

# Ohio Grandparent/Kinship Coalition — Where Your Voice is Heard!

W W W . O H G R A N D P A R E N T K I N S H I P . O R G

## J O B W E L L D O N E

### To the Past OGKC Officers

These last two years have been very productive under the leadership of Maridell Couture and Denise Harris. The purpose of the coalition is to educate kinship caregivers and agencies regarding state and national programs/issues affecting kinship caregivers. OGKC has made a tremendous impact by spreading the word. Hats off to the "Couture and Harris Team" OGKC

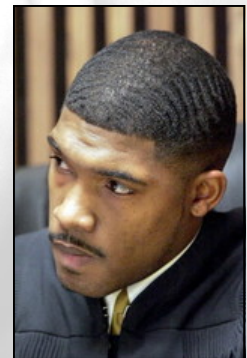
finally has a website. To obtain additional information from the OGKC website please visit the site at [www.ohgrandparentkinship.org](http://www.ohgrandparentkinship.org). The website will highlight upcoming meeting, newsletters, legislation that affect kinship families, and other highlights around the state. Another major accomplishment of the dynamic dual leadership was the state-wide conference held in August.

## 2 N D A N N U A L O H I O K I N S H I P C O N F E R E N C E

Mrs. Karen Doty (Montgomery County Kinship Caregiver) presented at the 2nd Biannual Ohio Grandparent/Kinship Coalition Statewide Conference held on September 18, 2009 in Columbus, Ohio. Mrs. Doty is not only a grandparent raising her grandson, she also works as a Community Health Advocate for the WSU Center for Healthy Communities.

This years event also included a number of very informative workshops, and a personal perspective from keynote speaker, The Honorable Michael J. Ryan, a

Cleveland Municipal Court Judge. Judge Ryan is one of the youngest judges in the country. He was raised by his grandmothers and spent some time with aunts as well. In his spare time he mentors children in the Cleveland area.



*Judge Ryan*

## C A R E G I V E R ' S C O R N E R

Tips for Caregivers/Parents: Flu prevention and treatment  
Prevention and treatment is the same for H1N1 (the swine flu) and the seasonal flu. Fortunately, the things you can do to prevent getting or spreading the flu are easy, everyday activities.

Six ways to prevent the flu, including H1N1

1. Wash hands often. Use soap and water for 15-20 seconds-about as long as it takes to sing Happy Birthday twice. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are OK if soap and water are not available.
2. Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue. If children don't have a tissue, teach them to cough or sneeze into their shirtsleeve.

3. Keep sick children at home including out of school or day care until they are better-usually seven days after the illness starts.
4. Teach children to stay at least six feet away from people who are sick. Avoid crowds and public places.
5. Teach children not to touch their eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread this way.
6. Eat healthy and find healthy ways to deal with stress and anxiety.

Sherman Alter, MD, director of infectious disease at Dayton Children's, recommends that parents and grandparents receive a flu shot for the seasonal flu to help prevent them from passing the flu to their children.



WWW.OHGRANDPARENTKINSHIP.ORG

# MEET THE NEW OHIO GRANDPARENT/KINSHIP OFFICERS 2010 - 2012



Dionne M. Simmons  
Co President  
Montgomery County



Jamie Richardson  
Co President  
Lucas County



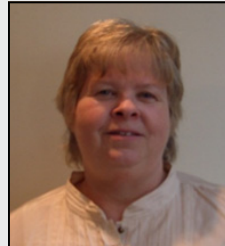
Sue Schmalzried  
Co Vice President  
Lucus County



Patrick Donovan  
Co Vice President  
Muskingum County



Lynnette Stevens  
Co Secretary  
Franklin County



Barbara Turpin  
Co Secretary  
Franklin County



Adel Samad  
Co Treasurer  
Montgomery County



Sandy Powers  
Co Treasurer  
Franklin County

## OHIO GRANDPARENT KINSHIP COALITION T-SHIRTS

The bright green T-Shirts will raise awareness and help support the Coalition. These shirts will be great to wear all year long, especially at Grandparent events.

\$10.00/ each sizes M-XL  
\$12.00/ each sizes 2X-3X

If you are interested in buying a T-shirt, please call Adel at 937-775-8247, or visit the website at [www.ohgrandparents.org](http://www.ohgrandparents.org)



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE FOLLOWING UPCOMING OGKC MEETINGS

All meeting are held at the Overbrook Presbyterian Church  
4131 N. High Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43214  
10:00 a.m. -12:30 p.m.

Wed, January 27, 2010  
Wed, March 24, 2010  
Wed, May 26, 2010  
Wed, July 28, 2010  
Wed, Sept 22, 2010  
Wed, Nov 17, 2010

To receive future copies of the OGKC Newsletter, visit the website at [www.ohgrandparentkinship.org](http://www.ohgrandparentkinship.org)