

**Ohio 2019 Kinship Coalition Statewide
Conference**

Friday, September 20th 2019

**“Capitalizing on Community to Strengthen
Kinship Care”**

Tina Gaston, MBA

Kinship Navigator Program Supervisor



Katina Gaston currently works as the Kinship Navigator Program Supervisor for Area Office on Aging of NWO, Inc. In this role, Katina supervises the day-to-day operations of the Kinship Navigator Program, where information, referral and on-going assistance is provided to grandparents and other relatives who are raising children due to incarceration, mental health challenges, death, substance abuse, neglect or abandonment.

Prior to joining the Area Office on Aging, Katina worked in public education in various roles as an administrator and teacher. Katina is proud alumna of Spring Arbor University, where she received a Bachelor of Arts (BA) Management and Organizational Development in 2005. She completed a Master of Business Management (MBA) from the University of Findlay in 2008. Currently, Katina is pursuing her Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) at University of Findlay expecting to graduate in 2022. She recently completed the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging Leadership Institute certificate in 2018. Katina is a joint council member of the African American Leadership Council of United Way-Greater Toledo and the co-chair of the Leadership Development Committee.

“Partnering to meet the Needs of Kinship Families”

Panel discussion topics:

1. Kinship Programs and services
2. Strategies and tools used to promote stability
3. Coordination and collaboration to support children and their caregivers



Kinship Navigator Program Mission

To guide grandparents and other relatives who are rearing children in their extended families to services in the community; specifically through information, ongoing support, education and linkage to community agencies.



Information- Resources

Food

Clothing

Mental Health

Childcare-Education

Legal Services

Financial Services

Furniture

Housing



Quarterly Support Groups

- In an effort to help caregivers cope well with the added stress of raising grandchildren we provide two support groups quarterly affording them the opportunity to connect with others who are in similar and or the same situation as they are.
- The club meetings are designed to help increase grandparent caregivers' knowledge and skills in parenting and child development,
- The meetings allows them to strengthen their relationships with their children and inform them about various topics pertaining to their situation , and connect them to, available community resources.



Evidenced-based Workshops

- This educational program offers 6 lessons that cover a variety of topics. Join us for this fun program where you will meet other Kinship Caregivers and:
- Learn about the aging process and how to make healthy lifestyle choices.
- Discuss risk factors and behaviors you should avoid to stay healthy.
- Examine how alcohol, prescription medications, and over-the-counter medications affect seniors differently.
- Learn how to use simple tools to help you feel more empowered about your health and the healthcare you receive.
-

Free \$50 Kroger gift card upon successful program completion!

The Kinship Navigator Program is your connection to valuable community resources.

The WISE program is sponsored by



Trauma-Informed Approach

- Kinship Navigator Program Quarterly Newsletter provides information about coping skills and resilience strategies to kinship caregivers.
- Kinship Staff conducted club meetings and Summer Series sessions with guest speaker Craig A. Smith, RN, BSN with St. Charles Hospital, Director of Nursing Behavioral Health Institute and Trauma-Informed Coalition, in an effort to educate caregivers and their children on how to manage trauma and learn resilience tips.



Quarterly Newsletter

Helping Your Kids Set Boundaries

Adapted from PsychCentral.com and written by Margarita Tartakovsky, M.S. Associate Editor

Teaching your child to set boundaries is important because every one of us must learn to self-advocate as part of our independent process. Our moms and dads won't always be there to take care of us.

- Get clear on your own boundaries.
- Help them honor themselves.
- Talk about it.
- Role-play.

Friendly Reminder

Please complete and return the Client Satisfaction Survey before 09/20/19

Please call, mail, or email the Client Data Collection form by 09/24/19

HEAP- HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

2019-2020 HEAP Applications are available. Call 419-490-2942

Thank you to all of our Summer Series Presenters



Thank you to Aetna for our Farmer's Market Tokens



Thank you to Books4Buddies for the book donation



"APPRECIATION IS A WONDERFUL THING..."

September 8th
Happy Grandparents Day

WORDS DON'T REALLY DO JUSTICE TO THE THANKS I WANT TO SAY TO YOU BUT I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I FEEL SO FORTUNATE THAT, I HAVE SOMEONE AS WONDERFUL AS YOU.

Thank you to The United Way for providing Backpacks and School Supplies



UPCOMING CLUB MEETINGS

WEST KINSHIP CLUBS:
SYLVANIA SENIOR CENTER
7140 W. SYLVANIA AVE.
SYLVANIA, OH 43560
FRIDAY, JUNE 14
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13
11:45 A.M.- 1:00 P.M.

SOUTH KINSHIP CLUBS:
MARGARET HUNT SENIOR CENTER
2121 GARDEN LAKE DR.
TOLEDO, OH 43614
THURSDAY, JUNE 20
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19
5:30 P.M.- 6:30 P.M.

TRANSPORTATION AND CHILD CARE ARE AVAILABLE FOR THE CLUB MEETINGS. PLEASE CALL TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS AT 419-725-7039.

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AREA OFFICE ON AGING
KINSHIP NAVIGATOR
PROGRAM
2155 ARLINGTON AVENUE
TOLEDO, OH 43609

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REQUESTED

AREA OFFICE ON AGING OF NORTHWESTERN OHIO, INC.



"TOUGH TIMES NEVER LAST, BUT TOUGH PEOPLE DO."
ROBERT H. SCHULLER

Kinship Navigator Program

Club Meeting Dates

West Kinship Clubs:
Sylvania Senior Center
7140 W Sylvania Ave
Sylvania, OH 43560
Friday, March 15
Friday, June 14
Friday, September 13

South Kinship Clubs:
Margaret Hunt Senior Center
2121 Garden Lake Dr.
Toledo, OH 43614
Thursday, March 21
Thursday, June 20
Thursday, September 19

Transportation and child care are available for Kinship Club Meetings. please call to make arrangements. 419-382-0624 ext. 1175

NOBODY CAN DO FOR LITTLE CHILDREN WHAT GRANDPARENTS DO. GRANDPARENTS SORT OF SPRINKLE STARDUST OVER THE LIVES OF LITTLE CHILDREN.

Alex Haley

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Kinship Navigator Program
Area Office on Aging
2155 Arlington Avenue
Toledo, Ohio 43609

The Kinship Navigator Program is supported by the Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio, Inc., Lucas County Children Services, and Lucas County Department of Job and Family Services.

AREA OFFICE ON AGING OF NORTHWESTERN OHIO, INC.



Kinship Navigator Program

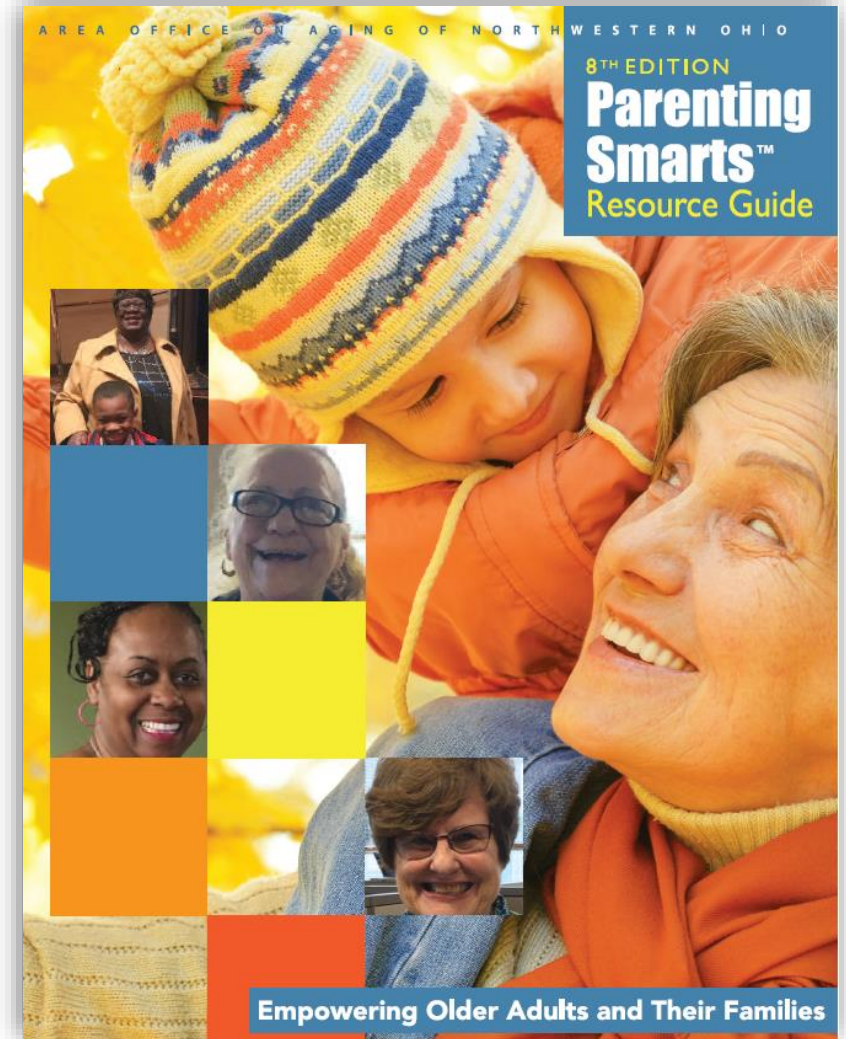
Kinship Staff provide caregivers with quarterly newsletters in an effort to offer updates on upcoming events and programming as well as provide education on various topics that are relevant to the caregivers needs. The newsletter is also available via constant contacts that is sent out to community agencies who work with kinship families.

Parenting Smarts Resource Guide

Our Parenting Smarts Resource Guide provides information about available resources, benefits, and resources to help caregivers.

In this resource guide caregivers can find information on the following:

- Parenting and Child Development
- Help with Expenses
- Early childhood education
- Babysitting and Occasional care
- Education
- Understanding Legal Issues and Help
- Medical Services and Wellness
- Recreation
- And more



Access to Special Events

- **Summer Series-** Programming provided included education and information on various topics including nutrition, physical health, energy assistance, Toledo Zoo Education, Youth Enrichment Sessions.
- **The Toledo Mud Hens** a professional Minor League Baseball team provide tickets for the following events:
 - Mud hen Baseball Games
 - Drug Education Games



Strategies and tools used to promote stability

1. Client Contact is our #1 Priority- all calls are returned within 24 hours
2. Initial Intake Assessment
3. On-going Assistance
4. Follow up Assessment
5. Referrals various agencies
6. Status Calls
7. Client Customer Satisfaction Surveys
8. Outreach
9. Mental health (NAMI), Education, Financial (OWF, KPI) stability



Coordination and collaboration to support children and their caregivers

1. Referral's from various agencies
2. United Way Back Pack Giveaway- Kickoff to Caring
3. F.I.R.S.T. (Families In Recovery Sticking Together) Seagate Food Bank
4. Holiday Assistance- Turkey/Ham Distribution
5. Books4Buddies
6. Walmart Foundation Grant (70,000) Fresh Produce
7. Aetna-Fresh Produce
8. Managed Care Plans: Buckeye Health Plan, CareSource, Molina, United Health Plan
9. Coat giveaway-TPS Collaboration
10. Foster peer-to-peer interaction between caregivers; establishment of good relationships
11. NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Outreach events
12. Community Outreach Events
 1. JFS Outreach monthly
 2. RE-entry monthly
 3. Lucas County Community Meeting
 4. School open house



Moving Forward!!!

- Expand program
 - More Resources
 - Increase Activities and programming
 - Annual Grandparents and Kinship Day-Family Picnic
 - Educational Programming in Local Schools
 - Increase Strategic Partnerships



Questions?

Contact:

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