

Brookdale Relatives as Parents Program

RAPP REPORTER

August 2001

A Newsletter of the Brookdale Foundation Group

RAPP Update

The Relatives As Parents Program (RAPP) Network continues to grow and diversify. RAPP was initiated in 1996 to encourage and promote the creation or expansion of services to grandparents and other relatives who have taken on the responsibility of surrogate parenting due to the unwillingness or inability of parents to care for their own children. We now have 84 Local programs and 27 State agencies, which provide services to grandparents in 38 different States.

National Family Caregiver Support Program

The National Family Caregiver Support Program is part of the recently reauthorized Older Americans Act. \$125 million was authorized for caregiver support services, for frail elders, of which up to ten percent can be used for support services to grandparents and other relatives raising children. These services can include information and referral services,

individual counseling, support groups, caregiver training and respite care. The following articles describe how the Illinois Department on Aging and an Illinois Area Agency on Aging are implementing the Act.

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT ON AGING IMPLEMENTS THE NATIONAL FAMILY CAREGIVER SUPPORT ACT

Margo E. Schreiber, Director
Illinois Department on Aging

The Illinois Department on Aging has taken an aggressive approach in

its effort to implement provisions of the newly authorized National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP) under Title III, Part E, of the Older Americans Act.

Illinois

received \$4.7 million for the NFCSP Program and has allocated the funding to the Area Agencies using the Intrastate Funding Formula. Area Agencies have submitted Caregiver Implementation Plans, which outline how they will develop the broad caregiver initiative in each Planning and Service Area. Plans document the needs of caregivers, identify gaps in service, list current service provisions to caregivers, and outline methods Area Agencies used to obtain caregiver input and

TRENDS IN KINSHIP CARE

The last year has seen exciting trends in kinship care for both informal caregivers and those in the formal foster care system. This edition of the RAPP Reporter outlines the following trends:

- Authorization and implementation of the Family Caregiver Support Program
- Creative Use of Temporary Assistance to Needy Family Funds (TANF); and
- Expanded use of the RAPP model of community-based services (Initiation of the KinNET Program for caregivers in the foster care system)

In addition, Cooperative Extensions, part of the United States Department of Agriculture, are excellent resources for programs working with relative caregivers. Highlighted in this issue are some of the Extensions' initiatives and collaborations with RAPPs on behalf of caregivers.

It is important to note that, although the funds authorized under the Older Americans Act will be handled by State Offices for the Aging and the Area Agencies on Aging (AAA), many AAA contract out their services. There are therefore opportunities for non-aging groups to partner with aging organizations to be beneficiaries of the new funding. Programs are encouraged to contact their State Offices for Aging or AAA.

The Brookdale Foundation, 126 East 56th Street, 10th Floor, New York, NY 10022

Phone: (212) 308-7355 **E-mail:** BkdFdn@aol.com **Web Site:** <http://www.ewol.com/Brookdale>

services to be funded by the Area Agencies.

Prior to the submission of these plans, public hearings were held within each of the 13 service areas of the state to assist in the development of the caregiving plans.

The Department also held a successful two day planning meeting with the Area Agencies and 20 provider agencies in January to assess needs and gain input regarding gaps in service. Caregiver organizations were asked to rank allowable services listed in the Act and provide recommendations regarding the definition of "supplemental services" in a statewide survey. Area Agencies incorporated the caregiver initiative into the Area Plans for FY2001.

9 out of 13 Area Agencies submitted plans for utilizing funds for kinship caregivers. Submissions indicate that a minimum of \$128,516 or 5.8% will be allocated to support services for grandparents raising grandchildren in FY01 from responding Area Agencies.

Service categories that will be funded in FY01 are: Information and Assistance; Outreach; Case Management; Counseling; Support Groups; Training; Respite; Gap Filling Services; and Legal Services. The Department has also established an internal Steering Committee responsible for developing a plan for activities over the next two years. The Department will promote Family Caregiving in all program areas and concentrate on developing a visible, identifiable network so caregivers know where to turn when they need help.

Action steps include the development of a caregiver guide/manual, brochures, posters and public service announcements highlighting family caregiving; training for provider staff; establishing support groups for grandparents raising grandchildren; state promotion of caregiver fairs and the establishment of a statewide advisory committee.

For further information, contact Jan Costello, Communications Director at (217) 785-9020.

GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN: TITLE III-E SERVICES TO CAREGIVERS IN PEORIA, Illinois

Joanne Thomas
Executive Director
Central Illinois Agency on Aging

Over the past five years, Central Illinois Agency on Aging, in Peoria, Illinois has sponsored intergenerational services, particularly to grandparents raising grandchildren and other relatives as parents, using a combination of resources including support from the Brookdale Foundation of New York, the Illinois Department on Aging, and Bradley University as major contributors. Because many of these caregivers have multiple, intergenerational caregiving roles, the services have addressed varied needs and concerns for all age groups.

Support group speakers and topics have included family and child counselors who addressed individual and family issues; health professionals focusing on stress management, discipline, medical care, and immunizations; social workers who discussed grief and loss, guilt, overcoming feelings of hopelessness and self-esteem.

Other professionals have covered topics ranging from school issues and public aid to fetal alcohol syndrome and attention deficit disorder. Play therapy and support groups have also been offered just for children of caregivers. The children have an opportunity for therapeutic play, to do craft activities, and discuss feelings. The children's group has proven to be an important component for relative caregivers. It provides respite for both the child and the adult!

This year Title III-E opened up a new opportunity to serve caregivers in creative ways. Respite and transportation programs are being piloted through faith communities as a means to capitalize upon the volunteer base of congregations typically comprised of seniors as well as the ability to identify senior caregivers.

By keeping the services focused upon needs experienced by a variety of caregivers, Central Illinois Agency on Aging, Inc., expects that kinship care will find its place at the table right along with caring for persons with Alzheimer's and dementia, disabled adult children, individuals in hospice, and other older care recipients. Indeed, grandparents raising grandchildren are playing an active role in "The Caring Connection," a network of service providers assisting Central Illinois Agency on Aging, Inc., to develop and implement the Family Caregiver Support Program.

Generations United and the Brookdale Foundation Collaborate on KinNET

Generations United received a grant from the Children's Bureau

of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to establish KinNET, a national network of support groups for relatives caring for kin in the formal foster care system. The format for KinNET's support groups is based on the Relatives As Parents Program, a network of support groups and services for relatives raising children *outside* the formal foster care system.

KinNet Update

Donna M. Rawls
KinNet Coordinator
Generations United

Generations United (GU) is the national membership organization focused solely on promoting intergenerational strategies, programs, and public policies. Over a three-year period, twenty mini-grants of \$10,000 will be available to organizations to establish support groups. The first ten grants were awarded in February 2001. Request For Proposals (RFP) for the additional ten grants will be announced this fall.

KinNET represents a very unique opportunity as it marks the first time the federal government has offered a grant to establish such a network. GU is partnering with the Brookdale Foundation Group. This partnership maximizes the resources and services that are available to both networks.

For several years, GU has maintained a collaborative relationship with the Brookdale Foundation on other projects. Through this current collaboration, the format for KinNET's support groups is based on the structure of the RAPP network. KinNET also hosted its orientation and training, June 1-3, in conjunction with

Brookdale's annual RAPP conference. In addition, one of KinNET's objectives is to reach kin caregivers through existing support groups. Through a survey, RAPP sites that have a majority of group participants involved in the formal system or who are at risk of entering into the formal foster care system were identified. From that process, 12 RAPP sites were invited and are currently participating in the KinNET project. These sites are not receiving any additional funding, however, they have access to all the technical assistance KinNET offers.

KinNET currently provides a variety of technical assistance to the network. GU now has a web page dedicated to KinNET, which includes a section available to the general public and a secured section available to network members only. The public section contains support group resources and a listing of the KinNET sites, in addition to other information. The secured section contains a chat room, which hosted its first expert chat on June 25. The chat featured Dr. Lenora Poe of the WestCoast Children's Center. Dr. Poe discussed and answered questions about the mental health needs of relative caregivers. The secured section also includes a bulletin board, where members can post information of interest to other members, and an on-line survey that is part of KinNET's best practice study.

Many elements make this project unique, but one of the most exciting aspects is a best practice study. KinNET is fortunate enough to be working closely with a team of professors from Syracuse University who are evaluating the network of support groups and determining what would be suitable

for replication. This study represents a monumental step in the field of kinship care, as there are currently no studies concerning support groups for relatives caring for kin in foster care. The evaluators have developed an on-line survey that asks members confidential information. The data collected from the survey, along with other information, will eventually be used to identify exemplary models suitable for replication.

For more information about KinNET, visit GU's website at <http://www.gu.org> or contact Donna Rawls, KinNET Coordinator, at drawls@gu.org or 202-638-1263.

The Tennessee Relative Caregiver Program

The Tennessee Department of Children's Services [DCS] has developed an innovative approach to kinship care in the past year, which utilizes up to \$4 million of TANF funds over two years. Using the model of community collaboration and integrated services developed by the RAPP initiative and the Edgewood Center in California, DCS has contracted with three community-based agencies to provide services in 16 counties as part of a pilot project. The three agencies are Family and Children's Services in Nashville, the University of Tennessee Boling Center for Developmental Disabilities in Memphis, and the Upper Cumberland Development District in Cookeville.

The idea underlying the project include the recognition that, in order to develop stable and permanent placements for children and – in some cases – to prevent

children from entering the foster care system, the needs of the family, as a whole, must be met. This includes, but is not limited to, the provision of financial support for support groups for caregivers, therapeutic activity groups for children, recreational activities for relative caregivers and children, respite care, child care, family and individual counseling, education and training, information and referral, case management, meeting the “concrete” needs of the family (i.e., beds, clothing, school books), and mediation and family conferencing.

There are many factors that suggest that this holistic approach to services is advisable. One factor, for example, is the percentage of children with special needs. 23% of school-age children involved in Tennessee’s Relative Caregiver Program are in special education. These children require extra attention to be successful, and their caregivers require support to offset the additional stresses they face.

The following is a list of priorities identified by caregivers (percentages indicate the number of caregivers who need these services either sometimes, often, very often, or always):

1. Money to buy necessities and pay bills 85.5%
2. Time to do fun things with the family 80.6%
3. Help getting furniture, clothes, toys 77.4%
4. Someone to talk to about the children 75.8%
5. Respite care 75.8%
6. Special services for children such as counseling, special education, and vocational training 66.1%

Clearly, caregivers rank financial assistance highly, but identify other important needs that must be met.

Because of legislative and regulatory restrictions and the time limit on the pilot project, DCS scaled back its plan to provide ongoing financial assistance to families and instead is offering financial aid for up to four months of the year. One advantage of this amended approach is that there is no specific ceiling on the amount of aid offered. However, the issue is expected to be reviewed at a “Summit” planned by DCS for the Fall of 2001, which will include professionals, agencies and relative caregivers from around the state.

The expected use of TANF funds in these and other states are helping to change the boundaries of what services can be provided through the use of these funds.

This package of services can address some of the emotional and developmental issues faced by families. In addition, as more families exit the formal foster care system, there may be community services available to help maintain their long-term stability.

For more information about the Tennessee RCP or to request a copy of the first implementation report, call Elizabeth Black, Director of the Relative Caregiver Program at (615) 532-5636.

The New York City Grandparent Resource Center Rolanda Pyle, Director

The New York City Department for the Aging explored the many issues faced by grandparents raising grandchildren in its first Mayoral Conference, “Grandparents Raising

Grandchildren” in September 1993. The Department’s Grandparent Resource Center (GRC) was initiated soon after in 1994.

In the seven years since its inception, the Center has reached out to countless seniors who are raising grandchildren and who need services to help them succeed with this new role. Grandparents who call the Center’s hotline speak to a resource specialist who helps them with issues such as financial entitlements, health benefits, legal referrals, respite services, emotional support and emergency assistance. The specialist also helps grandparents negotiate aging, child welfare, educational, legal and social service systems, as well as obtain targeted services for children who need counseling or have special needs.

In order to make help more immediate, grandparents are always referred to community-based services.

The Center continuously updates resource and referral information for grandparent caregivers and offers a resource directory, which provides information on agencies with services tailored to grandparent families and a support group guide, which lists grandparent support groups throughout New York City.



The GRC has also implemented the following initiatives:

- Technical assistance to meet the needs of community-based agencies who seek direction and information about how to best serve grandparents. Hundreds of professionals have been trained over the last six years at a technical assistance workshop, "How to Start a Grandparent Support Group," a nuts and bolts training with topics such as selecting a meeting site, open versus closed membership meetings, how to publicize the group, self help, group dynamics, outreach techniques and keeping the group focused.

- A Grandparent Support Group Facilitator's Network, which meets bi-monthly and through which group leaders receive training and exchange ideas and information. Training has included such topics as group work skills, emotional needs of grandparents, legal entitlements and mutual self-help in support groups.

- A workshop curriculum for grandparent caregivers, which was formulated with the assistance and input of a very involved Grandparent Advisory Board. The curriculum, "Grandparent Raising Grandchildren: A Series of Workshops to Help You COPE," includes workshops on negotiating bureaucratic systems, child discipline and behavior issues, and coping with the biological parent.

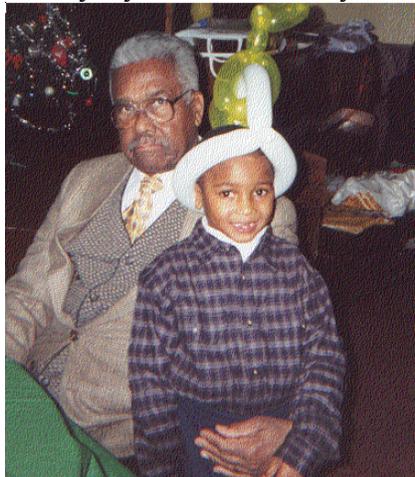
- A second workshop curriculum, "Grandparents Raising Grandchildren: More Help for You and Your Family," which includes workshops on kinship foster care, staying healthy, transitions: grandchildren on their own or moving back with their biological

parents and relationships with family and friends.

- Grandparent Information Forums throughout the five New York City boroughs. These forums, hosted by community-based organizations (schools, daycare centers, medical centers, etc.) provide information on legal issues, entitlements, kinship foster care, health care and other relevant topics to caregivers.

- Coalitions of support groups in each borough to actively plan and conduct activities for grandparents and their families.

- Recreational activities including trips to the circus, summer picnics, baseball games, Off-Broadway plays, day cruises, and an annual holiday toy drive which last year



provided more than 500 toys and books for grandchildren during the Christmas season.

- Drafted legislation to convey to grandparents and other relative caregivers the authority to consent to medical services for grandchildren and to participate in school-based activities. This legislation is pending.

- Collaborations with the State University at Albany to examine the needs of grandparents caring for children with developmental disabilities and delays; with Fordham University and the Administration for Children's Services examining elder abuse in the homes of grandparent caregivers; and with the Beth Israel Hospital Center to provide on-site comprehensive medical care to grandparents and the children they are raising.

The GRC has sponsored three citywide conferences for grandparents and professionals and another conference, co-sponsored by the New York City KinCare Task Force, will be held on October 24, 2001 in New York City.

In 1997, the Center was the semifinalist for an "Innovations in American Government" Award, a program of the Ford Foundation and the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

Our goal of providing services to grandparents has expanded to include the provision of support services and training to support group facilitators. We look forward to additional collaborations in an effort to meet the needs of relative caregivers.

Resource Centers are an important trend for provision of services to relative caregivers. Up to ten percent of the funds under Title III-E of the National Family Caregiver Support Program can be used for support services to grandparent/relative caregivers. One state, Michigan, requires each Area Agency on Aging to develop one Caregiver Resource Center as part of its plan.

For more information about the GRC's activities, contact Rolanda Pyle, New York City Department for the Aging, (212) 442-1094.

Over 20 Percent Of Children In Kinship Care Face Multiple Social and Economic Risks

Ariana Baseman
Communications Associate
Urban Institute

According to "**Children Cared for by Relatives: Who Are They and How Are They Faring?**" a new report by The Urban Institute's *Assessing the New Federalism* project, twenty-two percent of the children who live with relatives instead of their parents face multiple risks associated with poor outcomes for children.

"States are increasingly turning to relatives to care for abused and neglected children – in part because of the benefits of keeping a child connected to his or her family when a parent can no longer parent," explains study co-author and Urban Institute child welfare expert Rob Geen. "Child Welfare administrators should make sure kinship caregivers get what they need to care for these vulnerable kids—such as adequate training, access to benefits for which they are eligible and better support services."

Relatively few children in kinship care receive cash assistance, food stamps, and health insurance benefits, despite their eligibility. In 1996, only 28 percent of all kin children lived in families receiving Aid to Families with Dependent Children payments to which they were entitled. Twenty-nine percent of the children were uninsured at some point in 1997, even though all were eligible for Medicaid.

Use of food stamps by kinship care families was comparable to the general population. Jennifer Ehrle, Rob Geen, and Rebecca Clark wrote the report, which provides the first estimate of the number of children living in three different types of non-parental relative or kinship care arrangements.

The report documents their exposure to risks associated with poor outcomes for children: living in a household with four or more children; or having a caretaker who is not married. Children who live in families with multiple risk factors may be more likely to experience emotional and school problems, according to previous research. The report also shows whether kinship caregivers receive benefits and services that could lessen the impact of some risk factors. The research is based on data from the 1997 National Survey of America's Families, a nationally representative household survey of people under age 65 that over samples the low-income population.

For a copy of **Children Cared for by Relatives: Who Are They and How Are They Faring?** contact Bonnie Nowak at bnowak@ui.urban.org or (202) 261-5850.

More AARP Partnering Opportunities

Margaret Hollidge
Director, AARP Grandparent
Information Center

By the end of 2001, AARP will have offices in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. These offices will carry out AARP's work at the state level, and some of the larger states will have more than one office.

In 2001, thirty-eight states are involved in various AARP grandparent activities. Many state offices sponsored sites for the **Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Satellite Videoconference** in February of this year.

Some states will focus broadly on fun events celebrating the grandparent-grandchild relationship – a few examples include Baseball Day (Colorado), an elementary-school essay contest (Hawaii and North Dakota), and special church services for Grandparents Day (South Dakota). Other states are working specifically on the issues facing grandparents raising grandchildren—among them an appreciation dinner (Missouri), a statewide celebration for grandparents raising grandchildren (Texas), a PBS television panel show (Utah), participation in a state task force (North Carolina), and helping to fund a statewide summit on kinship care (Tennessee).

Wherever your group is located, I encourage you to explore a relationship with your AARP state office. Collaboration and partnership among groups with an interest in grandparents could bring about positive changes for grandparents raising grandchildren in your state.

To find your AARP state office, check our Website at: www.aarp.org/statepages or look in your telephone book.

Exciting Work by Cooperative State Extension Services

Cooperative Extensions are increasingly becoming leaders in the provision of education and other services to relative caregiver families on both a national, state

and local level. State personnel and local staff specialize in providing specific services in the areas of Human Development, Financial Management, Nutrition Education, Food Safety, Housing and Aging.

Various initiatives have been developed by Cooperative Extensions across the nation to meet the needs of relative caregivers. The services provided range from collaborations/partnerships that help communities address state and local needs; program development; the establishment and facilitation of support groups; involvement in and access to research findings; publishing newsletters, pamphlets and creating web sites; providing parenting skills classes; development and publication of resource guides and educational programs; development of curricula which focus on the needs of grandparent and relative caregivers, and participation and sponsorship of national conferences.

The articles that follow highlight how Cooperative Extensions have collaborated with other RAPPs in an effort to address the needs of caregivers. RAPPs can benefit from mutually beneficial collaborations with the Cooperative Extensions in their areas on both the state and local levels.

**The Purdue University
Cooperative Extension Service
and the Indiana Bureau of
Aging and In-Home Services**

Dena Targ
Human Development Specialist
Purdue Cooperative Extension

The Indiana Bureau of Aging and In-Home Services and the Purdue University Cooperative Extension

Service have been partners in a variety of ways to strengthen the information and support available to relatives acting as parents since the awarding of a State RAPP grant. Highlights are:

The 1999 and 2000 Indiana Governor's Conferences on Aging and In-Home Services each included a one-day, four-session track on relatives as parents. Purdue Extension and the Indiana Bureau of Aging and In-Home Services coordinated these tracks. The programs provided information to professionals, grandparents and other interested individuals. They included an overview of the issues, voices of relatives, answers to legal, financial and policy questions, suggestions for coping with stress, grief and depression, important aspects of support groups, and ways in which Indiana is addressing the issue.

The most recent initiative are the RAPP Workshops, which were initiated for State Employee Relative Caregivers on May 16, 2001. The lunchtime workshops were sponsored by the Indiana Family Social Services Administration, the Bureau of Aging and In-Home Services and the Purdue Extension and were Workshops were facilitated by Purdue Extension staff. Promotion included an article in the State Employee Newsletter, e-mail messages to employees, an announcement on the state website, as well as posters and flyers in the Indiana Government Complex. Most attendees work in downtown Indianapolis where the workshops were held.

Attendees asked that the workshops be continued. Due to that interest, a six-part Relative As Parents Workshop

Series for State Employee Relative Caregivers has been scheduled for 2001-2002. The format will include a 45-minute presentation followed by questions, answers and discussion.

For more information about what the Purdue Extension offers, contact Dena Targ, at (765) 494-2937 or visit their website at: <http://www.reeusda.gov/1700/statepartners/usa.htm>

For information about what Extension offers in a particular state, click on the map of the United States.

**Virginia Department for the
Aging Works with Virginia
Cooperative Extension Service
on the Brookdale RAPP Grant**

Ellen Nau, RAPP Coordinator
Virginia Department for the Aging

The Virginia Department for the Aging developed a partnership with the Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) when the Department applied for a Brookdale grant to establish a 2001 Kinship Care Initiative in Virginia. VCE is a cooperative service of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech) and Virginia State University. It is part of the National Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service under the United States Department of Agriculture.

As a partner with the Virginia Department for the Aging, VCE agreed to conduct workshops on kinship care. Two local extension service sites wanted to develop grandparent support groups. This initiative has developed into an expanded and active working relationship on kinship care issues between the Virginia Department

on Aging and the Virginia Cooperative Extension.

VCE established support groups in two of its local offices utilizing funds that the Virginia Department on Aging received under the Relatives As Parents Program grant. They conducted workshops on kinship care issues throughout Virginia. Virginia Department for the Aging staff attended a satellite conference, *Families – Virginia's First Industry*, sponsored by the Extension Service. Extension members are vital members of the Kinship Care Statewide Task Force and Information Network established by the Virginia Department for the Aging. A professor from Virginia Tech will be lending her expertise to a panel on kinship care at the Governor's Conference on Aging to be held in October, 2001.

Long involved in family support services, Virginia Cooperative Extension developed a curriculum entitled **Grandparents Raising Grandchildren: Rights and Responsibilities** that was made available to the Kinship Care Initiative. In turn, Virginia's Department on Aging recently revised **Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, A Resource Guide**, which will be available for use by the Virginia Cooperative Extension and communities across the state.

The Virginia Department for the Aging will continue their collaborative efforts with the Virginia Cooperative Extension, a mutually beneficial partnership in dealing with kinship care issues.

For additional information, contact Ellen Nau, (804) 662-9340

Cooperative Extensions Educate and Serve Relative Caregiver Families

For the past several years, the Cornell Cooperative Extension system in New York State has assisted grandparent and relative caregivers in various counties around New York State and conducted specific programs for relative caregivers. Three Cornell Cooperative Extension Counties - Broome, Orange and Ontario – are involved in the development and pilot of a new six workshop series authored by retired Senior Extension Associate, Jennifer Birckmayer, of the Department of Human Development at Cornell University College of Human Ecology. The manual, "**Parenting The Second Time Around**," is designed for people who wish to lead workshops for grandparents and other relative caregivers who are in a parenting role with their grandchildren. It contains outlines for six workshops, handouts and supplementary materials for support group leaders. Each workshop is estimated to take an hour and a half. The manual is targeted for publication and distribution in the spring 2002.

Cooperative Extension of Orange County continues to collaborate with a number of local agencies and schools to offer four support groups (two with youth programs), most of who meet on a monthly basis. A summer picnic and winter holiday party is held each year for all RAPP families, along with other special events in collaboration with the Orange County Office for the Aging, Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Orange County, Crystal Run Village, Adult Daycare Service, Orange County Community College, the Monroe-

Woodbury School District and the Dispute Resolution Center. The "**Relatives as Parent Program Guide to Supportive Services**" was developed in Orange County and is available for free to any relative caregiver family

The Cooperative Extension of Broome County also has a support group and have written a curriculum on grandparents raising grandchildren with developmental disabilities.

The Cooperative Extension of Ontario County has assisted grandparent/ relative caregivers since 1991 and Ontario's group, *Second Time Around Parents*, will celebrate its tenth year this fall.

For more information about the Cornell Cooperative Extensions mentioned above, please contact Isabelle D. Jensen – Ontario County, (716) 394-3977, Denyse Altman Variano - Orange County and Jan Dennis Cohen, Broome County at (607)772-8953, ext. 122.

The National Satellite Program Grandparents Raising Grandchildren: Legal and Policy Issues – An Update

The national satellite program, Grandparents Raising Grandchildren: Legal and Policy Issues, sponsored by Cooperative Extension Services, took place on February 27, 2001 and was viewed at 251 sites in 45 states, one in Washington, D.C., and one site in Canada by over 3,100 individuals.

Evaluation data collected shows the following:

- 91% of the 2,203 participants rated the program as excellent or good;

- 94% of the participants reported that they planned to use the information from the program;

- 69% said they would access the resources introduced at the program;

- 44% said that they would explore how their organizations can help bring about needed changes in state laws and public policies; and

- 75% of the participants reported an increased understanding of how laws and public policies impact caregivers and their awareness of state and local policies/programs that can be developed to assist relatives.

Several site facilitators have shared examples of how they are working with others in their states or communities to change local and state policies and laws. Some states have reported that new legislation or policies are being introduced and, in some instances, passed.

Future plans include summarizing the pages of comments from participant evaluations and sharing the impact of the satellite program with others.

In addition, conference sponsors are still working on providing answers to the questions received during the program and plan to have them on the website soon.

A follow-up evaluation will also be sent to participants to learn how they have used the information from the satellite program.

Evaluation data from the satellite program can be found at:
<http://www.luwex.edu/ccs/llp/grg/evaluate/reports/nationalimpact>.

If your agency sponsored a site and you would like to share your success stories or if you would like more information on the conference, contact Mary Brintnall-Peterson at (608) 262-8083 or Dena Targ at (765) 494-2937, National Co-Chairs.

2001 RAPP GROUPS

The following programs were the recipients of Brookdale's Local and State Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP) seed grants for 2001:

LOCAL PROGRAMS:

- Lowry Family Center, Denver CO
- Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center, Waianae, Hawaii
- Family Service Agency, Cedar Rapids, Iowa
- Muscatine Community Y, Muscatine, Iowa
- The Extra Mile, Region IV, Inc. Lafayette, Louisiana
- Jackson County Department on Aging, Michigan
- Petal Association for Families Petal, Mississippi
- Families First of Greater Seacoast Portsmouth, New Hampshire
- Boys and Girls Harbor, Inc. New York, NY
- Chisholm Trail Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, Inc. Denton, Texas
- Area Agency on Aging of Tarrant County Fort Worth, Texas
- Family Services of Roanoke Valley, Roanoke Virginia
- Catholic Charities of Hampton Roads, Inc., Virginia Beach, VA

- University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee, Wisconsin

STATE PROGRAMS:

- Kansas Department on Aging
- Tennessee Department of Children's Services
- Wyoming Department of Family Services

For a full list of RAPP grantees, contact the Brookdale Foundation.

FUNDING ALERT

The Brookdale Foundation will initiate another round of its Local and State Relatives as Parents Program [RAPP] seed grant funding initiative with the announcement of the 2001 Request for Proposals (RFP).

Recipients of this newsletter will automatically be sent an announcement of the RFP. Other organizations that would like to be added to our mailing list should send a request, on Agency letterhead, to the Brookdale Foundation Office if they want to be notified of the publication of the RFP on agency letterhead.

The RFP application and guidelines will be available for downloading from the Foundation's Web Site at: <http://www.ewol.com/Brookdale> in October, 2001.

NEW RESOURCES

The **University of Illinois Extension Family Life Team** has developed a series of brochures for grandparents raising grandchildren:

*Time For You Is Important;
When a Child Has Experienced
Neglect or Abuse;*

Communication is Important; Helping Your Grandchildren Do Well In School; and Child Care Issues

The set of six brochures is available for \$2 per set plus shipping and handling and can be ordered by calling 1-(800) 345-6987. Individual brochures are available in packets of 25 for \$8 per packet plus shipping and handling. **The brochures are also available in Spanish.**

AARP RESOURCES

The Effect of State TANF Choices on Grandparent-Headed Households, by Faith Mullen and Monique Einhorn is available from AARP. This excellent resource discusses TANF time limits, work requirements and child support enforcement rules that affect grandparent –headed households. Contact AARP, 601 E Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20049, (202) 434-2296 or www.aarp.org

AARP's Grief and Loss Programs offer a number of services for those who have lost a parent, a sibling, an adult child, a friend or co-worker or for those who have been recently widowed. Services include interactive, online support groups, a web site and other activities as well as the following publications:

Understanding the Grief Process (D16832);
Coping with Celebration Days (D16830),

These online services are found at www.aarp.org/griefandloss.

The Grandparent Information Center of AARP has a new website specifically for grandparents which has all of AARP's resources for grandparents in one place. This

website can be found at www.aarp.org/grandparents.

GENERATIONS UNITED

Best Practices Report to the Center for Mental Health Services: Behavioral Health Models for Relative Caregivers and the Children They Raise, edited by Maggie Troope, Project Coordinator, Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children. is now available from Generations United and can be downloaded free of charge or, for a small fee, call for a copy at (202) 638-1263.

Three fact sheets on grandparents and other relative caregivers are available free of charge from Generations United. The first is on general demographics, statistics and background; the second is on access to education and the third is on Subsidized Guardianships. All can be accessed at www.gu.org/factsheets.htm or call Generations United at: (202) 638-1263.

“Generations United Public Policy Agenda for the 107th Congress” is available for a small fee or can be accessed from the Generations United website at: www.gu.org

“Intergenerational Aspects of the Older Americans Act” is a fact sheet that includes information on the National Family Caregiver Support Act. It is available online at www.gu.org/factsheets.htm or can be mailed, free of charge, upon request.

Many of Generations United resources are free of charge, but call for ordering information, (202) 638-1263.

The following two charts are available from AARP or Generations United:

“In the Best Interest of the Child/ Caregiving: State Laws and Regulations Affecting Grandparent and Other Relative-Headed Families” and “In the Best Interest of the Child: State Laws and Regulations Affecting Grandparent Visitation.”

Both are available from AARP, www.aarp.org, (202) 434-2296 or Generations United, www.gu.org, (202) 638-1263 at no charge.

The Cost of Protecting Vulnerable Children II: What Has Changed since 1996? by Roscana Bess, Jacob Leos-Urbel and Rob Geen, available from the Urban Institute; **and Welfare Reform's Effect on Child Welfare Case Loads**, by Rob Geen, Lynn Fender and Jacob Leos-Urbel of the Urban Institute and Teresa Markowitz, of On the Mark, Inc. are available from the Urban Institute. Contact Ariana Baseman, Communications Associate, (202) 261-5410 or Abaseman@ui.urban.org

Standby Guardian Laws: A Guide for Legislators, Lawyers, and Child Welfare Professionals, by J. Larson. Published in 2000 and available from the ABA Center for Children and the Law, 740 15th Street, N.W., DC 20005; (202) 662-1746, for \$10. This guide describes, compares and analyzes the standby guardianship laws in 18 states. Useful for those states that do not have standby guardianship laws and may be considering them. This publication and two others (a guide and training curriculum for social workers) can also be downloaded free of charge from the

ABA's website:

www.abanet.org/child

Grandparents as Carers of Children with Disabilities: Facing the Challenges, is a special edition of the Journal of Gerontological Social Work, Vol. 33, No. 3, edited by Philip McCallion and Matthew Janicki. This is the first comprehensive consideration of the unique needs and experiences of grandparents caring for children with developmental disabilities. It can be ordered from Haworth Press by calling (800) HAWORTH, for \$24.95.

How to Conduct a Workshop for the Bereaved: A Leader's Manual, by R. Temes, provides practicing clinicians with easy-to-follow, adaptable and explicit guidelines on conducting workshops for the bereaved. Several interventions and techniques that are helpful in supporting diverse individuals and groups are presented. Published in 1999 by Learning Publications, Inc., P.O. Box 1338, Dep. DC95, Holmes Beach, FL 34218-1338; (800) 222-1525, for \$6.95.

Conference Alert

AoA Conference for the National Family Caregiver Support Program:
"From Enactment to Action"
September 5-7, 2001
Washington, D.C.

The Rosalyn Carter Institute is offering two caregiving training programs immediately prior to the AoA Conference on the NFCSP:

Caring & Competent Caregivers:
Professionals Helping Families
and
Caring for You, Caring for Me: Education & Support Program

For more information on the AoA Conference visit their website:

www.AoA.gov. For more information on the above trainings visit: rci.gsw.edu or call (229) 339-1224

Elder Law Attorney, Summer 2000: Vol. 10, No. 3, published by the New York Bar Association, focuses on grandparents raising grandchildren and grandparents' rights. A series of seven articles covers extensive material. It is available by calling the NYS Bar Association at (518) 463-3200.

The Brookdale Foundation Group
126 East 56th Street, 10th Floor
New York, NY 10022