

Brookdale Relatives as Parents Program

RAPP REPORTER

Fall 2004

A Newsletter of the Brookdale Foundation Group

RAPP Update

Our Relatives As Parents Programs (RAPPs) provide direct, quality, replicable services to relative caregivers in 43 states. This year, our RAPPs have concentrated on training facilitators to lead support groups across the various states and to help develop or expand social, educational and supportive groups for relative caregivers. We focused on Native Americans, teens and pre-adolescents, incarcerated parents and other populations to ensure that these families receive the support and assistance they need to help them with their caregiving responsibilities.

We welcomed Big Brothers and Big Sisters, more Cooperative Extension Programs, Community Councils and Housing Authorities to our

Program proving that grandparents raising grandchildren is

We are pleased to have such dedicated, hard-working

individuals as part of the Brookdale family.

The Cooperative Extension System: Partnering at the Federal, State, and Local Level to Meet Critical Community Needs

Dr. Caroline Crocoll
Dr. Mary Brintnall-Peterson

The Cooperative Extension System is a unique partnership established by Congress in 1914. It is a national educational network designed to meet the need for research, knowledge and educational programs that enable people to make practical decisions. This publicly funded, non-formal educational network combines the expertise and resources of federal, state, and local governments. The partnership that supports the

Cooperative Extension System is a collaborative one and

State and local conferences for grandparents, relatives, professionals and yes, even children; GrandRallies at the state and local levels, the training of professionals with the award winning Parenting The Second Time Around (PASTA) curriculum, collaborations with the Cooperative Extension System, the passage of legislation to create housing demonstration projects specifically for grandparents; an Expert Symposium and Grandparent Day celebrations were also among the highlights of this year. In this issue:

- The Cooperative Extension System: Partnering at the Federal, State, and Local Level to Meet Critical Community Needs;
- The Children's Defense Fund reports on Local GrandRallies across the United States;
- The Important Role of RAPP State Taskforces; and
- A Relative Caregiving Legislative Update

Also in this issue:

- The RAPP Funding Alert!
- The Washington State Legislature funds The Kinship Caregivers Support Program
- The Grandfamilies Health Watchers Program
- RAPP Goes to Prison
- Data from the U.S. Census Bureau
- How to Create a Community Map to assist with fundraising and outreach
- The Florida Kinship Center: A Resource for Caregivers and Professionals; and
- Generations United's Second National Symposium on Grandparents and other Relatives Raising Children

no longer just an "aging issue."

**The Brookdale Foundation, 950 Third Avenue, 19th Floor
New York, NY 10022**

Phone: (212) 308-7355 **Website:** <http://www.brookdalefoundation.org>

includes the Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (CSREES), an agency in the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the 107 land-grant universities (in every state and territory) and thousands of county and regional Extension offices throughout the nation. The partners in the Cooperative Extension System share resources, information and take action to enhance and achieve goals based on their common interest of developing and conducting non-formal, research-based educational programs to meet national, state and community-level needs.

The wide-ranging Cooperative Extension System land-grant partnership includes:

- More than 130 colleges of agriculture
- 59 agricultural experiment stations
- 57 cooperative extension services
- 63 schools of forestry
- Tuskegee University, West Virginia State College, and the other 16 historically black colleges and universities
- 27 colleges of veterinary medicine
- 42 schools and colleges of family and consumer sciences
- 31 Native American land-grant institutions

- 17 Alaskan native-serving and Hawaiian native-serving institutions
- More than 160 Hispanic-serving institutions

While nearly all universities in the United States have research and education as their core responsibilities, land-grant universities also have a Federal Government-mandated Cooperative Extension (outreach) responsibility. This means that for nearly a century, land-grant universities have been directed by law to offer to the public noncredit, tax-supported educational programs and information through the Cooperative Extension System.

One critical area of impact is in supporting grandparents and other relatives who have stepped in to raise kin children when their own children are unable or unwilling to do so. Cooperative Extension has taken an active leadership role in coordinating local and statewide collaborations to develop programs and resources that address the challenges and promote the strengths of grandparents raising grandchildren. In partnership with the Brookdale Foundation Group's Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP), Cooperative Extension has been designated as a lead organizer or partner in the development of statewide RAPP networks or local RAPP programs around the nation.

These collaborative partnerships ensure that relative caregivers obtain information about available services in a number of ways including educational forums and seminars, resource directories, newsletters, community trainings, local and state conferences, websites, and chat rooms. In many states, Cooperative Extension has developed partnerships with agencies such as State Units and Area Agencies on Aging, AARP, Head Start, Tribal Partners, Social Services, Health and Human Services, Long-Term Care Networks, Departments of Economic Security, Behavioral Health Agencies and Children's Associations to develop a wide variety of programs and resources that support grandparents as they raise their grandchildren.

Extension Specialists and Educators have also incorporated relative caregiving into existing programs, conducted national presentations, and/or developed needs assessment and research in many states.

RAPP and Cooperative Extension: State and Local Level Programming

Cooperative Extension staff in seven states (North Carolina, Wisconsin, Indiana, Alabama, Oregon, Montana, and Washington) are providing leadership to statewide relative caregiving coalitions funded by the Brookdale Foundation Group with another six states

(Arizona, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Virginia, and West Virginia) serving on statewide networks. In some communities, local coalitions have been formed with Extension staff providing leadership or serving on the network to help address local needs of relative caregivers.

Statewide and local networks rely upon Cooperative Extension staff to develop educational resources. Many colleagues have written or contributed to newsletters and fact sheets. Diane Bales, from the University of Georgia recently published on the web a Grandparents Raising Grandchildren fact sheet series at:

www.fcs.uga.edu/extension/cyf_pubs.php. *Moving Your Grandchild into Your Home or Helping Your Grandchildren Stay Connected to Their Parents* are two examples of fact sheets within this series.

The fact sheet series, *Through the Eyes of a Child: Grandparents Raising Grandchildren* was developed by colleagues in Wisconsin. These resources were written from the child's perspective and address family relationships and child development. To download copies of the series go to: <http://www.uwex.edu/relationships/> Extension educators have also developed educational curriculum for use in their states. For example, Arizona Cooperative Extension staff helped develop a training

manual for support group development. It is available on the web at:

www.de.state.az.us/gaca/pdf/grandparentsmanual.pdf.

Arizona Extension has also partnered to develop the Kinship and Adoption Resource and Education (K.A.R.E.) Family Center. As Extension staff got involved with relative caregiving, they discovered that there were few educational curriculums available. To address this gap the states of Florida, New York, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Michigan developed curriculum. To learn more about each of these resources, go to:

<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/flp/grandparent/61804readinglist.pdf>

and consult the resource list: *Cooperative Extension's Educational Response to Relative Caregivers' Needs and Concerns*. This resource list provides a listing of other educational programs, including Extension's work with relative caregiver support groups, needs assessment or research, and their involvement in development of resource guides.

Extension's involvement in relative caregiving varies from state to state and from community to community. In some states and communities Extension staff is providing leadership while in others they provide a support function. Cooperative Extension has taken a critical leadership role on this important issue and continues to support, inform, and enhance the quality of life of grandparents

raising grandchildren across the nation.

Regardless of their role in your community or state they are a potential partner. All you have to do is reach out to them and ask for their involvement. For more information on CSREES and the Cooperative Extension System visit:

www.csrees.usda.gov

To locate an Extension staff person in your state or community consult our national web site at:

http://www.csrees.usda.gov/qlinks/partners/state_partners.html.

Dr. Caroline E. Crocoll is the National Program Leader for Family Life and Human Development in the USDA/CSREES Families 4-H and Nutrition Unit, providing national leadership for programs throughout the lifecycle, with an emphasis on building multi-state partnerships to strengthen families, parenting education, family caregiving, family preparedness, adult development and aging, and balancing work and family life.

Dr. Mary Brintnall-Peterson is a Professor and Extension Specialist in Aging and Family Development at the University of Wisconsin Extension. Dr. Peterson provides leadership to the development of educational programs that disseminate relevant research concerning older adults with a focus on caregiving throughout the life span, including family members caring for a spouse, aging parent, or other relatives.

More Cooperative Extension News:

The Montana Grandparent's Raising Grandchildren Project

became a RAPP in 2003. Montana State University Extension Service took the lead to start the project in 2002 and works closely with various agencies in Montana including AARP, the Child Care Resource and Referral Network, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Office of Public Instruction, the Head Start Collaboration and Tribal partners to offer education and support to grandparents raising grandchildren in Montana.

Among the many activities of this project include:

- ❖ The establishment of 11 support groups statewide and the training of over 66 individuals to facilitate support groups;
- ❖ A Montana specific bi-monthly newsletter is produced by MSU Extension and is sent to agencies and grandparents across the state;
- ❖ An Extension fact sheet on grandparents raising grandchildren was recently published and is available on the web at: <http://www.montana.edu/ww/wpb/pubs/mt200401.html>;
- ❖ A website specifically for grandparents raising grandchildren (GRG) and those who work with GRG families is under development and can be

viewed at

<http://www.montana.edu/ww/whd/grg/index.htm>; and

- ❖ Two six-week parenting classes using the Cornell Extension curriculum *Parenting the Second Time Around* will be offered in the coming year.

The Eagle Shield's Senior Center GRG site produced a support group manual specifically for their Blackfeet Indian grandparents. A grant from the *Kappa Omicron Nu Organization* is being used to evaluate the project and help to better understand the situation and needs of grandparents in the State of Montana.

The Montana project was recently awarded funding from the Montana Children's Trust Fund to expand to two other areas of the state. For more information on the Montana GRG Project contact Sandy Bailey at (406) 994-6745, email baileys@montana.edu or Annie Conway at (406) 994-3395, email aconway@montana.edu.

For more information on the Native American manual, contact Native American Elder Family Caregiver Support Program, Connie Bremner, Director; Carrie Jackson, Direct Support Coordinator, P.O. Box 76, Browning, MT 59417, Phone: (406) 338-7257 (406) 338-7906; Fax: (406) 339-3480; email: respite@3rivers.net.

Cornell Cooperative Extension of New York has been involved in programming addressing relative caregiving for well over

a decade. ***Ontario County*** was the first formally involved by developing a series of kinship care educational seminars. ***Orange County*** entered the picture in 1998, when they received funding from Brookdale to initiate an educational program, with a support group, specific to the needs of relative caregivers in three locations. ***Broome County*** previously partnered with the New York State Office For the Aging (NYSOFA – a State RAPP) to develop a curriculum specifically for grandparents raising grandchildren with developmental disabilities which is still widely used today. In 2000, these three counties partnered with the Human Development faculty to develop, implement and evaluate the *Parenting The Second Time Around (PASTA)* curriculum. This user-friendly curriculum is a six week workshop series designed to address the specific needs of grandparent and relative caregivers who are parenting again. An introductory overview of PASTA was provided at multiple state and national conferences beginning in 2001 and additional pilot sites, including Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Michigan, Connecticut and Wisconsin were recruited for the initial trial at the Brookdale Training Conference that same year.

The PASTA curriculum has been updated and includes information on topics about child development, discipline and guidance, acknowledging ambivalent feelings, rebuilding a family, legal issues and advocacy. State and Local RAPPs have used the curriculum across the county and several Extension Educators have received formal training in the use of PASTA and have offered at least one complete series in Orange, Ontario, Broome, Otsego, Wayne and Warren counties with one in Dutchess County, NY scheduled this Fall. The curriculum has received the 2003 National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences Award and is being used throughout the United States.

For more information on PASTA and other Cooperative Extension resources, please see the Relative Caregiver Resource Section of this Newsletter.

State GrandRallies Get Underway

MaryLee Allen, Director
Child Welfare and Mental Health Division
The Children's Defense Fund

It is exciting to see the momentum building in states since the 2003 GrandRally to Leave No Child Behind® that was held at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., in the fall of 2003. More than 850 grandparents and other relatives raising children from more than 26 states came together to tell

Congress what it takes to raise their wonderful children. They told Congress that they were doing the best job they could, but that they could not do it alone and needed help. Many of the relative caregivers met personally with their Senators, Representatives or their staff. The Rally also gave kinship caregivers the chance to make



The 2003 GrandRally to Leave No Child Behind® in Washington, D.C., October, 2003.

new friends from their own and neighboring states and to link with others engaged in similar struggles from across the country. Co-sponsors of the Rally included the Children's Defense Fund, AARP, Generations United, Child Welfare League of America, and the National Committee of Grandparents for Children's Rights. Initial planning is

underway for a 2005 GrandRally in Washington, DC in September. More information will be available on the Children's Defense fund website:
www.childrensdefense.org.

Building on their Washington experience, caregivers in a number of states have organized to conduct their own State GrandRallies. Some of these Rallies were repeat performances but a number are being held for the first time. Here is a sample:

- Relative caregivers in **Florida** kicked off the year with their Fourth Annual "GrandRally in Tally" in Tallahassee on March 31, 2004. More than 200 grandparents and other relative caregivers and those advocating for them gathered at the state's

Capitol. The kinship caregivers left baby dolls with their legislators, each with a label reminding them of how many children in their particular district were being raised by kin and kept out of foster care. An art exhibit with works from children being raised by relatives, "What My Caregiver Means to Me," was displayed in the rotunda

of the Capitol during the GrandRally. Momentum from the GrandRally contributed to the inclusion of \$400,000 in the Florida state budget for increased supports for kinship caregivers and their children.

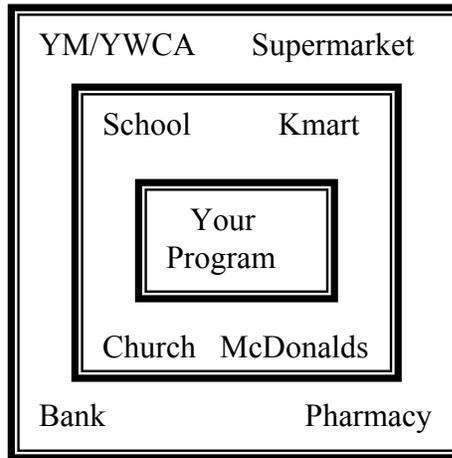
- The New York Chapter of the National Coalition of Grandparents for Children's Rights held its third GrandRally in Albany, **New York**, on April 28, 2004. The more than 170 grandparents present made a strong case for restoring funding for the "*Help for Caretaker Relatives*" Program, which funds 17 programs in the state, but lost the fight to bigger budget pressures. The group also pushed for legislation that will allow parents to delegate a relative to assume parental duties such as enrollment in school and hospitalization when required, especially when parents are in the military and sent overseas. The Caregiver Authorization Act was subsequently passed and other agenda items, which were received favorably, included funding for counsel for grandparent

caregivers and a requirement that explanatory information

HAVE YOU CREATED A COMMUNITY MAP?

Brookdale RAPPs are encouraged to take the time to draw a Community Map for collaborations, outreach, resources or fundraising purposes. It is a drawing of everything in your immediate area and surrounding neighborhood: pharmacies, banks, Departments of Social Services, Social Security Offices, supermarkets, beauty salons, restaurants, bakeries, YM/YWCAs, libraries, doctors offices, hospitals etc.

Once you've created it, make sure you have contact with everyone in your community map about your support group. You can even have separate ones for outreach and fundraising purposes. Hang it in a prominent place, look at it often and "think up" collaborative partnerships, sources of in-kind assistance and outreach possibilities.



accompany applications for TANF child only grants. On the day of the GrandRally, U.S. Senators Clinton, Snowe and others, introduced a Resolution in the U.S.

Senate recognizing the important contributions of grandparents and other relative caregivers.

- About 150 grandparents and other relative caregivers participated in the first **Connecticut** GrandRally at the State Capitol in Hartford on September 8, 2004. A second rally will follow early in the new year when the legislature is back in session. The balloons and compelling slogans on placards were a bright spot in an otherwise cloudy rainy day. Relative caregivers made clear that they cannot do it alone. They advocated for improvements in their subsidized guardianship law; the establishment of a statewide kinship navigator system;

supportive housing for kinship care families; funding for respite activities; and an interdepartmental study group. The crowd heard from state legislators and

several probate court judges who emphasized how important it is for caregivers to make their voices heard. A representative from the Children’s Defense Fund shared news from other state rallies and new opportunities for kinship caregivers at the federal level. The GrandRally Planning Committee included AARP of Connecticut, City of Hartford, GAPS Network, New Haven Public School, North Central Area Agency on Aging and the Salvation Army.

- The “*Walk A Mile in My Shoes GrandRally*” was held in Trenton, **New Jersey**, on September 8, 2004 with the leadership of GrandmaKARES and substantial support from AARP of New Jersey. Those present had an opportunity to hear firsthand about the experiences of relative caregivers. In addition to formal presentations, the rally offered an open microphone for grandparents who wanted to share their challenges. The rally’s keynote speaker, a television producer who herself is a grandparent caregiver, closed her speech by leaving her shoes on the

podium so the Governor and other policy makers in the state could “walk a mile in them.” The GrandRally Program included a listing of all the state legislators as a resource for grandparents. An evening story on the GrandRally on New Jersey

grandparents and other relative caregivers heard from state legislators from both parties and a Justice of the West

- Virginia Supreme Court who informed relative caregivers about the Court’s Self-help Program. Informational brochures and videos were distributed to help caregivers, who decide to represent themselves, navigate the legal process. A representative from the Secretary of State’s Office was on hand to register people to vote and each adult took home a packet including additional voter registration forms. Speakers made clear to the grandparents the power of their vote.

Channel 3 in Charleston highlighted the GrandRally on the evening news and the Rally was also covered by the West Virginia Educational Channel and both the *Charleston Gazette* and *Charleston Daily Mail*. The press attention has resulted in numerous calls from relative caregivers who were previously unaware

The Administration on Aging Honors Grandparent’s Day

The Administration on Aging honored Grandparent’s Day, September 12, by stressing the important role played by grandparents and highlighted the stories of six grandparents.

“Grandparents with responsibility as primary caretaker for their grandchildren represents a cadre of unsung caregivers who are responsible for the basic needs such as food, shelter, and clothing for their grandchildren,” said Josefina G. Carbonell, AoA’s Assistant Secretary for Aging.

For detailed stories about six grandparent caregivers visit the AoA website at:

http://www.aoa.gov/press/pr/2004/09_Sep/09_09_04.asp.

News 12 prompted an outpouring of requests for more information.

- The theme of **West Virginia’s** first GrandRally, sponsored by the West Virginia Relative as Parents Program and Grandchildren/ Grandparents, Inc., was “*Making Your Vote Count*.” Despite severe flooding across the state, an energetic group of

of supports available in the state.

- **Oklahoma** held its first "Grandfamilies Rally" on the steps of the Capitol in Oklahoma City on September 8, 2004 to increase awareness about the needs of grandparents and other relatives who are raising children. The more than 100 relative caregivers and supporters attending heard from the State Senator who had spearheaded an Interim Taskforce on Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children, as well as officials from the state's human services and aging departments. Savings bonds, provided by AARP of Oklahoma, were awarded to grandchildren who submitted winning art that was on display in the Capitol rotunda during the rally. The Interim Taskforce, part of the Senate Human Services Committee, also held a hearing that day at which several relative caregivers testified. The rally received television coverage in Oklahoma City, Tulsa, and Lawton, and was also covered by the Oklahoma Educational TV. A 7:00 a.m. radio station interview about the rally

the following Saturday prompted more than 40 calls from interested relative caregivers.

- **Louisiana** held its sixth annual conference for grandparents and other kinship caregivers, "*Grandparents Raising Grandchildren: Strengthening Families*," in Baton Rouge on September 17, 2004. It included an exciting policy forum during which relative caregivers raised their concerns and challenges with the Speaker Pro Tempore of the Louisiana House of Representatives, a State Senator and staff from the Governor's office. Conference workshops addressed legal issues, school problems, engaging youth, theft and predatory lending, internet safety, juvenile diabetes and childhood obesity, affordable housing and AARP's activities for relative caregivers. A representative from the Children's Defense Fund helped connect conference participants to activities in other states and at the federal level. The Conference was presented by The Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Information Center of Louisiana, Inc., with help from its many partners, including

AARP Louisiana, Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Louisiana, Catholic Community Services, staff from the Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs and staff from the Louisiana Department of Health and the Department of Social Services.

More State GrandRallies are being planned for early next year. One will be held in Maryland in January and Vermont in April. Please let the Children's Defense Fund know if you are planning a rally or if you would like a copy of CDF's tips for planning a GrandRally in your state (See the "*Tips for Planning a State GrandRally*" on the last page of this Newsletter).

You can also contact Barbara Condliffe in the Child Welfare and Mental Health Division at 202-662-3568 or bcondliffe@childrensdefense.org.

The GrandRallies help those attending draw on the strength of one another and on the strength and hope of their children, who bring them together. No one can make a better case for the more than 6 million children – 1 in 12 – living in households headed by relatives, about one third of them with neither parent present, than the grandparents and other relatives who are raising them.

Join together with others in your states to make your voices heard!!

**WASHINGTON STATE
LEGISLATURE FUNDS THE
KINSHIP CAREGIVERS
SUPPORT PROGRAM**

Hilari Hauptman
Washington State RAPP Coordinator

On March 11, 2004, the last day of the legislative session, the Washington Legislature passed the state's 2004 operating budget which included a provision appropriating \$500,000 to its Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) to serve grandparents and other relatives, *of any age*, who are raising children. The new program is called the *Kinship Caregivers Support Program (KCSP)*. A funding formula was developed to distribute all the funds to the AAAs based on the Census data of the number of grandparents who have primary responsibility for their grandchildren.

Since a 2004 statewide survey identified financial assistance as the most significant unmet need by relative caregivers across the state, the first year of the program funds will be distributed to help meet the costs of much needed supplies and services.

Among the allowable supports include:

- One-time rent and/or utility assistance will be available on a case by case basis after all other rent/utility supports are accessed and when a

family is at immediate risk of eviction or utility shut-off;

- The purchase of bedding, furniture, supplies, clothes, safety locks, etc., so that children can live with the kinship caregiver;
- Facilitation of third party custody for relatives when all relevant parties agree upon the action. Payment for services such as mediation, Guardian Ad Litem (GAL), court facilitation and attorney fees;
- Gas and bus vouchers/ car repairs;
- Food;
- Transition counseling for the kinship caregiver and children to help them adjust to their living arrangement; School supplies/ uniforms/ band instrument rentals, school field trips, etc.
- Sports and youth activity registrations/fees/ uniforms;
- Durable medical equipment or assistive technology devices to benefit the child;
- Medications for the child;
- Tutoring;
- Interpreter services; or

- Supervision of children during kinship caregiver appointments.

To date, seven of the thirteen AAAs have approved plans and have begun implementing the program. For several service areas, community action programs (caps) that are already very familiar with serving low-income families with a variety of programs including energy assistance and housing are the access points for the KCSP. A successful kinship care support group is housed in one of the cap agencies.

Targeted outreach to those kinship caregivers most in need is occurring in a variety of ways: flyers are being translated into 8 languages in Seattle/King County. Specific outreach will occur with Tribes and Latino groups as well as with schools, Head Start, food banks, family support centers, health departments, mental health centers, family courts, crisis clinics, senior service providers, Women, Infant and Children's Program (WIC), YMCA/YWCA and others.

For more information on the Kinship Caregivers Support Program or the Washington State RAPP, please contact Hilari Hauptman, at (360) 725-2556 or e-mail her at: haupthp@dshs.wa.gov

**State Taskforces Focus on
Relative Caregiving at the
State and Local Levels**

Barbara Schwartz
Illinois Department on Aging

The issues kinship families face are complex. Too often, relatives struggle alone, unaware of services available to help them, unsure of how to access services and intimidated or frustrated by the process.

Barriers often exist not only for relatives, but also for professionals trying to assist families in locating and accessing services as well as determining their eligibility for those programs.

One of the most effective methods to address these issues is through the establishment of a "Taskforce." Whether it's called a "Taskforce," "coalition," "alliance," "multi-agency initiative," "partnership" or "association," the goal is to convene individuals, organizations and agencies that are committed to advocating on behalf of relatives and the children they are raising.

Who should be involved? The sky is the limit! From infancy to aging, cast your net wide! Important questions to ask yourself as you meet people in

your travels to promote your program and provide outreach are, "In what way(s) can this

"Taskforce" and help the group effectively meet its goals?" Diversity is key! In Illinois, the

2005 FUNDING ALERT FOR LOCAL AND REGIONAL PROGRAMS AND STATE PUBLIC AGENCIES

We are pleased to announce the Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP) Local, Regional and State Seed Grant Initiatives for the year 2005.

Up to **fifteen local and three regional agencies** will be chosen from throughout the United States through a Request for Proposals (RFP) process. Each agency will receive a \$10,000 grant over a two-year period [\$6,000 in the first year and \$4,000 in the second year if all grant requirements have been met], as well as training and technical assistance. Matching support in cash or in-kind will be required of all selected agencies. The sponsoring agency must be a 501(c)(3) entity or have equivalent tax-exempt status.

Copies of the Local RFP guidelines and application form may be downloaded directly from the Foundation's website, www.brookdalefoundation.org.

The deadline for the submission of local proposals to the Brookdale Foundation is **Thursday, January 13, 2005**. Selected applicants will be notified in April and attend our National Orientation and Training Conference in Denver, Colorado, June 10-12th, 2005.

Up to **five State Public Agencies** will also be chosen through a Request for Proposals (RFP) process. Each agency will receive a \$10,000 grant over a two-year period [\$6,000 in the first year and \$4,000 in the second year if all grant requirements have been met], as well as training and technical assistance. Matching cash or in-kind support will be required of all selected agencies.

Copies of the State RFP guidelines and application form may be downloaded directly from the Foundation's website, www.brookdalefoundation.org.

The deadline for the submission of **State proposals** is **Thursday, February 10, 2005**. Selected applicants will be notified in April and attend our National Orientation and Training Conference in Denver, Colorado, June 10-

Taskforce on Grandparents Raising Grandchildren is presently comprised of 141 individuals. Diverse in their occupations and geographic locations, but connected by one strong bond: helping kinship families.

Members of the Illinois Taskforce include relatives raising children, support group facilitators and representatives from the offices of the state's attorneys; Area Agencies on Aging; legal assistance foundations; private law firms; educational institutions including Extension; departments of social work; early childhood development; nursing; legal studies and

person/organization/agency assist relatives raising children?" and "How will their involvement strengthen the

gerontology; private agencies and organizations addressing child abuse; early educational

assessment and intervention; counseling; child care; respite; asthma and other chronic diseases; substance abuse; tax benefits; behavior disorders; learning disabilities; sudden infant death syndrome and transportation issues.

State agencies represented on the Taskforce include the Illinois Departments on Aging; Human Services; Public Aid; Public Health; Children and Family Services; Corrections; Commerce and Economic Opportunity and the State Board of Education. Invitations to the departments of Veterans Affairs, Transportation and the Illinois Housing Authority are in process. "Taskforce"

members are often called upon to cut through bureaucratic red tape and examine restrictive policies. Members help relatives access public benefits and financial assistance, employment counseling, food stamps, teen services, child care, guardianship, wrap-around services, establish paternity, secure emergency assistance, child support, health insurance and enroll children in school. Members also provide information on immunization programs, safety and child transportation, poison control, parental incarceration, foster parenting, subsidized guardianship, adoption, child abuse and assist military

families. Additional benefits of this "mobilization effort" include an increased awareness of available services and the identification of gaps in service. Advocacy and outreach efforts have improved as has the number of resource materials. The number of referrals to

churches and food pantries, Extension Services, the Tuscola and Arcola school districts, health centers, adult education center, Illinois Departments on Aging, Human Services and Public Health and major employers in the area. Issues of concern have been identified

and services have been added or expanded. An example is the public health department's addition of a translator and a bilingual nurse.

An extensive survey of the Hispanic/Latino community has recently been conducted that will aid in the assessment of services and there has been outreach to migrant seniors concerning services to senior citizens. Issues that have

been identified include language barriers, Latino representation in law enforcement, bilingual advocates to assist the Latino community in accessing resources, transportation, child care, mental health and substance abuse resources, birth control and other women's health issues, housing and English as a second language programs.

Allow a "Taskforce" time to grow and develop. Be generous in your invitations to join the group. Promote your group when you present at conferences and meetings. Include information on your group in publications and articles. If the "Taskforce" is statewide, try to

Data from the United States Census Bureau

The following briefs are available from the U.S. Census Bureau:

The Census 2000 grandparents brief, *Grandparents Living With Grandchildren: 2000*, can be downloaded from: <http://www.census.gov/prod/2003pubs/c2kbr-31.pdf>

The Census 2000 special report, *Children and the Households They Live In: 2000*, can be downloaded from: <http://www.census.gov/prod/2004pubs/censr-14.pdf>

support groups has also increased and links to services through the National Family Caregiver Support Program and Aging Network have occurred.

These coalitions are also extremely effective on the local level and can address needs of specific groups.

The Douglas County Regional Prevention Group in Illinois meets regularly to address needs, provide and improve services to the Hispanic/Latino population area. Comprised of representatives from the Latino/Hispanic community, the Arcola City Council, Arcola Police Department, Regional Office of Education, local

meet at various locations to accommodate membership.

Whether on the state or local level, these partnerships are an effective tool in advocating for relatives raising children. Fewer families will fall through the cracks and go years without assistance, fewer children will be at risk of entering or re-entering the foster care system and relatives may finally feel that they are not alone in their efforts to provide a loving, safe and stable home to millions of children.

RAPP State Taskforces

Public State Agencies that are part of the ***RAPP State Initiative*** bring attention to the issue of relative caregiving at the state level. One of the ways programs do this is by meeting the RAPP requirement that State programs initiate a RAPP State Taskforce. These Taskforces, like the Illinois TaskForce above, bring together key stakeholders from around the state to address the issues faced by relative caregivers. Taskforce representatives are from agencies and organizations across the state. They meet regularly and have succeeded in bringing attention to the issue of relative caregiving, resulting in recognition of the challenges faced by caregivers and, in many cases, in legislative changes benefiting caregivers. Here are some examples of the activities of other RAPP Taskforces:

The ***Texas Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP) of the Texas***

Department on Aging in collaboration with ***the Texas Legal Services Center*** convened the Texas Kincare Taskforce in September of 2002. The Texas Department on Aging sent out the invitations to the Taskforce, casting a broad net. Taskforce members include staff from leading state agencies, non-profits and advocacy organizations in Texas that have a role in kincare. In addition to the Texas Department on Aging, members include Texas Legal Services Center, the Texas Cooperative Extension at Texas A & M University, the Texas Department of Children and Protective Services, AARP, the Area Agencies on Aging of Texoma and of the Capital Area, Texas Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health, Texans Care for Children, Casey Family Programs, the University of Texas School of Social Work, the University of North Texas Department of Applied Gerontology, the Texas Welfare Reform Organization, the Women's Advocacy Project, and several other agencies, organizations and individuals.

The most recent accomplishment of the Texas Kincare Taskforce was the first-ever statewide Kincare Symposium. Held June 17 and 18, 2004 in Round Rock, Texas (a city near Austin), the Symposium brought together kincare families and professionals to address the practical, legal, and public services issues of relative caregiving families. The

program qualified for continuing education credits for Social Workers, Licensed Professional Counselors and Attorneys. There were approximately 175 attendees. One especially well received feature of the Symposium was a Children's Activity Room. This allowed the children to have two days of fun while their caregivers had two days of networking and learning. The Children's Activity Room was staffed by volunteers from Dell Computer Corporation.

To provide sustained attention to kincare, the Texas Kincare Taskforce has decided to incorporate as a Texas non-profit and to seek recognition from the IRS as a 501 (c)(3) organization. This will permit increased funding from local sources. In addition to the Symposium and spurred on by the Texas Cooperative Extension at Texas A & M University, the Texas Kincare Taskforce has also developed several new support groups in Texas. As a member of the Texas Kincare Taskforce, the Texas Cooperative Extension has established the Grandparents Raising Grandkids website, at <http://grandparentsraisinggrandkids.tamu.edu/grandparents.htm>. This website provides links to information about public services.

The Texas Kincare Taskforce has also published two brochures: *Kincare Choices*, and *Consent to Medical Treatment*. *Kincare Choices* focuses on child custody for

relatives in Texas. The *Consent to Medical Treatment* brochure contains the Texas form for relatives to consent to medical treatment and has instructions for completing the form. Each brochure is available in English and Spanish.

Further information about the Texas Kincare Taskforce can be obtained from Bruce Bower, Texas Legal Services Center, Suite 1100, 815 Brazos, Austin, TX 78701; Phone: 512-477-6000; Fax: 512-477-6576; Email: bbower@tlsc.org.

The Missouri RAPP State Taskforce has been very busy working on the issues of Relatives as Parents. Ten new Taskforces have been formed across the state providing a variety of opportunities for relative caregivers. Several of the new taskforces have utilized the *Parenting the Second Time Around curriculum* (of the Cornell Cooperative Extension, NY see the resource section of this newsletter), others have expanded already existing support groups. Mini-educational sessions have been held, workshops on the important issues faced by relative caregivers have provided them with information and resources and several resource guides have been printed in different areas of the state. A Newsletter provides continued communication on various topics, books have been purchased and housed in the public library and events for both relative caregivers and the

children in their care have been planned.

Several small grants have been obtained from the Children's Trust Fund in Missouri. Some were used to assist with the formation of the *Missouri Grandparents/Kinship Caregiver Coalition* as a state group. In the St. Louis area, the *Gateway Grandparents/Kinship Network* received funds to provide 10 mini-educational sessions for relative caregivers and to develop the *Kinship Care Newsletter*. Additional funds were granted to assist with the "Sock-It-To-Me Saturday" respite event for both relative caregivers and the children in their care.

The Missouri Grandparent/Kinship Caregiver Coalition has also initiated discussions with several legislators to create a bill for De Facto Custody for relative caregivers. This legislation would ensure a stable home environment for children by setting a time frame for children left with grandparents (or other relative caregivers) after which the relative caregiver would have De Facto Custody. The hope is that the legislation will prevent children from being bounced back and forth between parents and relative caregivers. For more information on the Missouri Taskforce, please contact Betty Reinsch, RAPP State Coordinator, at: ReinschE@missouri.edu.

The Kansas RAPP State Advisory Taskforce held its

first meeting on November 20, 2002. The Taskforce began with eighteen members and has now grown to a membership of fifty, with forty-five RAPP Partners available to work on caregiver initiatives. The Taskforce consists of numerous grandparent and relative caregivers, state and local agencies, private organizations, attorneys, in the public and private sector, counselors and private businesses who work with relative caregivers and/or are themselves raising relative children. The Taskforce meets quarterly and serves as a focal point for information on relative caregiving programs and policies. It strives to increase the development of services to relative caregivers and their families.

Taskforce members advocate on behalf of relative caregivers in a number of ways including testifying on proposed legislation that would have an effect on caregivers and help disseminate information on the issues faced by relative caregivers.

The Taskforce is working on developing a resource brochure and planning a conference for grandparents and other relative caregivers in April, 2005. Subcommittees have been formed to work on these initiatives. The Secretary of the Kansas Department on Aging is informed of the progress of the program and makes recommendations regarding legislative and policy issues to the Secretary.

For more information on the Kansas Advisory Taskforce of the Kansas Department on Aging (KDOA) please call Marva Williams, Telephone: (785) 291-3357; FAX: (785) 296-0256, E-Mail: marvaw@aging.state.ks.us Or visit the KDOA online at: <http://www.agingkansas.org>.



Connecticut's State Unit on Aging The Grandparents As Parents Support Network

(GAPS) is a Connecticut statewide network that includes state agencies, local agencies and grandparents who provide education, training and support group facilitation to grandparents raising children. Some of the activities of the Network include a 2nd Annual Grandparents Day Family Fair, an opportunity for grandparents to receive information, resources and a day of fun for the children; the *Connecticut Grand Rally*, held on September 8, 2004 at The State Capitol to educate the Connecticut legislators, the media and the community on the important policy issues of grandparents and other relatives raising kin; and the Grandmother's Circle Conference, which focused on grandmothers and grandfathers who are raising kin. Conference topics included guardianship, financial assistance, legal issues and stress management.

The Kinship Care Legal Taskforce was developed as a subcommittee of the GAPS network to improve the quality and quantity of legal information and assistance that is available to kinship caregivers. The TaskForce received a Partnership in Law and Aging grant for the 2003-2004 award period to develop educational seminars on kinship legal issues. Representatives from across the state, including from the probate courts, Department of Social Services, Connecticut Legal Services and the Department of Children participated on the panel. The topics of the seminars included options for guardianship, financial assistance, housing and the special needs of children. The seminars were conducted throughout the state at institutions of higher education in Connecticut and included over 100 participants at each seminar from various disciplines including social workers, lawyers and court and state agency personnel. For more information on the RAPP Connecticut State TaskForce, please contact the Connecticut State RAPP Coordinator, Donielle Rooks, Connecticut Department of Social Services, Elderly Services Division, at: (860) 424-5862; Fax: (860) 424-4966 or E-mail: donielle.rooks@po.state.ct.us.

Grandparent Legislative Update

Jaia Peterson
Public Policy Director
Generations United

Current Federal Legislation

National Family Caregiver Support Act

- Designed to provide support services to informal family caregivers providing care to older relatives with serious illness or disability;
- Signed into law as part of reauthorization of Older Americans Act in November, 2000;
- Includes grandparents and older relatives raising children, related to a child by blood or marriage who are 60 years of age or older, live with the child and are their primary caregiver, with or without a legal relationship;
- Services under the Act include *information about available services; assistance in gaining access to services; organization of support groups and caregiver training; respite care; and supplemental services to complement the care provided by caregiver;*
- States have the *option* to use 10% of the funds under the Act to provide services to grandparents and other relatives raising children;
- Services are provided by Area Agencies on Aging

(AAAs) or those with whom they contract.

LEGACY: Living Equitably – Grandparents Aiding Children & Youth Act

- Signed into law in December, 2003 as part of the American Dream Downpayment bill. The Act provides for:
 - ✓ the creation of national demonstration projects with the Housing and Urban Development's (HUD's) Section 202 elderly housing program to develop housing specifically for grandparents raising their grandchildren;
 - ✓ the completion of a national study of the housing needs of grandparents raising grandchildren; and
 - ✓ specialized training, education and outreach to HUD personnel regarding legal issues confronted by grandparent and other relative-headed families.

Proposed/Pending Legislation

Kinship Caregiver Support Act

In July 2004, Senators Hillary Clinton (D-NY), Olympia Snowe (R-ME), and Tom Daschle (D-SD) introduced the

Kinship Caregiver Support Act (S. 2706). This bill will:

- *Establish a Kinship Navigator Program:* Grants would be provided to states or large metropolitan areas to establish hotlines/helpdesks to provide coordinated information and assistance to caregivers about local resources available to them such as family support services, child care, legal services, Medicaid, respite care, mental health and substance abuse treatment and support groups;
- *Establish a Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program* to allow states to use Title IV-E federal funding to develop support for subsidized guardianship programs to assist relative caregivers and their children; and
- *Ensure that Relatives are Notified when Children Enter Foster Care.*

The senators are currently seeking additional cosponsors. A companion bill has not yet been introduced in the House.

Ronald Reagan Alzheimer's Breakthrough Act of 2004

In June, Senators Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) and Kit Bond (R-MO) introduced the Ronald Reagan Alzheimer's Breakthrough Act of 2004 (S.2533). Among the provisions for caregivers, the bill also provides support for

grandparents raising children.

Relevant provisions call to:

- Double the funding for the National Family Caregiver Support Program up to \$250 million; and
- Provide grants to the states to create Lifespan Respite Care Programs for caregivers of all ages.

Specifically states would use grants to:

- ✓ Inform the public about respite care;
- ✓ Increase respite care services to meet unmet needs;
- ✓ Improve access and quality of available services; and
- ✓ Recruit and train respite care workers/volunteers.

The bill has 62 cosponsors.

A House companion bill was introduced by Representative Edward Markey (D-MA) and Chris Smith (R-NJ). It has 22 cosponsors.

For more information about these bills contact Jaia Peterson, Public Policy Director, Generations United at jpeterson@gu.org or 202-289-3979.



**Petal Association for Families
Develops the Grandfamilies
Health Watchers Program**

Sylvia Forster, Executive Director
Petal Relatives As Parents Program

Where can you find grand-
parents raising grandchildren
exercising with their eight and
nine year olds and learning
about healthy lifestyles
together?

It's happening in Petal
Association's *Grandfamilies
Health Watchers Program* in
Petal, Mississippi through a one
year \$30,000 grant funded by
the Johnson &

Johnson/Rosalynn Carter
Institute (JJ/RCI). This exercise
and healthy lifestyles
intergenerational grant was
awarded in August, 2004 to the
Petal Association for Families
R.A.P. participants in Petal,
Mississippi.

The Johnson and
Johnson/Rosalynn Carter
Institute jump started the
program with a trip to Johnson
and Johnson headquarters in
New Jersey and an awe-
inspiring meeting with First
Lady Rosalynn Carter, who
offered personal insights and
words of encouragement to all
grantees.

children) come together from 6
to 8 p.m., to exercise and learn
about healthy lifestyles.

Grandparents, many in their
early 70's, are stretching,
bending, and even crunching
together as a group. A unique
partnership with the Health
Management Connection, a
cardiac rehabilitation center,
allows physical monitoring and
planned, scientific exercise
regimens. Physical data is kept
for every participant and
progress will be monitored at
three month intervals.

While grandparents stretch and
bend, grandchildren are burning
calories at the local YMCA, the
other partner in the program.
Grandkids, ages 5 to 15 years,
are aerobic dancing, weight
training, and swimming. All
activities are targeted to keeping
the grandchildren active as well
as socially engaged.

**NO MORE JUMBO
FRIES....MORE FRUITS AND
VEGETABLES...**

LESS FAT is what all
grandfamilies are hearing in
their weekly education sessions.
Better eating habits are put into
practice once a month when a
healthy meal is served. Each
family receives a recipe they can
use at home. Information is also
provided at each session on
topics such as Type II diabetes,
risks factors associated with
obesity, proper nutrition for
children, and healthy snacks.
Pedometers are given to all the
grandparents and monitored
weekly with the ultimate goal of
10,000 steps a day. That's a real
challenge for several of the

grandparents who have had (or
need) knee replacements and
others who suffer from arthritis
and back ailments. At home
exercise routines are encouraged
and kept on track through
weekly phone calls coupled with
a once-a-month in-home visit.
We are looking forward to
healthier, happier and trimmer
grandfamilies by the end of Year
One!

For more information on the
Grandfamilies Health Watchers
Program, please contact Sylvia
Forster, Executive Director,
Petal Association for Families
at:

Brightpaff@aol.com or call
(601) 582-0909.

The Florida Kinship Center

Anne Strozier
University of South Florida's
School of Social Work

The Florida Kinship Center at
the University of South
Florida's School of Social Work
was established in 1998 to meet
the needs of the 370,000+
children being raised by
relatives in our state. That
number puts Florida as the
fourth highest in the nation in
the number of children being
raised by relatives, trailing only
California, Texas, and New
York.

The Florida Kinship Center
offers a toll-free "warmline" that
provides emotional support and
referral information to
caregivers statewide (1-800-
640-6444 in Florida and 1-813-
974-8414 outside of the state).
In addition, the Center
coordinates a statewide network

of support group and provider agencies, produces evidence-based programming, training and technical assistance and has a greatly enhanced website.

In March of this year, the Center sponsored its third annual "Rally in Tally." Caregivers traveled by bus to the state capital in Tallahassee and did a tremendous job of telling their stories to their legislators and educating them about the issues confronted by relative caregivers.

The Center was also proud this year to sponsor the publication of the second children's book on kinship care: *The Adventures of NanaCat and Her Children: "Someone New."* (See the resource section of this newsletter for order information).

On October 15th, the Center will present its 3rd Annual Conference for caregivers and service providers entitled: "Legally Yours:" Kinship Care, Florida Law and the Nation. This day long conference is co-sponsored with AARP-Florida and the Hillsborough

Association of Women Lawyers. For more information on the Center and the conference, visit their website, www.flkin.org.

Generations United's 2nd National Symposium on Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children
Brent Elrod, Manager
Policy and Program
Generations United

Lean On Me: Support and Minority Outreach for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

A recent report, *Lean on Me: Support and Minority Outreach for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren* is now available. The report is the result of AARP's research to increase knowledge about:

- ❖ Effective promotion, recruitment methods, start-up and sustaining strategies and characteristics of support groups for grandparents raising grandchildren from both the grandparents point of view and the support leaders' point of view;
- ❖ The specifics about support groups, including how they function, where they are located, who attends, size of groups and various other characteristics;
- ❖ The needs of and most effective ways to conduct outreach to minority grandparent caregivers, including how they are served by support groups as well as other forms of outreach and support.

The AARP research included focus groups across the nation and a national survey of support groups. The report outlines the research findings. To obtain a free copy of the report, write to:

AARP Fulfillment
601 E Street, NW
Washington, DC 20049

Include stock number D18036 and indicate how many copies of the report you would like to receive.

The report is also available on the AARP Grandparent Information Center's newly updated website: www.aarp.org/grandparents. Check out the new look and the updated information!

On July 7-8, 2004, Generations United and co-sponsors AARP, American Academy of Pediatrics, The Brookdale Foundation Group, Casey Family Programs, Children's Defense Fund and Child Welfare League of America, convened the 2nd National Symposium on Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children in Washington, D.C. 35 experts from throughout the U.S. joined together to assess our progress in effectively meeting the unique needs of kinship care families.

While there was much to celebrate in the seven years since the first symposium was held, such as inclusion of grandparent and other relative

caregivers in the National Family Caregiver Support Program and passage of housing

legislation called LEGACY – Living Equitably: Grandparents Aiding Children and Youth, there was consensus that much was still to be accomplished.

Using a format that included discussion papers, brief presentations and large and small group discussions, attendees considered the multiple issues grandparent and other relative-headed families often confront. This helped the participants generate concrete recommendations for our collective future work on behalf of grandparent and relative care families in areas such as outreach and access, legal and financial, and health education.

A “blueprint for action” for the coming five years will be published shortly. Visit www.gu.org to review and download the document and pledge to help promote an improved quality of life for kinship care families.

RAPP GOES TO PRISON

Marilyn Hammond
Sr. Pat Davis
Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

WHY TAKE RAPP TO PRISON?

Unlike when men are arrested, when a mother is charged with a

supportive role in such situations.

Talking to Children About the War and Terrorism

The following websites offer many resources for parents (caregivers), teachers and other educators who work with children and families about terrorism and the effects of the terror attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on the mental health of caregivers and children. Other materials address helping people deal with war and terrorism. Some are available in English and Spanish:

- ❖ The American Academy of Pediatrics, <http://www.aap.org/terrorism/index.html>
- ❖ The University of Minnesota Extension Service, www.extension.umn.edu/administrative/disasterresponse/terrorism.html
- ❖ Purdue Extension, <http://www.ces.purdue.edu/terrorism>
- ❖ North Carolina Cooperative Extension, www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/fcs/smp9/talking.htm
- ❖ Cornell Cooperative Extension, <http://www.news.cornell.edu/releases/March03/kids.war.talk.SSL.html>
- ❖ The National Association of School Psychologists, www.nasponline.org/NEAT/children_war_general.html.
- ❖ The Child Advocate: www.childadvocate.net/disaster.htm

HOW CAN RAPP HELP?

Relative caregivers responsible for the care of the children of incarcerated mothers have similar needs as any other relative caregiver. The children miss their moms and there is always the question of when she will come back home. There are housing, medical, mental health and school issues as well as the expenses of food and

crime her family has to make arrangements for the care of her children quickly. Well over half of the children become the responsibility of their grandparents, great-grandparents or great aunts who often come from urban poverty situations. RAPP can play a significant

clothing. Relative caregivers need support and encouragement as they care for the children. It is not easy to talk about a daughter in prison. Grandparents are ashamed and may not want to talk about the parent’s whereabouts. An opportunity to talk with others in their same situation allows them to be

honest and forthright about their concerns. They quickly learn that they are not alone in their dilemma. They encourage and answer one another's questions and, most important, support each other.

The Brookdale RAPP in Illinois

For some years *Lutheran Social Services of Illinois* has had a transportation service to bring families to the prisons so children could visit their mothers. The prisons learned that they could trust our program and cooperated when we asked to make RAPP a part of the prison visits. Here's an example of a typical RAPP day at the prison: The prisons provide the names of the mothers who would like to see their children; A letter of invitation is sent to those families, who then register for our bus trip to the prison; We leave Chicago at 7:30am on a Saturday for a three-hour trip to prison with children and their relative caregivers (Donors pay for the buses); At prison we have free time and lunch so that the caregivers can talk with moms, usually their daughters, and visit with their children; After the free time and lunch, caregivers leave for a quiet room to join the "RAPP circle" and have their one hour support group. Since our leader has been a foster parent and is well informed on prison issues, she is able to facilitate the conversation in a helpful direction. Sometimes,

we have a speaker. During the support group, the children have the full attention of their moms in a nearby gym. After the prison trip our RAPP coordinator often follows up with phone calls just to say hello or to share specific information caregivers requested. Everybody gains when RAPP goes to prison. The mothers and children enjoy time together, the caregivers have time to regroup, share and support each other and the RAPP Facilitator offers support and information. The result is the provision of services to our favorite people: relative caregivers and the children in their care.

For ideas about how this program could work in your state, contact Marilyn Hammond or Sr. Pat Davis, RAPP Facilitators, at (773) 476-1452.

RELATIVE CAREGIVER RESOURCES

The Adventures of Nana Cat and Her Children, by Maureen Catherine. For a copy of the order form, visit the Florida Kinship Center's website: <http://www.flkin.usf.edu/pages/index.asp>.

The following training video tapes are now available: *Kinship Care: Relative Caregivers Speak Out*, a panel of relative caregivers respond to a series of questions about kinship care including the emotional and transitional issues they and the children in their care have experienced, how they establish relationships and

authority with the children in their care; approaches used to help children adjust to care and separation from their parents; interaction with birth parents and children; and how incarceration, substance abuse and the parent's absence impacts the children and relatives;

Kinship Care: Birth Mothers Speak Out, a panel of birth mothers respond to a series of questions about having children who were once in the care of relatives. Birth mothers discuss how they explained to the children the reason they were living with relatives, how they interacted and were involved with the relative and their children, how their children were affected by their incarceration, substance abuse absence or inability to care for them and the challenges and approaches used to reunite with their children; and

Kinship Care: Teens and Young Adults Speak Out, a panel of teenagers and young adults respond to a series of questions about living or having lived in kinship care. Panelists discuss how they felt about living with relatives; the challenges and adjustments they faced as they accepted their relatives in a parental role; how their parents incarceration, substance abuse and absence affected them and how those feelings were displayed; what explanations they received for their parents absence and their response; what interactions and supports from birth parents and

relatives helped them adjust to being cared for by relatives and what were the challenges faced to reunification with parents and separation from relatives.

Discussion topics and questions accompany each video and the videos are recommended for

caregivers, birth parents, support groups, trainers, professionals providing services to relative caregivers and community and religious organizations.

Each tape costs \$85 and can be ordered from:
 Dr. Joseph Crumbley
 The Pavilion
 261 Old York Road
 Suite 620A
 Jenkintown, PA 19046
 (215) 884-7889 or Fax: (215) 881-7787;
 E-mail: office@drccrumbley.com or visit his website: www.drccrumbley.com.

From AARP

AARP's Grandparent Information Center (GIC) is updating their Grandparent Support Database. See the enclosed form to register

your support group on GIC's database right away!

From Generations United
 Generations United has recently updated and published the following two fact sheets to assist grandparents and other relatives caring for children:

Talking to Children About the War and Terrorism

The following websites offer many resources for parents (caregivers), teachers and other educators who work with children and families about terrorism and the effects of the terror attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on the mental health of caregivers and children. Other materials address helping people deal with war and terrorism. Some are available in English and Spanish:

- ❖ The American Academy of Pediatrics, <http://www.aap.org/terrorism/index.html>
- ❖ The University of Minnesota Extension Service, www.extension.umn.edu/administrative/disasterresponse/terrorism.html
- ❖ Purdue Extension, <http://www.ces.purdue.edu/terrorism>
- ❖ North Carolina Cooperative Extension, www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/fcs/smp9/talking.htm
- ❖ Cornell Cooperative Extension, <http://www.news.cornell.edu/releases/March03/kids.war.talk.SSL.html>
- ❖ The National Association of School Psychologists, www.nasponline.org/NEAT/children_war_general.html.
- ❖ The Child Advocate: www.childadvocate.net/disaster.htm

Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children: Housing Needs and Challenges. The fact sheets will soon be available for order and can be downloaded at GU's website, www.gu.org. In addition, the highly anticipated blueprint form the 2nd National Expert

Symposium on Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children, held on July 2004 will also be ready shortly. Entitled, "*Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children: The Second Intergenerational Agenda*," this comprehensive document provides an overview of the successes of the first symposium in 1997 and presents twenty-eight recommendations for ACTION in order to continue to help grandparents, other relatives and the children they raise. The Action Agenda will be available on GU's website, www.gu.org.

Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children: Caregiver Support Groups; and

From The Administration on Aging

Information about the National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP) is available on AoA's website. Please visit www.aoa.gov. Look for the AoA Resource Rooms and click on "caregivers."

You can also subscribe to AoA's E-News, AoA's monthly e-newsletter on their website. AoA e-News offers up-to-date information for those working in the aging and healthcare fields.

From The Children's Defense Fund

Summary of the Kinship Caregiver Support Act and Checklist of Pending Federal Proposals Affecting Children in the Child Welfare System or At Risk of Coming to the Attention of the System. These summaries as well as others are available at <http://www.childrensdefense.org/childwelfare/legislative/default.asp>.

Kinship Care Resource Kit for Community and Faith-Based Organizations: Helping Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children. This kit helps community and faith-based organizations understand what kinship care is; learn how

to offer services and support for relative caregiving families; discover what resources are available to these families; and find national and state organizations and resources. Available online at <http://www.childrensdefense.org/childwelfare/kinshipcare/resourcekit/>

on self-esteem, common emotions and family strengths. This 30 minute video is intended for professionals and family members. \$50 *Grandparent's and Other Relative Caregiver's Guides*. Four guides to help caregivers learn about important issues affecting the children in

their care. The four topics are: child care and early education programs; food and nutrition programs; health insurance; and raising children with disabilities. The guides are available online at <http://www.childrensdefense.org/childwelfare/kinshipcare/guides.asp>.

**BEST PRACTICES MANUAL
FOR SERVICE PROVIDERS ASSISTING
KINSHIP CAREGIVERS IN THE STATE OF MICHIGAN**

As part of The Brookdale Foundation State RAPP initiative, the Michigan Office of Services to the Aging published a "Best Practices Manual for Service Providers Assisting Kinship Caregivers in the State of Michigan".

The manual was researched and written by Ms. Krista Powers, a Hartford Fellowship/MSW Intern from the University of Michigan, in response to needs identified through a survey completed by Michigan's sixteen Area Agencies on Aging. It contains resources and tools that can be adapted to provide the most appropriate and extensive services possible to kinship caregivers and the children in their care.

The guide has been distributed across the state to Area Agencies on Aging and local service providers to assist them in developing responsive and accessible services for kinship care families in their local communities.

The guide is available at the Brookdale Foundation's website, www.brookdalefoundation.org/default.asp.

[default.asp](http://www.childrensdefense.org/childwelfare/kinshipcare/default.asp). ***Second Time Around: Grand Ideas for Grand Kids.*** A literacy based curriculum guide for facilitating play-based groups for children being raised by grandparents. Includes resources and materials for 8-18 children's group sessions. Primarily for children who are ages 3-7 years of age. \$50.

Second Time Around: Custodial Grandchildren Tell Their Stories. (Video) Personal history of 12 diverse individuals who were raised by grandparents. Discussions focus

Expanding Permanency Options for Children: A Guide to Subsidized Guardianship Programs. This guide serves as a basic primer on subsidized guardianship and describes and compares current state programs. The guides are available at: <http://www.childrensdefense.org/childwelfare/kinshipcare/default.asp>.

More Cooperative Extension Resources

FROM CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION – ORANGE COUNTY

Parenting The Second Time Around, Second Edition. A Cornell Cooperative Extension Workshop Series for Grandparents, Relatives and Others who are parenting again. This curriculum is designed for experienced Workshop Leaders, Professionals, Social Workers or Adult Educators. Topics include information about child development, discipline and guidance, acknowledging ambivalent feelings; rebuilding a family; legal issues (including a 2004 update); and advocacy. Cornell Cooperative Extension, Orange County. \$45.50, plus shipping and handling. To order: The Resource Center, Cornell University, P.O. Box 3884, Ithaca, NY 14852-3884 or order on their online bookstore, www.cce.cornell.edu/store. or call (607)255-2080; Fax: (607)255-9946. Quantity Discounts are available.

FROM WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION:

Second Time Around: Grandparents Raising Grandchildren. A comprehensive guide for facilitating grandparent support groups. Easy to use, contains materials for 8-18 sessions. \$75

Second Time Around: The Custodial Grandparent Family. Strengths and challenges of custodial grandparent families presented by 6 grandparents. Topics include: family formations, impact on

relationships, challenges, networking and resource issues. This 25 minute video is intended for professionals and family members. \$75

Professional training workshops are available by request. Mail or fax orders to: Western Michigan University, Department of Family & Consumer Sciences 1903 W. Michigan Avenue Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5322 Office: 269-387-3704; Fax: 269-387-3353; Checks should be made payable to: WMU, Federal ID #386-007-327.

Conferences

The 2005 Joint Conference of the American Society on Aging (ASA) and the National Council on Aging (NCOA), *The Changing Face of Aging*, will be held March 10-13th in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Visit www.agingconference.org for more information.

The ***2005 White House Conference on Aging*** will be held ***October 23-26, 2005 in Washington, DC.*** White House Conferences on Aging have convened every 10 years and are a catalyst for aging policy. Former Virginia Department on Aging Commissioner, Ann Y. McGee, Ed.D., will serve as the Executive Director. Visit their website at www.whcoa.gov.

Save the Date!

The Brookdale Foundation's National Relatives As Parents Program (RAPP) conference

will be held in Denver, Colorado June 10-12, 2005. The conference brings together all the Foundations' RAPP sites for a weekend of networking and training. See you there!

*The Brookdale Foundation Group
950 Third Avenue, 19th Floor
New York, NY 10022
Phone: (212) 308-7355
Fax: (212) 750-0132
Website: www.brookdalefoundation.org*

*Melinda Perez-Porter, Program Associate
Janet Sainer, Special Consultant
Heather Carey, Program Administrator
Mary De La Cruz, Administrative Assistant*

TIPS FOR PLANNING A STATE GRANDRALLY

The Children's Defense Fund

Planning and holding a Wednesdays at Home™ GrandRally in your state capital will educate policy makers and the broader public about what they need to do to help grandparents and other relatives who are raising children. It will help to build and strengthen state kinship care networks—statewide partnerships of individuals and organizations that can come together in an organized way to bring about changes for kinship care families. You may want to start small and then build on the momentum each year. Or you may already be doing something that you can build on. Hopefully these tips will be helpful.

- ❖ Form a GrandRally planning committee that meets weekly by telephone.
- ❖ Contact city and state-wide organizations helping kinship care families about the GrandRally and request their presence on a planning committee.
- ❖ Map out a plan that makes clear the purpose of the GrandRally, sets goals for the number of participants, identifies potential co-sponsors, and lays out a timeline and a budget.
- ❖ Begin working to get commitments and raise funds if necessary.
- ❖ Spread the word about the event. Send emails and mailings. Make personal telephone calls to kinship care networks throughout the state. Design flyers for networks to share in their communities. Contact churches, senior centers and support groups.
- ❖ Invite state legislators, judges and other key supporters to the GrandRally.
- ❖ Designate leaders in various parts of the state who can assist in getting people to the rally.
- ❖ Keep track of who is coming.
- ❖ Secure permits for the day of your event, if they are required.
- ❖ Send regular updates to kinship care leaders and continue to advertise the event.
- ❖ Develop an agenda and settle on speakers for the GrandRally.
- ❖ Prepare logistics for the day of the rally. Arrange for meals, chairs, tables, microphones, first aid and bathroom facilities. Don't forget the balloons!
- ❖ Find a media person to help develop your message, send out press releases and arrange interviews with grandparents and other relatives raising children. Arrange for press on the day of the rally and have staff person there for them.
- ❖ Have plenty of volunteers to help on the day of the event.
- ❖ Have a wonderful GrandRally!!
- ❖ Thank everyone who helped and participated. Get started on your next steps!