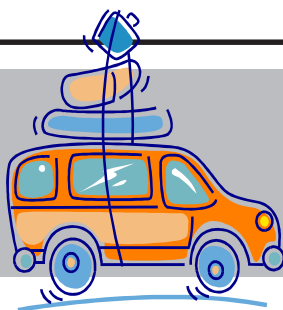


Links

linking kinship caregivers ♦ Vol. 7 Iss. 2 - Summer 2005

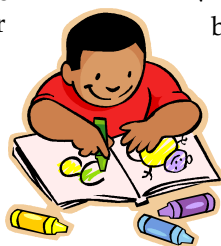
**Caregivers
Corner**



Summer Travel with Kids

Source: John Riddle, *Keep Kids Healthy* web site
<http://www.keepkidshealthy.com/welcome/treatmentguides/travel.htm>

It doesn't matter where you are headed: the beach, the mountains, a relative's house or even to the mall. Everyone who has done it before knows the good, the bad and the ugly. We're talking about family vacations, an adventure that is sure to test the patience of everyone.



However, traveling with children can be a pleasant experience. All it takes is some careful planning, a little luck, and a bag full of tricks. Before you know it, questions like "are we there yet?" or "what can I do, I'm bored?" will be a thing of the past.

If you are preparing for a trip by car, plane, train, or bus, you need to mentally walk through each section of the adventure BEFORE it begins. For example, even problems associated with packing the car for a trip to the beach should begin with a few simple and logical questions: What do we need to pack? Who is responsible for making sure those items actually get packed? Once those decisions are made, you can move on to the really important things, like how do we keep the children happy and in a good mood during a long car ride.

Keep these tips in mind when traveling with children:

✓ **Pack plenty of snacks.** Many parenting books and magazine articles say you should bring fresh fruit. However, if your children don't enjoy eating fresh fruit at the kitchen table, what makes you think they'll scarf up that baggie full of grapes in the backseat of the car? Ask your children what snacks they would like to bring. Of course, parental judgment must be used here, especially if a child asks for nothing but junk food. Depending on the length of the trip, a few M&M's mixed in with some trail mix might not be such a bad idea.

✓ **Put together a custom art kit.** To keep your child busy in the car, create a custom art kit. Take a shoe box and fill it with items that your child likes to do. If it's crayons, that's great. But if they prefer colored pencils, or those scented magic markers, use those instead. Throw in some safety scissors, a glue stick, some old magazines and a small notebook, and your child now has everything they need to make a scrapbook.

✓ **Books on tape or CD** can be a real lifesaver, especially for long trips. Take your children with you to the bookstore and let them help you to make a selection. Or visit your local library, where you can borrow items for free. Sometimes listening to a tape for only 15 or 20 minutes at a time is better than trying to force everyone to listen for an hour or more. Stop the tape after 15 minutes, and then ask the children to write or draw what they heard. It will also give them something to look forward to as they await the next installment of the story.



✓ **Take some time to plan your adventure,** and you'll soon discover that traveling with your children can be a rewarding experience!

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GRANDRALLY

FOR GRANDPARENTS AND OTHER RELATIVES RAISING CHILDREN

LEAVE NO CHILD BEHIND®

September 14, 2005

1:00 p.m.

Advocacy Training – 10:00 a.m.

High Street Lawn of the Ohio Statehouse Building

193,000 Ohio children are living in homes headed by grandparents and other relatives. Step forward with these grandparents and other relative caregivers as a strong voice for Ohio's children.

For information about the Grandrally

Call 614-221-2244

Or email: grandrally@cdfohio.org

Children Defense Fund-Ohio web site: www.cdfohio.org

AARP Ohio web site: www.aarp.org/oh



Children's Defense Fund

AARP® Ohio

The power to make it better.™

**Ohio Grandparent/Kinship
Coalition**

Legal Talk



Ohio TANF funds Kinship Subsidy Program

HB 66, Ohio's Biennial Budget (as passed by the Ohio House of Representatives)

The Kinship Subsidy Program, like the State Adoption Maintenance Subsidy, would be \$250/month/child (this would be a flat, non-negotiable rate). This would be instead of the Child Only TANF grant, so it would primarily benefit sibling groups of children. It is also limited to children who have been adjudicated abused, neglected or dependent, and the court has decided reunification is NOT in the best interest of the child, and transferred Legal Custody to the caregiver (relative, kin, former foster caregiver).

A kinship caregiver may participate in the Kinship Subsidy Program if all the following requirements are met:

- 1) The kinship caregiver applies to a public children services agency;
- 2) The minor child the kinship caregiver is caring for is a child with special needs as determined under existing ODJFS rules;
- 3) A juvenile court has adjudicated the minor child to be an abused, neglected, dependent, or unruly child and determined that it is in the child's best interest to be in the legal custody of the kinship caregiver or the probate court has determined that it is in the child's best interest to be in the guardianship of the kinship caregiver;
- 4) The kinship caregiver is either the minor child's legal custodian or legal guardian;
- 5) The minor child resides with the kinship caregiver pursuant to a placement approval process;
- 6) The gross income of the kinship caregiver's family does not exceed two hundred percent of the federal poverty guidelines for a family of the same size.

The Ohio Senate still has to pass the budget. **Public Children's Services Association of Ohio asks that you please write your Senator to tell them you support this program.**

Senator Mike DeWine

580 South High Street, Suite 160
Columbus, Oh 43215
Phone: (614) 224-5358

Senator George Voinovich

37 West Broad Street, Suite 300
Columbus, Oh 43215
Phone: (614) 496-6774

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Life Enrichment Center

Contributed by Ellen Shelley

The Life Enrichment Center (LEC) is a faith-based, non-profit organization working in collaboration with area wide partners life-building, life-sustaining services to the underserved in the greater Dayton community.

Approximately 90 volunteers, with donations and support from all over the community in the form of grants, money, food and services, are the backbone of these efforts.

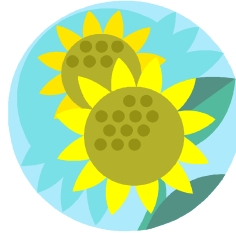
Almost four years ago, a dream of helping to feed Dayton took shape in a building located near Springfield Street in East Dayton. The Vineyard Christian Fellowship Church sponsored the much-needed facility and paid the director's salary in an effort to change director Jeff Sorrell's dream into a reality.

The feeding is three-fold:

Physical (Body)

It starts with a hot, nutritious breakfast Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings cooked with love and professionalism by a volunteer crew led by Chef Lynn Hart. Approximately 400 people reap the benefits of the kitchen volunteers. One day a week (Tuesday through Thursday), the clients also get their physical needs met with a bag of groceries put together by Thomas Phelps and his crew of distribution volunteers. After classes are over, clients line up for their groceries, all donated. Three Saturdays a month, local churches, with the help of Lynn,

serve lunch to anyone who drops in around 11:45 a.m.



Mental (Emotions)

Each day the LEC is open, the clients line up around 8:45 a.m. for some social time of hugs, works of encouragement, laughs and tears. Smiles light up faces as they see new and old friends and sit down in the cafeteria to eat and converse.

After breakfast, the clients disperse to their various classes. The smorgasbord of classes include computer, crafts, discussion on relationships and emotions, exercise, nutrition, finance, jobs, financial aid for school and anything else someone might need or volunteer to teach.

Other educational opportunities are also available at the LEC. GED classes in the mornings and evenings Tuesday through Thursday help people get that coveted diploma. The students range in age from 16-80.

The community also benefits from English as a Second or Other Language (ESOL) classes three nights a week. Besides the obvious educational benefits, the mostly Spanish-speaking students also receive a hot meal and have their

children cared for while they are in class.

Spiritual

Last but not least, the inner spirit of each willing client is fed daily with the very popular Bible classes offered in the auditorium each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Pastors and spiritual leaders from churches in the area such as the Vineyard and Fall Hills Community Church give spiritual guidance to the clients in their 40 minute classes.

Of course, almost any volunteer is ready and willing to take prayer requests, pray with clients or offer spiritual guidance at any given time during these busy, hectic days.

The heart of Dayton's east side beats healthily and fruitfully as the Life Enrichment Center keeps on doing what it does best – feeding the community in mind, body and spirit.

Life Enrichment Center 515 Irwin Street

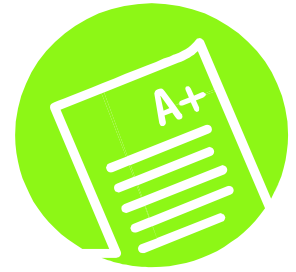
Breakfast served 9:10 – 9:50 a.m., register for class at 9:30 a.m. Must attend class to receive free groceries

If your name begins with:
A-G: classes/groceries on Tuesday
H-O: classes/groceries on Wednesday
P-Z: classes/groceries on Thursday

**For more information call:
(937) 252-5700**

A+ for the Kinship Navigators

Recently, the Kinship Caregiver Coalition conducted a satisfaction survey among clients who had had contact with a Kinship Navigator. Fifty clients were randomly selected to complete the telephone survey. The survey was used to find out how they learned about the Kinship Navigator program, their reasons for contacting a Navigator, and their satisfaction of working with a Navigator.



The majority of surveyed clients (52%) were referred to the program from a community agency. There were several reasons many caregivers contacted a navigator. The need expressed most often was clothing for the children. The second most common need was food resources, followed by help with custody issues.

All clients reported that the navigators were helpful, with 96% characterizing their assistance as “very helpful.” Many clients mentioned the fact that the navigators were easy to talk to, would listen and answer questions, and were very supportive. In summary, this survey provided the navigators and the program director with a challenge to keep up the good work! Thank all of you who took the time to complete the telephone survey.

Special thanks to Marjorie Waggoner, Carla Clasen, and Jayme Arose for their assistance with the survey! Great work, Bonnie Grooms and Donna Thiede, Kinship Navigators!

Third Annual Kinship Summer Camp a Success!

This year, 20 kids participated in the **Third Annual Kinship Summer Camp**. The camp was held June 13 through June 28th. This year we expanded the kinship camp and offered the program at two locations: Five

Rivers Metroparks Adventure Central and the Dakota Center. Adventure Central offers a year round program to youth from ages 6 to 17. Dakota Center is a landmark on the West Side of Dayton. Dakota has offered programs to youth and senior citizens for over 30 years.



The Center for Healthy Communities received a grant from the **Junior League of Dayton** that provided tuition for ten registered participants to attend camp at the Dakota Center.

Mrs. DaJuana Blackshear, a Dayton Public School teacher and licensed social worker, coordinated the Kinship Camp this year. Mrs. Blackshear and two Teen Workers from the Dayton Urban League Youth Employment Program were very innovative and provided the participants with a valuable experience. Mrs. Blackshear and the youth workers enjoyed the program, and the children attending benefitted from the individual attention to their kinship family situation.

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), 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.*

Welcome, Donna Thiede New Kinship Navigator

Donna joined the Center for Healthy Communities on March 14, 2005, as a Kinship Navigator. Donna is a recent graduate of Wright State University. She obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Rehabilitation Services. Her long-term goal is to become a case manager in a social service agency. Recently, Donna completed the Community Health Advocate Course and is now a certified Community Health Advocate. Donna can be reached by e-mail at donna.thiede@wright.edu or by telephone at (937) 775-1144.

