



News Flash! Grandparent/Grandchild Initiative (GP/GCI) Has a New Name!

GP/GCI is a coalition made up of 41 community agencies and individuals whose focus is to explore, understand, and help address the unique needs of families where grandparents and other relatives are caring for children in the absence of their biological parents. The Kinship Navigator program is administered through GP/GCI to provide direct assistance to kinship families.

Over the past several years, there has been some confusion about who GP/GCI supports and if the Kinship Navigator program was a separate program. Many social service agencies thought the name “GP/GCI” was misleading and that GP/GCI only served grandparents raising grandchildren.

At the GP/GCI August meeting, the group was in favor of changing the name. Therefore, the name has been formally changed to the **Kinship Caregiver Coalition (KCC)**. The term “kinship” includes aunts, uncles, cousins, siblings, grandparents, and non-relatives. The coalition wants to serve all kinship families and eliminate barriers to services in the community.

Second Annual Kinship Summer Day Camp a Success

The Second Annual Kinship Camp was a success. The camp participants enjoyed two weeks of recreation, crafts, and psychosocial education that was so much fun, it was hard to believe that it was education. The group was small but this allowed time for more one-on-one time with the kids.

Anthony Rivers, the Kinship Camp Advisor, has successfully modified the curriculum to meet the needs of our high tech, high fashion youth of today. This year the students enjoyed sessions that explored self-esteem issues, what makes up a family, and recognizing other children in kinship care relationships through art, dramatic play and poetry.

The KCC education committee is looking for ways to expand the camp in the future. We would like to collaborate with several day camps to offer this program throughout the summer next year.



We would like to express our thanks to the Dakota Center and the Junior League of Dayton for their funding and support of the kinship day camp.

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Back-to-School Hints for Caregivers

Source: adapted from Kidsource

For kinship families, fall may be at time when the children they care for return to school or start at a new school. This can sometimes bring on emotional challenges for both caregivers and the children. The anxiety of a new environment or new people may bring questions or fears. Here are some helpful tips to ease the transition.

Tips for Caregivers and Students:

Make sure the child receives the proper amount of rest. Children are better students with adequate amounts of rest.

Talk about what will happen while your child is at school. How will the

day will be structured? Reassure your child that you will be there when school is over or that you have made arrangements for them to be picked up by someone they trust.

If possible, visit the school beforehand. Attend an open house or visit the school a few days before the child to introduce your selves to the teacher.

Go over walking routes, bus and class schedules. Advise your child to use the crosswalk and obey bus rules.

Get a list of school supplies needed. Having your child supplied with proper materials will help them get off to a great start.

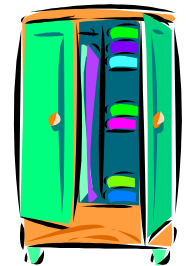
Attend school with your child. If your child is attending a new school for the first time, visit the school with your child.

Review personal safety rules with your child. Provide the school with a list of individuals who have permission to pick up your child. You should also talk with your child about who has been given this permission. Advise your child never to talk to strangers.

Find additional resources to help your child. Talk with your child's teacher to find out how you can help. If your child is having trouble please seek additional resources for tutoring services.

Kinship Klostet Update

The Kinship Caregivers Coalition (formerly GP/GCI) Kinship Klostet needs **YOUR HELP !!!** It is the time of the year when clients are asking for Back-to-School supplies, clothing and uniforms. We have included items on the wish list that we can use throughout the year. The Kinship Klostet accepts new and gently used items. The following items are needed:



- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Navy pants, Boys | Personal hygiene items |
| Navy pants, Girls | School supplies |
| White shirts, Boys | Backpacks |
| White shirts, Girls | Markers |
| Light blue shirts, Boys | New under garments |
| Light blue shirts, Girls | Bus tokens |
| Navy jumpers | Gift Cards (Kroger, WalMart) |
| Cardigan sweaters, navy | Movie passes |
| Sweater vest, red | Event tickets (circus, ballgames, etc.) |

For additional information or to arrange delivery please contact Marjorie Waggoner, (KCC Program Aide) at 937-775-1118.

We would like to thank Highlight Missionary Baptist Church and Mia/Whitmore Support Group for donating wonderful book bags. We would also like to thank the YWCA of Dayton for its generous gift of school supplies.

Legal Talk



Great News for Ohio Grandparents

HB 130 Effective July 20, 2004

Ohio House Bill 130 creates two ways for grandparents to obtain “care, physical custody, and control” over their grandchildren *without changing legal custody*: 1) Caregiver Power of Attorney (POA), completed by parent(s), a custodian, or a guardian of a child; and 2) Relative Caregiver Authorization Affidavit (CAA), created by the grandparent when the child’s parent(s), guardian, or custodian cannot be located. They are valid for one year unless terminated earlier as specified in the bill. They may be renewed after one year, subject to court review.

POA and CAA forms can be picked up at the Center for Healthy Communities, 140 E. Monument Avenue, Dayton, Ohio, or contact Dionne Henderson, Program Director, at 937-775-1116.

Legal Aid of Western Ohio will provide some assistance with completing the forms. To schedule an appointment, call 1-888-534-1432.

Legislative Update : Kinship Caregiver Support Act Your Voice is Important!

Contact your U.S. Senators and urge them to join Senator Hillary Clinton (D-NY) and Senator Olympia Snowe (R-ME) as co-sponsors of the Kinship Caregiver Support Act (S. 2706). The bipartisan legislation takes three important steps to assist children being raised and cared for by grandparents and other relatives. The Act would (1) establish a Kinship Navigator Program in states and metropolitan areas; (2) provide federal assistance to states to help relative caregivers and their children; and (3) require states, with some exceptions, to notify grandparents and other relatives when children enter foster care to help increase the possibility that children can be cared for by kin.

U.S. legislators will be spending time in their districts until November 8. This bill would be of tremendous benefit to kinship caregivers and the children in their care. Please call your Senators or write them a letter to ask them to co-sponsor the Kinship Caregiver Support Act. For more information on the Kinship Caregiver Support Act, visit the Child Welfare League of America’s website at <http://www.cwla.org/advocacy/summarykinshipact.htm>.

Senator Mike DeWine
580 South High Street, Suite 160
Columbus, OH 43215
Phone: (614) 224-5358
Fax: (614) 469-7419

Senator George Voinovich
37 West Broad Street, Suite 300
Columbus, Ohio 43215
Phone: (614) 469-6774
Fax: (614) 224-5403



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

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 Henderson, 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), Hamilton County General Health District, Montgomery County Children Services Board, Montgomery County Department of Job and Family Services, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Ohio Department of Health, Planned Parenthood of the Greater Miami Valley, and the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

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Miami Valley Literacy Council Celebrating 40 Years of Dedication

Contributed by Judy Huebmer and Jennifer Davis

Miami Valley Literacy Council (MVLC) was organized in 1964 by a group of church women who realized that many adults in the city of Dayton were unable to read. This small seed of dedication to literacy has grown into a base of hundreds of volunteer tutors who help adults and children throughout the Miami Valley achieve their learning goals.

MVLC exists to help adults and children acquire the reading, writing, listening, speaking, mathematics and technology skills they need to survive and thrive in today's society. As the primary, volunteer-based literacy provider in our community, it is MVLC's mission to provide literacy services through one-on-one and small group instruction. By making basic literacy resources available to individuals at the very lowest level reading ability, we strengthen individuals and families, build self-sufficiency, and improve the quality of life for individuals and their families across the community.

Programs:

The Learning Club Jump Start

Students in grades 2-6 are eligible for this FREE program. Each week the students will learn ways to be ready for homework, studying for tests,

completing projects and reports, and taking the Ohio Proficiency Tests. All sessions will be held at the Job Center, Suite 384.

The Learning Club (TLC)

If your child is having difficulty in reading, the TLC tutor will meet with your child to determine how they can improve reading and math skills. TLC will work with your child to determine the reading level and skills she or he needs to succeed in school and life. Your child will be matched with an experienced tutor to work one-on-one or in a small group for a 45-minute session once or twice a week.

For more information, please call Jennifer Davis or Carol Lynn at 937-223-4922.

KCC Women's Health Month Event

On Saturday, September 11, 2004, a group of women enjoyed a free half - day workshop. This half-day of pampering and education for women was an opportunity to learn how to live with stress. All the participants were provided free massages, yoga and aromatherapy demonstrations.

Katie Wilson was the keynote speaker for this event. Miss Wilson shared with the group many techniques that would allow one to relax and reduce stress in the comfort of your own home. Miss Wilson shared her nursing expertise as well as her personal experience of balancing a career while being an active church member and community volunteer. Miss Wilson's message was that if you don't take care of yourself, you will not be able to care for others.



Katie Wilson, keynote speaker

The Women's Health Month event was sponsored by the Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Prevention Program, Ohio Department of Health Bureau of Health Promotion and Risk Reduction, and AHEC Region IV, Center for Healthy Communities.



Katie Wilson speaks to attendees



Event organizer, Dionne Henderson, tests the power of massage



Participants practice stress-relieving exercises



Massage therapists pampering attendees