



Links

Article Adapted from Generations United Policy Alert

Stable Kinship Families Reduce Behavioral Problems in Children

Five top national organizations devoted to children and youth, including Generations United, announced the release of groundbreaking research from The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia. The research confirms that children in kinship families have more stability and show fewer behavioral problems than children placed with non-relative foster families.

The findings were announced at two Capitol Hill briefings and published in the June issue of the Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine. This analysis is the first nationally representative data on the outcomes of children placed into kin and non-kinship foster care. The study demonstrates the value of relatives in providing stability to children at rates far greater than experienced by children in foster care with non-relatives.

“The remarkable thing is that we’ve known for some time now that children in kinship families have better stability and permanency than most children in non-relative foster care,” said David M. Rubin, M.D., FAAP, a pediatric researcher at The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia and lead author of the study. “Our findings confirm that in the largest national study to date of these families.”

For additional information, please visit the Generations United website at www.gu.org

linking kinship caregivers

Grandparents Deserve Recognition

The Ohio Grandparent Kinship Coalition is selling T-Shirts to raise awareness and help support the Coalition. These shirts will be great to wear all year long, especially at Grandparent events like the Kinship Family Fair (see page 6). The cost is \$10 each for sizes M-XL and \$12 for 2X-3X. If you are interested in buying a T-shirt, please call 937-775-1118 to order the quantity and size you need.



T-shirts are lime green and come in sizes M-3X

Inside Links

Current News	2	Caregivers Corner	4
Spotlight	2	Grandmother's Story	5
Importance of a Will	3	Calendar	6

Current News

Lower-Income Women Age 40+ Invited to Apply for AARP Foundation Scholarships



2

Columbus, OH – The AARP Foundation now is accepting applications for its second annual Women’s Scholarship Program. The scholarships provide funds to women age 40+ seeking new job skills, training and educational opportunities to support themselves and families.

“Two Ohioans won scholarships the first year they were offered, and we are eager to see this become a trend,” said Jane Taylor, AARP Ohio’s state director.

Scholarships may be used for any course of study at a public or private secondary school, including community colleges, technical schools, and four-year universities. The program does not provide assistance for graduate degree programs. It seeks women who are entering two to three year technical or skills programs, or who are in the final stages of their college experience. Funds are payable to the institution and may be used for tuition, fees, and books.

To be eligible for the scholarships, applicants must:

- Be female age 40 or over (as of August 31, 2008);
- Be able to demonstrate financial need; and
- Be enrolled in an accredited post-secondary school or training program within 6 months of the scholarship award date.

Interested women can apply online at <http://www.aarpfoundationwlc.org>. The application process closes on August 22, 2008 and scholarships will be awarded in early 2009.

Priority consideration is given to women raising children of another family member (such as grandparents raising grandchildren and siblings raising nieces or nephew); women who have been out of the workforce for an extended period; and women in dead end jobs with no opportunity for advancement, low pay and lacking health or retirement benefits.

Winners will be chosen on the basis of financial need, personal circumstances and achievements, educational goals, and the likely impact of the scholarship on their lives, their families and communities. The Foundation will award up to 100 scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$5,000, depending on financial need and the cost of the education or training program.

For more information about the AARP Foundation, please visit www.aarp.org/foundation.

In The Spotlight



THANK YOU!

The Kinship Caregiver Coalition (KCC) would like to thank Reynolds & Reynolds for selecting KCC for the June Care Fest Program. Every Friday during the month of June, Reynolds & Reynolds associates paid two dollars to wear jeans. They raised a grand total of \$2871. These funds will be used to assist kinship families.

We would also like to thank Karen Foster, a Reynolds & Reynolds employee, for nominating KCC for this fundraising event.

The Importance of a Will and Why You Need One



Branford D. Brown
Managing Attorney,
Legal Aid of Western Ohio

A will is a formal legal document in which you name the persons or entities to whom you want to give your property after you die. A will can also direct how you want paid any debts you owe at the time of your death. In your will, you also can choose the person, called your executor, who you want to take the necessary legal steps to carry out the instructions you put in your will.

You can leave your property to anyone you choose in your will, including charities or even strangers. Even if you have very little property or no valuable possessions, a will enables you to have some input as to how you want them dispersed upon your death.

A will allows you to alert the Courts as to who you would like to act as guardians of any minor

children or disabled heirs. Having a will can also allow you to make a special donation to your favorite charity or church.

If you don't have a will, the State can determine where your possessions go and your preferences will not be considered. In addition, without a will you have no control over who is named to carry out the direction of your will and an expensive bond may have to be posted.

A will can help your family by saving them from going through costly and time consuming probate expenses. When a lawyer drafts your will, he or she can draft what is called a Transfer on Death Deed which allows you to leave your property to someone without going through probate court.

Having a named beneficiary also takes the proceeds from insurance policies or retirement plans out of the probate estate. (This could be very important if you've recently divorced, remarried or had additional children.)

Other steps to avoid probate court would include:

- Placing a Payable on Death (P.O.D.) beneficiary on your bank accounts, or adding a name to make the account survivorship
- Making and recording a deed for real property which is either a T.O.D. (transfer on death) deed or survivorship deed
- Adding an alternate payee or beneficiary to any stocks, bonds, or annuity you may own
- Add a transfer on death beneficiary to your car title (husband and wives can transfer up to two vehicles worth \$40,000.00 without going to probate but you need the TOD if it is from parent to child, etc.

You may also want to consider giving some things to your heirs while you are living. For example, if your spouse played the piano and has

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.

The Center for Healthy Communities is funded through Wright State University, Boonshoft School of Medicine, Sinclair Community College, Area Health Education Centers (AHEC), Junior League of Dayton, Physicians Charitable Foundation, Kettering Health Network, Montgomery County Sunrise Weed & Seed, Public Health Dayton - Montgomery County Ryan White, Montgomery County Department of Job and Family Services, Springfield Safe Schools/Healthy Students, Health Policy Institute of Ohio (HPIO), JXT, Ohio Council on Minority Health, Ohio Department of Health, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, VISN 10, and U.S. 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.

Caregivers Corner

Summer/Winter Crisis Program Available



The Community Action Partnership Summer Crisis Program assists with electric bills only under limited situations and may enable an individual with respiratory problems to receive an air conditioner. Its Winter Crisis Program operates from November through March each year, and can pay up to \$175.00 to maintain, restore or initiate utility service. Assistance with bulk fuel may also be provided. For program information or to schedule an appointment, please call 1-866-504-7379.

4

New grants available for families struggling with child health-related expenses

UnitedHealthcare Children's Foundation (UHCCF) announced that new grants are available to help children who need critical health care treatment, services or equipment not covered or not fully covered by their parents' health benefit plans.

UHCCF provides grants to families to help pay for child health care services such as speech therapy, physical therapy, occupational therapy sessions, prescriptions, and medical equipment such as wheelchairs, orthotics and eyeglasses.

Parents and legal guardians may apply for grants of up to \$5,000 for child medical services and equipment by completing an online application at www.uhccf.org.

To be eligible for grants, children must be 16 years of age or younger. Families must meet economic guidelines, reside in the United States and be covered by a commercial health benefit plan.

Ask your members of Congress to sponsor

THE KINSHIP CAREGIVER SUPPORT ACT

Nearly 15,000 children living in foster care with relatives could leave foster care and live permanently with relatives if federal support was available to help with their care, as is now available for many foster parents who adopt children. Currently, relatives who become legal guardians to care for foster children permanently cannot receive the continuing financial assistance they need to help provide for the children they are raising.

The bipartisan Kinship Caregiver Support Act (S. 661/HR. 2188) would help children currently living with relatives in foster care leave the system for good through legal guardianships. It would also help relative caregivers find other services and supports to help them care for these children. Congress needs to hear that these children and families are a priority and deserve our help and support.

The Kinship Caregiver Support Act (S. 661/HR. 2188)

For more information, visit www.kidsarewaiting.org.

Can a Kinship Navigator help you?

Call the Kinship Navigator Intake Line at 937-775-1144 or visit: <http://www.med.wright.edu/chc/kinship/index.htm> for kinship resources.

A Grandmother's Story

Caregivers Corner



I had just finished orientation for several new employees, something I enjoy tremendously. I was feeling pretty good about the enthusiasm I saw in their eyes and the feedback I'd received. I decided to grab some lunch prior to returning to work and remembered I'd turned off my cell phone. After powering it up I realized I had a few messages and dialed in to retrieve them. I had a voicemail from my daughter asking that I call her and that it was an emergency. My heart started racing as this was not the first time I'd gotten a call like this. The first time was when my 6 month old granddaughter was left with a boyfriend and received a third degree burn to her face, a scar she will carry with her all of her life. Panicked, I immediately called back. My daughter asked that I come to the kids' school right away. I jumped in my car and rushed over to find my daughter in tears in front of the school building. The only words I could make out were, "Mom, they're taking my kids from me."

Without hesitation I went into the building to find my grandchildren in the nurse's office along with a representative from Children's Services. She told me what happened, asked if I would be willing to take them and if not, they'd go to foster care. She stated it would be for a couple of weeks depending on the investigation. Without hesitation, I agreed.

After getting the kids home and settled, I started thinking to myself...the youngest is not in school yet, only two of the three children are. They don't have transportation to/from school or any daycare/after school care. You have a demanding job...how are you going to do this? How are you going to do this financially? While some would probably consider me a fairly young grandmother, taking on three young children is a challenge and not in my plan as my children are all grown.

A few weeks later, a family meeting was scheduled with the purpose of mapping out a plan for awareness education and visitation for my daughter. For me personally, the highest priority was arranging day/after school care for the kids, which took about 60 days to arrange. There was no mention of assistance to help take care of the kids. The CSB caseworkers indicated they did not want to see my daughter lose any of her benefits (foodstamps, medical, child support, etc.). When the kids first arrived their mother contributed \$300 and bought some groceries for the kids.

In conversation with my former boss one day, she suggested contacting the Kinship Caregiver Coalition. But after the family meeting and what the caseworkers said, I decided not to. A few months later I revisited the idea and gave the coalition a call. I was assigned a navigator who did my intake over the phone. The process was quick and simple. She then referred me to two agencies for food and clothing. She also referred me to the Job Center to sign up for additional assistance including Child Only Funds designated for grandparents raising their grandchildren.

I am thankful to the teachers who kept a watchful eye on my grandchildren and took a stand when they saw something was wrong. Work starts at 8:00am and the earliest the kids could arrive to school was 8:20am. I am thankful for the flexibility I received on my job allowing me to transport the kids to/from school and babysitters until transportation was arranged. I am thankful for the support of my family and extended family who pitched in whenever it was needed.

Lastly, I'm thankful to the Kinship Caregiver Coalition for their assistance with referrals and resources. It was comforting knowing

Second Annual Kinship Family Fair

If you are a relative raising children in your home please join us for a day of fun with other kinship families

FREE LUNCH, WORKSHOPS, AND SCHOOL SUPPLIES

When: Saturday, August 16, 2008

*Where: Wright State University
Kettering Center (across from Riverscape)
Free Parking On Site*

140 E. Monument Avenue, Dayton

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

(Children bring swim wear/towels - water play will be available)

***You must RSVP to attend this event!
To register please call the Kinship Navigator
Intake Line at 937-775-1144***



Join Us for the Second Annual Kinship Family Fair

Please join us on Saturday, August 16, 2008 at the Wright State University Kettering Center for the Kinship Family Fair. Doors will open at 8:30 a.m. **Everyone must be registered to attend to the Fair.** If you are a relative or grandparent raising children in your home, come and learn more about resources in your community, meet new friends, and enjoy a free lunch. This year the caregivers will participate in three mini presentations. All school age children will receive free school supplies.

This will be a day of fun for all ages. The children will be divided into three groups: (3 years - 6 years), (7 years - 11 years), and (12 years - 16 years). The two younger groups will enjoy the water fountain at Riverscape MetroPark. Please bring towels and swim clothing for your children who will be participating in water play.

The tweens and teens will enjoy a power-packed two hour training led by two of Dayton's finest educators, Ms. Dajuana Blackshear and Mr. Randy Faison. Ms. Blackshear and Mr. Faison have both worked with students over thirty years combined and have a passion to work with young adults. The duo has promised to make this a very exciting training for all who attend. All tweens and teens that participate in the session will have an opportunity to win a prize.

Age appropriate school supplies will be provided to all children. When you register please be sure to say what grade your child will be entering into this school year. High school students will not receive back packs.

To register please call the Kinship Navigator Intake Line at 937-775-1144.

Mark Your Calendar

Five Rivers MetroParks has family-friendly things to do at little or no cost. Go to metroparks.org and click on Families under Parks & Interests.

RiverFest

Saturday, August 9th
11am - 5pm



Wegerzyn Gardens MetroParks
1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.

Celebrate all things wet and wild along the Stillwater River. Bring the family for a free, fun-filled day of learning and exploring along the river. Build a miniature boat and race it down the river, or learn how to divert storm water to a beautiful rain garden in your yard. Discover what makes a river healthy for fishing, swimming and even drinking.

7

Resources

Breast Cancer Survivors

Do you need assistance with purchasing breast prosthesis or prescription medication?

For more information contact:

Wellness Connection of Dayton Region
Sabrina Berry, Client Advocacy Manager
(937) 223-4117, ext. 209



This program is funded by Breast Cancer Foundation

Continued from page 3 - Importance of a Will

passed away, you might want to give the piano to your granddaughter (who also plays) now instead of giving it to her by way of the will when you die.

Senior Citizens who are interested in getting more information about wills can contact Legal Aid of Western Ohio at 937-228-8088. Legal Aid also provides services for Power of Attorneys; Healthcare durable power of attorneys; and Living wills for eligible clients. A little effort now to establish a will can spare family members a lot of anguish later.

LAWO is a non-profit law firm that provides high quality legal assistance in civil matters to help eligible low-income individuals and groups in western Ohio achieve self reliance, and equal justice and economic opportunity.

Continued from page 5 - A Grandmother's Story

that they understood my situation and that they are there to assist with information regarding legal matters. They truly understand the hardship placed on grandparents raising their grandchildren. This organization does not receive the support and recognition it truly deserves. So, spread the word! It happened to me, it could happen to you or someone you love. The saying is true...to raise a child, it truly does take a village!

Please feel free to share your story anonymously in the next LINKS newsletter. Call your Kinship Navigator Bonnie at 937-775-1145 or Adel at 937-775-1118.