



Links

linking kinship caregivers ♦ Vol. 9 Iss. 1 Winter 2007

Kinship Families Adopted for Christmas

Contributed by Dionne M. Simmons

Going into the holiday season, the Kinship Navigators were doubtful about the amount of support our annual family adoption program would receive due to layoffs and job shortages the Miami Valley had experienced in the months before. Not surprisingly, this year there was an increase in the number of families that expressed a need for holiday assistance. The Kinship Navigators began receiving calls in October from families expressing the need for holiday assistance. Many were asking for help because of lack of money due to a variety of reasons. Several of the families were asking for assistance for the first time. There were a few families that remained on the waiting list for adoption.

For the past three years, we have only solicited support from a small circle of agencies that share the same mission as the Kinship Navigator Program. This year we



Mary McDaniel

expanded the circle and reached out for support from co workers, friends and family. It was really heartening to see how some agencies made the commitment in a short notice. Other agency representatives recruited additional support from family members and churches. This resulted in nearly 45 families being adopted by an agency and or family through the Adopt A Family Program. This was the most successful year we have had in finding sponsors to adopt families.



Martha Swindler

Through these additional efforts, many kinship families received holiday assistance. Marsha Jones, the Trotwood Madison Support Group Facilitator, was able to secure food baskets for every family that participated in the Trotwood support group. Shirley Schumacher has been able to gain support from Christ United Methodist Church for several years now. Christ United Methodist church sponsored several kinship families. Many of agencies have already have expressed an interest to participate in 2007.



Karen Heard



Beverly Byers

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We offer our deepest thanks to the following for their participation in the Adopt A Family program:



Joyce Barnes & Family
Catholic Social Services
Christ United Methodist Church
Fifth Third Bank
Annemarie Halpap & Family
Hannah's Treasure Chest
Fran Keeley & Family
Legal Aid of Western Ohio
Montgomery County Pre Release and Education
Premier Health Partners
Rebuilding Together Dayton & Anonymous Partner
The Berry Company
Volunteers Lawyers Project
Wright State University Kettering Center for Performance Excellence

Home Repair Help Available for Qualifying Residents

The Miami Valley District of the United Methodist Church and Group Workcamps Foundation is hosting a Workcamp Project in Dayton, Ohio June 17 through June 23. The workcamp is an intensive one week mission trip of service. Over 300 individuals and youth around the country will be in our community performing needed repairs.

Why our community?

There is a great need of help among the elderly, low income, and disabled families in our community for much needed home repair.

What will be done?

Free material and labor will be provided to residents for interior and exterior painting, porch repair, wheelchair ramps, minor external and internal repairs.

Who will do the work?

Over 300 individual and youth from across the county, along with local volunteers.

How can I/we help?

- Financial assistance
- Volunteer Support
- Donations of materials
- Use of tools



If you would like a home improvement application, call Sylvia Hatch, the Kinship Program Aide, at 937-775-1144. To volunteer, donate materials or provide additional support, call Jeff Cartwright at 937-371-5779.

Legal Talk



Protect Yourself from Mortgage Scams and Foreclosure

Contributed by Tamara Reeves, Legal Aid of Western Ohio (LAWO)

Do you own a home in Montgomery County? If you can't afford your mortgage payments—or you suspect you're a victim of predatory lending—free help may be available. Legal Aid of Western Ohio is working with the Kinship Caregiver Coalition to help low-income County residents avoid foreclosure and stay in their homes. Call the **Legal Aid Line** at (888) 534-1432 or visit www.legalaidline.com to see if you qualify for free help.

LAWO is scheduling a series of free presentations to help mortgage borrowers recognize and avoid predatory lending and other mortgage scams. Dates, times and locations will be announced in upcoming issues of *Links* and on the Center for Healthy Communities web site (www.med.wright.edu/chc/kinship). Until then, LAWO suggests that borrowers get all of the lender's promises in writing. Watch out for unexplained fees and balloon payments. And don't sign mortgage documents you don't understand. (In some cases, LAWO may be able to review your loan documents before you sign. Contact the Legal Aid Line to learn more.

LAWO's foreclosure prevention program is supported by Montgomery County Human Services Levy funds, through a grant awarded by the Office of Families and Children First, and administered by the Montgomery County Department of Jobs and Family Services.

GREATER DAYTON VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROJECT

&

Sebaly, Shillito & Dyer

Present

FREE PRO SE CLINICS

(petition for custody, child support, and paternity determination)

**Reserve your space by calling Jane at 937-461-3857. There is no on site registration.
You must be pre registered by contacting Jane.**

All clinics start at 5:30 pm. Please plan to arrive at least 15 minutes earlier for registration and verification. Please bring photo ID in form of driver's license or state ID and income verification. **Services are provided free to clients that meet the 200% federal poverty guideline.**

Upcoming Clinics

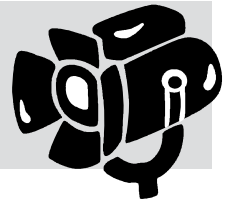
March 29, 2007
April 26, 2007
May 31, 2007
June 28, 2007



All Pro Se clinics are held at 109 N. Main Street, 6th floor.

Lafrancine Lewis Project Update

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Thanks to the Lafrancine Lewis Ad Hoc Committee and the Lewis Family

As we reported in the fall 2006 issue of *Links*, the Kinship Caregiver Coalition asked for reflections from kinship caregivers to be included in a booklet in honor of Lafrancine Lewis, a longtime champion of grandparents raising grandchildren who passed away in 2006. These reflections have been compiled and published. I would like to express a load of gratitude for the completion of the *Reflections of a Caregiver- A Resource Guide Inspired by the Life of Lafrancine Lewis*. Mrs. Daria Dillard Stone had the vision and led the Lafrancine Lewis ad hoc committee to completion of an awesome project.



The Lewis family was very supportive and provided a wealth of information for the project. We would like to thank the Lewis Family for allowing us the opportunity to work and share the life of Lafrancine. The editors for this project were lifesavers. Thanks to Debbie Smith for taking Daria's vision and running with the information. Also, thanks to Joyce Barnes, to whom Debbie passed on the baton to complete the project. The two editors worked well together and produced a wonderful work of inspiration.

The Lafrancine Lewis Ad Hoc Committee's goal is to provide every kinship caregiver in Montgomery County with a copy of the booklet.

Pick up your copy at one of the following locations:

Center for Healthy Communities
Dakota Center
Dayton Public Libraries
Dayton Urban League
Montgomery County Children Services
Parents Advancing in Choice Education PACE
United Way

If you need multiple copies, contact the Center for Healthy Communities at 937-775-1116. You may also download a copy from the CHC website at:

www.med.wright.edu/chc/kinship

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), Health Policy Institute of Ohio (HPIO), Montgomery County Children Services Board, Montgomery County Department of Job and Family Services, Ohio Council on Minority Health, Ohio Department of Health, Ohio Department of Mental Health, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, and The Ohio State University.

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



Disciplining Your Grandchild

(Adapted from Andrea Bressler's *Grandparents Raising Grandchildren*)

To discipline, or not to discipline, what is your role as a grandparent? Many grandparents struggle with how to discipline their grandchildren. Sure, many of them remember how they disciplined their own children, but it's good idea to stay current with today's recommended discipline practices.

Children are most likely to be well adjusted when the adults in their lives combine warmth and love with clear rules and consistency. Your grandchildren need to understand you love them, but they should also understand the rules and consequences for breaking rules. This requires lots of patience and understanding.

Your grandchildren need to be able to follow your rules. Make sure the behaviors you expect from your grandchildren are things they can do. Tell your grandchildren what you want them to do and how you want them to do it. For example, you might say "please use your inside voice" instead of "stop yelling."

As children get older, it is natural for them to challenge your rules. Help them understand rules are to keep them safe and help them get along with others. Every time your grandchild breaks a rule, you need to calmly reinforce the rules. When your grandchild misbehaves, try some of the following tools:

Ignoring. Some misbehavior is meant to get attention. If you ignore the behavior, your grandchild will realize there are other, more positive ways, to get your attention.

Redirecting. You can sometimes redirect their behavior to a more appropriate activity.

Giving choice. Sometimes children misbehave because they want to be in control. Help your grandchildren feel some control by letting them make choices.

Using "cool-down" time. Grandchildren may need time to calm down and solve the problem later. When they are calmer, help them find a positive way to solve the problem.

Using consequences. Consequences need to be immediate and clearly related to misbehavior.

Give positive instructions. Whenever possible, tell your grandchildren what they can do instead of what they can't do.

Use "I" messages. When dealing with misbehavior, tell your grandchild how you feel. "I felt scared when you walked away in the mall."

Disciplining your grandchildren is an ongoing process. Giving clear positive messages and complimenting good behavior teaches grandchildren how to manage their own behavior.

Mark Your Calendars

The Ohio Grandparent/Kinship Coalition is hosting a statewide Kinship Conference on **July 20, 2007** in Columbus, Ohio. Scholarships will be available to Kinship Caregivers. Look for additional information in the upcoming months on the Center for Healthy Communities web site, www.med.wright.edu/chc/kinship, and in future issues of *Links*.



Kinship Resources

Trotwood Grandparent and Other Relatives Support Group

This group meets the third Thursday of each month at Westbrooke Village Elementary School at 6:00 p.m.

Upcoming Events

“Access to Health Care for Children and Teens”
(April 19, 2007) Presentation by Diana Medlock,
Adolescent Wellness Center, Dayton, Ohio

“Are Grandparents Eligible to receive Child Support?”
(May 17, 2007) Presentation by Mike Newsom,
Department of Job and Family Services, Dayton, Ohio

“POTLUCK AND CHAT” (June 21, 2007)
Bring your favorite dish and recipe to share with others.

**For additional information
contact: Marsha Jones at
937-770-2137**

Christ United Methodist Church

Christ United Methodist Support Group meets the first Wednesday of each month at 3440 Shroyer Road in Kettering Ohio. Feel free to contact Shirley Schumacher at (937) 298-4720 for meeting times and locations.

