

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

Partnerships to support Grandparents and other Kin Caregivers

As we all know, today's society has more and more grandparents and other kin caregivers with sole responsibility to raise the children in their home. The 2000 Census showed 86,000 grandparent caregivers' homes shouldering this responsibility, many with sibling groups of children; and, of course, many more aunts, uncles and other kin also are raising their extended families' children. We fully expect a higher number in grandparent homes in the 2010 Census. Children fortunate enough to be cared for by safe, familiar kin caregivers have far better outcomes than children placed in unrelated foster care – better school attendance and academic performance, fewer community behavior problems,

and much greater long-term stability. Kinship reduces child trauma and governmental costs – both desired outcomes in today's world.

We want to bring attention to new tools and opportunities to support your families locally, and encourage you to:

- Promote the new www.KinshipOhio.org website with local families and community partners. This site was developed specifically for kinship caregivers, providing simple discussions about kinship families and how to navigate existing supports and resources (complements of Ohio's Enhanced Kinship Navigator Grant from the

US Department of Health and Human Services).

- Send specific local/county info for the clickable state map to:

www.kinshipohio.org/countyResources.htm. Send your local address, phone, contact, website to PCSAO at Jeed@pcsao.org.

- Work together to identify, advocate for and secure local, state, federal and foundation funding to support services for kinship caregivers, including, but not limited to, the Area Agencies on Aging for local allocation of Older Americans Act National Family Caregivers Support Program (NFCSP) funds. If available, AAAs may use up to 10% of their NFCSP allocation to provide support services to

grandparents and older individuals who are relative caregivers of a child who is not more than 18 years of age.

- Consider a partnership (formal or informal) between the county Family and Children First Council and the Area Agency of Aging.

- Look to your peers for best practices locally; an excellent example is in Lucas County, where the Area Office on Aging, Job & Family Services and Children Services have come together to develop a comprehensive kinship care program that in 2009, served 3,011 adults and 3,905 children.

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

Grandparents and other caregivers raising grandchildren or other relative children, have an important responsibility. The child being raised faces unique challenges that you need to think about. The University of Wisconsin-Madison and the University of Wisconsin-Extension have developed fact sheets. This series of nine fact sheets are designed to help you learn more about what to expect and where to turn for support.

This series is tailored specifically for grandparents and other relatives raising children. The focus is on family relationships and child development rather than legal or financial issues. Topics include understanding children's behaviors, the importance of

close relationships and open communication, and maintaining contact with parents.

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren was developed by specialists at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and University of Wisconsin-Extension with feedback from grandparents and experts in the field. Beautiful color drawings by young artists help bring the series to life.

Visit <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/flp/grandparent/relationships/factsheets.cfm>



WWW.OHGRANDPARENTKINSHIP.ORG

“ N I N E Y E A R S D O W N . . T W O T O G O ! ”

Justino is now 16 years old, and has been with his grandmother now for nine years. Prior to this, grandma thought she was going to just be....grandma! Grandma now has several hats that she has worn throughout those years, including her mom hat, her dad hat, her grandma hat, her advocate hat, her counselor hat, her police hat, her systems navigation hat, along with various others.

Justino is not your average, every day kid. Justino has never had a real relationship with his father. He has only had a dysfunctional relationship with his mother. His mother has battled physical health issues, substance abuse issues, along with mental health issues, with little success. Justino has been in foster care, and has even stayed in Avondale Youth Center for awhile as he had a period of time that he encountered the juvenile justice system. Justino has had a history of defying authority figures, which has lead to juvenile detention. During this arduous time there was one person that endured ... his grandmother.

While people have told her, and continue to tell her, that she isn't able to handle her grandson, she pursues! She has no personal means of transportation, but never misses an appointment. Outside of her local church where she attends religiously, she has limited familial resources. Grandma is 68 years old, and has just recently "retired" from the workforce (although she is ready to begin working again). Grandma is on a fixed income, but never does without. Amazingly resourceful!! This is a grandmother that always puts the child's needs before hers.

Justino's grandmother hashad legal custody of him for nine years.

Justino, while on an IEP plan, has still maintained an outstanding **+3.4 GPA!** He has been active with a church group, has received scholarship recognition awards, has worked while going to school, and is currently looking into post-secondary options with a college career in mind. He has also had a very supportive "Big Brother/Big Sister" for the last 2½ years. Justino has made huge strides, and is bound to be a success at whatever he endures. What a scholar!!

This family has been involved in the Muskingum County Children Services Kinship Navigator Program for eight years now. Although transportation issues don't allow them to attend many support group meetings, this family stays in close contact with the local navigator. Patty continues to do an amazing job in raising her grandson. She has succeeded in so many areas where many would have been tempted to just give up! **Way to go Patty!!**

O H I O G R A N D P A R E N T

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



M A R K Y O U R C A L E N D A R

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR 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, 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