathematics, foreign language, computers and various forms of art. Each week, selected courses have been designed to meet

the needs of students identified as gifted/talented. 9a.m.-3:30p.m., June 12- Aug. 11. Cost: \$95 week. Camp at WSU Campus, 120 Millett Hall, 3640 Colonel Glenn Highway, Fairborn. Information: 775-3135. Web Site: [www.wright.edu/academics/precollege](http://www.wright.edu/academics/precollege).

E-mail: [precollege@wright.edu](mailto:precollege@wright.edu).

## SINCLAIR COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**SINCLAIR BASKETBALL FUNDAMENTALS CAMP:** Fundamentals of defense, offense, and special work done with developing shooting skills for the young basketball player. Grades 3 - 8, 1-3p.m., June 26 and 27, gymnasium, first floor of Building 8, Sinclair Community College, 444 W. Third St. Cost: \$50. Information: 512-2861. E-mail: [jeffery.dillon@sinclair.edu](mailto:jeffery.dillon@sinclair.edu).



# Legal Talk



## Legal Aid Establishes New Elder Law Team

By Branford Brown, Managing Attorney, LAWO Dayton

**T**he Dayton office of Legal Aid of Western Ohio, Inc. (LAWO) has expanded its service with the creation of an **elder law team** that includes three attorneys and two paralegals. This team is working on Juvenile and Domestic Relations custody cases that involve grandparents who are age 60 or older.

The Area Agency on Aging provides funding that enables LAWO to provide legal assistance in custody cases, in addition to assisting Kinship Care providers who are 60 or older with advanced directives. Focusing on seniors has long been a priority of legal aid in our community. With the addition of a senior law team, we are now able to serve more seniors on a broader array of issues, as well as go directly to the homes of those elderly individuals who cannot get to us due to health issues.

In addition, LAWO has received a grant from Montgomery County specifically for frail seniors who cannot afford private legal counsel and who are in urgent need of legal services related to safety, access to medical care/medications, or shelter. With the support of Montgomery Human Services Levy funding, LAWO staff will be consulting and collaborating with other entities, including Adult Protective Services, the Area Agency on Aging, the Long-Term Care Ombudsman program, and other service providers in Montgomery County. Through education, cross-trainings, referrals, and advocacy, we will address legal aspects of prescription drug coverage, domestic violence, elder abuse including financial exploitation, housing problems, and Medicaid.

LAWO also receives funding for elderly legal services from the Area Office on Aging/PSA2 and funding for the elderly and disabled from United Way of Greater Dayton. Seniors interested in accessing LAWO services can call Legal Aid Line, Monday through Friday at 888-534-1432 or visit [www.legalaidline.org](http://www.legalaidline.org) to complete an online application.

### Legal Aid Helps Youth Prepare for Future

Along with our work on behalf of seniors, LAWO also receives funding for a **Legal Education for Youth Project (LEYP)**. LEYP is designed to educate high school students on six areas of the law: domestic violence, teen dating violence, youth employment issues, bullying and sexual harassment, landlord/tenant, and what to do if you are stopped by the police. This program is funded by United Way of Greater Dayton and is free to local high schools.

LAWO staff meet with school groups ranging from 10 to as many as 400 students and, through audiovisual and discussion, are able to engage students in dialogue about these topical issues.

The intent of the program is to prepare the students as much as possible as they move into independence. If you are interested in scheduling a presentation, please call the LAWO office at 937-228-8088 and ask for the LEYP Program.

*Caregivers Corner, continued from page 1*

**Christ United Methodist Church** would like to invite you to join their **Grandparent Support Group**. Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at 3440 Shroyer Rd., Kettering, Ohio. Several symposiums are planned for the year. Daycare is provided if you call ahead and speak with **Judy Hadley at 937-293-3151** or **Shirley Schumacher at 937-298-4720**.

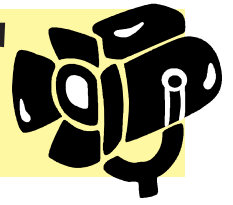
### The following topics are scheduled for 2006:

Wednesday, July 5 - "What Legal Parameters Help the Child and the Caregiver?" Guest Speaker: Magistrate Elaine Stoermer and Thomas Crowl, Supervisor (Montgomery County Juvenile Court)

Wednesday, September 6 - "Where Do We Find Healing Help for All Those Involved?" Guest Speaker: Teresa Wiles, MSW (Children's Medical Center)

Wednesday, November 1 - "When Should We Begin Warning the Children about the Many Dangers?"

# IN THE SPOTLIGHT



## Recognizing Kinship Caregiver Coalition Members

Attorney **Branford Brown** was recently nominated for the "Brother Raymond L. Fitz Award" and featured in the *Dayton Weekly* newspaper. Attorney Brown has worked with the Kinship Caregiver Coalition for many years to assist grandparents and other relatives raising children in their home. Most recently, Legal Aid of Western Ohio was awarded a grant from the Montgomery County Human Services Levy to support the frail and elderly population. With this grant they will be able to assist individuals who are age 60 or older, living in Montgomery County, and low income. With these funds they will provide legal assistance in the following areas: custody, grand parent visitation, benefits, child support enforcement, housing, domestic violence, bankruptcy,

predatory lending, consumer issues, advanced directives, and limited family law. **Call the Legal Aid Line for these services at 1-888-534-1432.**

**Angela Addington** of **Hannah's Treasure Chest** was named Princess for the Day in recognition of her contributions to the community. The Heart of Centerville Merchants crowned Angela as Princess for the Day on February 19, 2006. Hannah's Treasure Chest began in 2001 and has assisted 23,000 children by providing them with clothing, furniture and toys. Hannah's Treasure Chest is a valued partner of the Kinship Navigator Program. We encourage Angela to continue providing such a great service to the community.



### Welcome to Ilene, Kinship Navigator

**Ilene Thomas** joined the Kinship Caregiver Coalition as a Kinship Navigator in March 2006. Ilene comes to us from Miami Valley Hospital Pastoral Care and Counseling. She spent twelve years at Miami Valley Hospital where she supported counselors, assisted with finances and welcomed clients with a friendly smile. Her hobbies include "GRANDMA-ITIS," hanging out with her grandchildren and traveling with siblings. Ilene can be reached at [ilene.thomas@wright.edu](mailto:ilene.thomas@wright.edu) or (937) 775-1144.



### Goodbye to Marjorie, Program Aide

**Marjorie Waggoner** joined us in March of 2004 as the Program Aide for the Kinship Navigator Program. Marjorie was contracted through the Senior Employment Center. She has grown to be a wonderful and pleasant asset to our team. Many of you know her as the warm personality that assisted at the Kinship Klostet. Marjorie's major responsibilities started with organizing the Kinship Klostet and setting appointments for the Klostet. Her responsibilities have grown with time and we truly are going to miss her. Marjorie's last day with us was May 10.

## New Federal Bill Offers Help to Children Raised by Relatives

### The Kinship Caregiver Support Act (S. 985)

- ❖ *Nearly 6 million children – or one in 12 – were living with grandparents or other relatives, according to the 2000 Census. More than 2.5 million of these children were living there without either parent present.*
  - ❖ *More than one in five children living in relative headed households (nearly 1.3 million children) live in poverty.*
  - ❖ *Over the last decade, child welfare agencies have become increasingly reliant on relatives as the first option when a foster care placement is needed for a child who has been abused or neglected.*
- ◆ The bipartisan Kinship Caregiver Support Act is intended to ensure safe, loving families for the millions of children who are being raised by their grandparents and other relatives because their parents are not able to care for them.
  - ◆ The Kinship Caregiver Support Act includes four important provisions that help different groups of families headed by grandparents and other relatives. Currently in the Finance Committee, the Act:
    1. Establishes a **Kinship Navigator Program**, which will help link relative caregivers, inside and outside of the formal child welfare system, to a broad range of supports they need to care for their children. It also will help agencies more effectively and efficiently serve kinship care families. State agencies, agencies serving large metropolitan areas, and Indian tribal organizations may apply for the competitive grants.
    2. Establishes a **Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program**, which will help ensure permanent homes with relatives for some children in foster care. It gives states the option to use federal funds for subsidized guardianship payments to relative caregivers for children in foster care whom they will care for permanently outside of the formal child welfare system. The child must be eligible for federal foster care payments. Before making subsidized guardianship payments, state agencies must rule out returning home or adoption for a child and determine that placement with a legal guardian is the best permanency option for the child. Currently 35 states and the District of Columbia have subsidized guardianship programs and federal support for such programs will help reach more children.
    3. Requires state child welfare agencies to provide **notice, within 60 days of the removal of a child from the custody of the child's parents, to all adult grandparents and other relatives of the child**, subject to exceptions due to family or domestic violence. This will help connect children earlier with relatives who may be able to care for them.
    4. Allows states to **establish separate licensing standards for relative foster parents** and non-relative foster parents, provided both standards protect children and include criminal record checks. This provision recognizes that certain licensing standards for non-relative foster parents, such as requiring a separate bedroom for each child, may not be necessary for related children. It will allow states to receive federal support for more of the children in foster care with relatives.

## Links

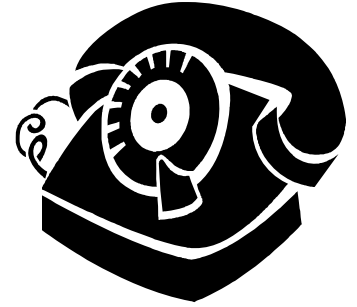
is a quarterly publication of the Kinship Caregiver Coalition (KCC), an initiative of the Center for Healthy Communities.

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

**In addition to the direct and in-kind support** provided by our academic and community partners, the Center for Healthy Communities is funded through the Area Health Education Centers (AHEC), Montgomery County Children Services Board, Montgomery County Department of Job and Family Services, Ohio Department of Health, Ohio Department of Mental Health, Planned Parenthood of the Greater Miami Valley, and the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

**Charter funding:** *The W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Community Mutual Insurance Company, Ohio Board of Regents Action Fund, Ohio Department of Health, and the Dayton Foundation.*

## Thank You for Participating in the Kinship Telephone Survey



Fifty clients who had contact with a Kinship Navigator through the Kinship program since June 2005 recently completed a telephone satisfaction survey. The survey asked how they learned about the Kinship Navigator Program, their reasons for contacting a Navigator, and their satisfaction with the service they received from the Navigator. Clients were randomly selected to be surveyed. The majority of clients (52%) were referred to the program by a community agency. The reason for contact expressed most often by caregivers was to obtain custody information—this was mentioned 15 times out of 50 responses. Most clients (64%) had at least 3-5 contacts with a Navigator, and a majority (78%) had more than one need. All clients reported the Navigators were helpful, with 98% characterizing the Navigators as very helpful.

If you would like a copy of the complete survey, please check our web site at [med.wright.edu/chc/kinship](http://med.wright.edu/chc/kinship).

---

---