THE BROOKDALE FOUNDATION MOURNS THE PASSING OF JANET SAINER

As all of you know, we lost Janet on June 4, 2007. Many of you had the privilege of meeting her and a few of you had the wonderful opportunity to talk to her at the RAPP conference on Friday, June 2nd.

The issue of relatives as caregivers came to Janet’s attention on a visit to a day care center in Brooklyn. She remembered seeing a lot of grandparents and grandchildren and asked the person in charge what they were doing there. Learning that there were a great deal of grandparents and other relative caregivers caring for children, she spoke to the Foundation, who, supported the issue and, in 1996, created the Relatives As Parents Program (RAPP) Initiative. We had the privilege of working with Janet for the past 17 years, on RAPP and on behalf of elders and families in the US and beyond. Janet touched many lives. Her lifelong energy and passion for improving the lives of elders know her, work with her, be mentored by her and continue the wonderful work she began. Our thoughts and prayers are with Janet’s family, who we thank for sharing her with us!

THE RAPP NATIONAL ORIENTATION AND TRAINING CONFERENCE

The 2007 RAPP National Orientation and Training Conference was held June 1st – June 3rd in Denver, Colorado. We were thrilled that Janet was able to join us and that quite a few RAPPs had the opportunity to speak to Janet on Friday night.

Our Friday night plenary, “Chicken Soup for the Soul: Relatives as Parents,” featured author LeAnn Thieman, who shared with us her experience as a caregiver and encouraged us to take care of ourselves, to ask for our “juice,” and thanked participants for all they do on behalf of relative caregivers.

The Saturday afternoon plenary, “Young Caregivers in the United States: Findings from a National Study,” with Gail Gibson Hunt, President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Alliance for Caregiving, reminded us that there is a population of children who are currently

In Loving Memory of Janet Sainer

Janet at the Brookdale Foundation RAPP Conference, June, 2007
Picture by Victor Biggs
acting as primary caregivers of their grandparents or other relatives. The RAPP Network is challenged to look within their agencies and programs and identify these young people and assist them by, among other things, providing them with respite opportunities, connecting them to mental health services and ensuring that their special needs are addressed (If you have identified young caregivers in your groups, please send us an email and let us know!).

The conference ended on Sunday with brainstorming sessions for local and state programs, followed by a plenary, “Meth and Child Welfare: Promising Solutions for Children, their Parents and Grandparents,” with Mary Bissell, Partner of Child Focus Inc., MD. The report that was the basis of the plenary and that was distributed to RAPPs and is also available online on Generation United’s website: http://ipath.gu.org/documents/2010/Meth_Child_Welfare_Final_cover.pdf

In addition to the plenary sessions, our Orientation session for 2007 grantees and our brainstorming sessions, the conference featured 27 workshops on the issues faced by relative caregivers and the advocates that serve them.

We added a new, but not mandatory, state track for our State RAPP grantees with topics to help them meet their State RAPP goals. The workshops were very well received and will be repeated at our future conferences.

Caroline Crocoll, the Extension Leader for the USDA, led a special workshop just for our Cooperative Extension RAPPs. They enjoyed one-on-one time with their National Leader and discussed the development of resources for relative caregivers.

A big “thank you!” to all of our presenters, most of whom were your fellow RAPPs, for taking the time to share their expertise with you and making this year’s conference a success! Feel free to use your conference participant list to follow up with RAPP conference presenters and to stay connected to them in the months to come.

RAPP alumni interested in downloading available Power Point presentations, pictures and workshop handouts from this year’s conference can do so by visiting the RAPP private page!

NEW INITIATIVES

Families and Children Together, Maine, created a film, in partnership with Catama Film Productions. The film, “Maine Grandfamilies,” is 25 minutes long and is focused on grandparents, aunts, uncles and children talking about the challenges and joys of being a grandfamily. The film highlights that relative caregivers are not alone. It is also a great resource for professionals because it helps them to better understand the challenges faced by grandfamilies. For more information on the film or for purchasing information, visit www.mainekids-kin.org or contact Barbara Kates at bkates@kinshipconnection.org

Region IV Area Agency on Aging matched sixteen children of prisoners, cared for by relatives, with Foster Grandparents this school year.

The University of Arizona Coconino County Cooperative Extension will be working with the University of Arizona on a research project to identify factors that cause a relative caregiver to say “no” when asked to care for a relative child.

Pinebelt Association for Families, (PAFF), MS, is holding senior aquatic classes for grandparents through the South Central Regional Medical Wellness Center. Caregivers will participate in classes twice a week for an hour. PAFF will integrate health lifestyle classes as well!

Family Services Society, Inc., IN, collaborated with a local deputy prosecutor and a family law attorney who presented at the RAPP meetings on family law and general legal issues.

Supportive Older Women’s Network (SOWN), PA has a drop-in group for relative caregivers that allow caregivers
to “drop-in” on a meeting for grandparents according to their own schedules. It has been going well and SOWN has just added another initiative: Child Care Service. In collaboration with Temple Intergenerational Center Family Friends Program, SOWN is able to provide child care for grandparents attending this group by trained volunteers from Temple. The care is provided in a separate space near the grandparent meeting room at SOWN in a room equipped with a child’s table, toys and books.

The provision of child care has enabled caregivers to come to the drop-in group who would otherwise not be able to join.

**Catholic Charities Community Services, Inc. in collaboration with Prescott Unified School District, AZ** will be conducting a training on “Parents Raising Safe Kids.”

**RAPP Events**

The Marion County Public Library, Florida held a staff training workshop, “Art with Heart.” Community partners from eleven partner agencies, such as the Department of Children and Families, the Department of Children and Families, Success by 6, Childhood Development Services, the Early Learning Coalition, Headstart and United Way attended.

**Dunbar Association, NY** collaborated with LeMonye College medical students on an intergenerational project. The students conducted a “Seniors Ball” with youth and grandparents. The youth escorted, danced and shared finger food with seniors. Dunbar’s youth services, “Each one, teach one,” helped seniors by shoveling their driveways during winter the months.

**The University of Maine Center on Aging** held an online forum and chat for caregivers. They compiled a list of themes that can be found in the box on this page.

**Kids Central, Florida** partnered with **Western Michigan University’s Dr. Andrea Smith and Dr. Linda Dannison** to host an all day training on how to conduct support groups for relatives and children. At this “train the trainer” session, members of all of Kids Central’s contracted providers, from a five county area, -

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**The University of Maine Center on Aging**

**Themes and Concerns Raised by Grandfamilies**

- Adjusting to changes brought about by having children in the home again and by the loss of the role of being a “grandparent” (or Aunt or Uncle, etc.).
- Maintaining or strengthening a relationship as a couple when children have so many needs;
- Helping the children have realistic expectations about contact/reunification with their birth parents and what to say if they don’t;
- Managing the relationship with the grandparent’s own adult children, often when substance abuse, mental health issues, incarceration or child neglect are involved;
- Feelings of loyalty and betrayal between children, grandchildren and other family members;
- Managing uncertainty when living arrangements are not permanent and coping with the stress of having the children come in and out of the home;
- Working with professional “helpers” – how to find them and what to do if you are not receiving the services you need;
- Finding and accepting sources of support;
- Discussing needs and concerns specific to different age groups (such as attachment issues in young children, AD/HD in school age kids and rebellious behavior in teenagers);
- Discussion about specific diagnoses such as depression or post-traumatic stress disorder;
- Locating and using resources for day care, respite, health are, counseling and other needs;
- Inexpensive ideas for recreation and family time; and
- Feelings of loss
including community providers and local libraries, were invited to attend the training. 18 professionals joined them for the training.

Kids Central also hosted a workshop for school Superintendents and Administrators to educate them on relative caregiving and a conference, to address the needs of those who serve relative caregivers and the caregivers themselves! The two day educational program, was designed on day one for professionals, with the goal of making them aware of the unique challenges faced by those who serve relative caregivers and the tools they can use to better serve the population and day two was for the caregivers themselves. They were educated on the tools and resources available to them through workshops that addressed their emotional, legal, financial and other challenges.

Tennessee’s McMinnville Warren County Senior Center’s RAPP and the Sunny Adult Day Care and Faith in Action Program hosted their 4th Annual Caregiver Town Hall Meeting. 120 caregivers (grandparents raising grandchildren, spouses and siblings) attended. Nancy Pease, Executive Director on Aging & Disabilities, also attended. Day care was provided and a traditional Thanksgiving dinner was prepared for all the caregivers, their families and guests. Speakers included a grandmother, a mother caring for her father and a wife caring for her husband. A poem was read by a granddaughter being raised by her grandparents.

Twenty-four grandparents from Pinebelt Association for Families, MS received a $50 Wal-Mart gift card to shop for healthy foods together. Only high protein, non-processed items could be purchased, including fruits, vegetables, meats, cheese, eggs, plain yogurts and cereals with less than seven grams of sugar. The RAPP program also teamed up with the School of Community Nursing at the University of Southern Mississippi to offer a Health Fair at the local YMCA. Grandparents received free blood sugar testing, blood pressure readings and physical assessments of strength and flexibility. The 90 participants also received nutritional information on healthy snacks.

In the spirit of giving, Pinebelt’s RAPP cooked a meal for the Laurel Housing Authority to thank them for allowing RAPP to use their community center to hold their support group meetings. RAPP cooked enough food to serve 93 disabled senior adults, living in senior housing, managed by the Laurel Housing Authority.

Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw, MI, had activities for both caregivers and the children in their care. The theme was “pets.” The fun event included a library outreach storyteller/musician, music, videos, singing, story reading and coloring. An intern made sure that the snacks reflected the pet theme. Goldfish crackers and animal crackers were included!

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Orange County, NY received a grant from the Orange County Youth Bureau to maintain the RAPP youth programs and a grant from Title III-E through the Orange County Office for the Aging to continue to serve relative caregivers 55 and over.

STATE AND LOCAL CONFERENCES

The Aging and Disability Services Administration, WA, participated in two Native American conferences. “Honoring Our Relations-Hope and Tips for Living,” sponsored by the Department of Social and Health Services Indian Policy and Advisory Council (IPAC), focused on educating youth, the health and safety of elders and intergenerational/kinship care issues. The conference was attended by tribal elders, program staff, administrators, managers, staff and other interested professionals. There were approximately 180 participants. Hilari Hauptman, our Washington State RAPP Coordinator, created the Kinship Care track, which included workshops on resources, benefits and services, legal options, child support
enforcement and kinship care, generational grief and storytelling by Linda Silvas! The second training, “Guiding and Protecting our Future Leaders- Grandparents and Relatives Raising Children in Indian Country,” was coordinated by Sharon Wolf, of the Tribal Outreach Program, Northwest Regional Council. Approximately 50 people, including grandparents and other relatives raising children, social workers, school staff and other professionals attended.

Catholic Charities Caregivers Support Services, New York held an educational workshop, “Successful Schooling.” Marty Anderson of the College Center at Albany High and Margaret King, a former teacher who taught for 28 years, were the presenters. Topics included college preparation, alternatives to college, encouraging children to do well in school and how to access academic help. While the relatives attended the workshops, the children were busy with the youth program coordinator. The topic of their meeting was “Commitment to Learning.” The children created “Sewing the Seeds of Learning” booklets!

STATE NEWS

The Illinois Department on Aging worked with Mid Illinois Senior Services and the Douglas County Regional Prevention Group to address the needs of Moultrie County, a small rural county in East Central Illinois that was experiencing a high number of arrests due to meth production. The children of the addicts were being placed with relatives upon their parent’s arrest. Nearly 200 grandparents are raising grandchildren in this county due to the production and use of Methamphetamines. A support group was formed to address the needs of these relative caregivers. As a result of the formation of this group, two other initiatives were started. First, since many of the caregivers did not have guardianship, a Guardianship Assistance Project was begun. Two attorneys represent relatives in contested or non-contested guardianships for a flat fee. Funding is available through the Illinois Department on Aging. Secondly, due to the support group’s continued involvement with the Douglas County Prevention Group and Drug Task Force, it became apparent that law enforcement personnel did not have the clothing needed to clothe children removed from home due to methamphetamine production. Hospitals would only allow the children in the emergency room after they had been decontaminated. This process often occurred in the driveways of their homes, with officers hosing children and then wrapping them in blankets and transporting them to the hospital. Working with law enforcement, the support group facilitator secured 400 back packs, stocked them with sterile wipes, blankets, hospital scrubs and resource information. The back packs are now distributed to law enforcement personnel and are used when children are removed from their homes when meth production is involved. A joint brochure, with the Illinois Department on Aging, the Chicago Department on Aging and the Department of Children and Family Services/Office of Inspector General is planned. The Chicago Task Force, composed of agencies and organizations, many from the Illinois Task Force, has recently formed to: advise the Chicago Department on Aging on priorities, strategies and issues to better serve the needs of grandparents and other relatives, aged 60 and older, who are raising grandchildren within the city of Chicago; advocate on all levels for legislation that will benefit grandparents and other relatives regardless of age; share successful programmatic initiatives, models and strategies for replication or expansion; improve the quality of life for relative caregiver families by providing information, assistance and access to resources; and to create a citywide network of service providers to share information and advocate collectively to benefit relative caregiver families!

The University of Wisconsin Extension has developed county specific stories with information about demographics of caregivers in different counties as well as a corresponding PowerPoint.
This information can be found at:
http://www.uwex.edu/ces/flp/demographics/grandparents.cfm. AARP and the University of Wisconsin-Extension also updated the GRAND resource guide. The guide is available at: http://www.uwex.edu/ces/flp/grandparent/grand.html.

The Montana State University (MSU) Extension has a RAPP Pilot Mental Health group. They have a variety of free publications available, including those on depression, stress and grief. Copies of these guides can be downloaded from the following links:

Depression: What You Should Know -
http://www.montana.edu/wwwpubs/mt200507.html
Dealing with Anger in Relationships –
http://www.montana.edu/wwwpubs/mt200004.html
Understanding Grief --
http://www.montana.edu/wwwpubs/mt200402.html
Stress Busters --
http://www.montana.edu/wwwpubs/mt200106.html
Handling Challenging Times –
http://www.montana.edu/wwwpubs/mt200210.html

Transportation is a big issue for Montana grandparents, as public transportation is very limited. A new bus system started up this year, but it does not provide services in the evenings. To help the caregivers attend groups, Montana State University is providing gas vouchers for caregivers who need assistance.

COLLABORATIONS

The Grandparent Resource of the New York City Department for the Aging is collaborating with the New York City Department of Education to give presentations to parent coordinators in various school regions. So far three presentations have taken place and approximately 195 parent coordinators have learned about available services and resources for relative caregiver families.

The Jewish Association for Services to the Aging (JASA), New York has partnered with Mosholu Montefiore Community Center to offer services to adolescents in their RAPP program. Services available in the new Co-op City Teen center include counseling, tutoring, case management, anger management groups, support groups, and recreational activities for adolescents, ages 13 -18 years old.

Eastern Idaho Community Action Partnership, AAA partnered with Apple Athletics to offer free swim and safety classes to children cared for by relatives.

The University of Houston, TX is collaborating with various partners in the following ways:

- They are a member of state RAPP task force
- In collaboration with University of Houston Graduate College, graduate students are placed to assist with the RAPP;
- Collaborated with the University of Houston Optometry Clinic and all RAPP children were able to have their eyes examined
- Worked with an attorney to provide legal information to relative caregivers at the school RAPP site on how to access legal assistance, custody issues and the difference between Juvenile, Probate and Superior Court
- Worked with a local mental health organization to provide information on mental health issues like depression and grief at the RAPP school site;
- Working with the Director of 4H Extension Services to plan children’s activities during the summer months, including 4H Summer Camps, team building activities, leadership and community activities/projects including a wildlife activities trip to Tybee Island to learn about marsh land and marine and wildlife as well as an important goal for 4H: special projects that
allow youth to perform community services.

- Planning a back to school activity with a local organization, Family Connections. Book bags and supplies will be distributed to relative caregiver families in a program celebrating the caregiver families; and
- Worked with the Youth Development Coordinator of Public Health in the local district to address teens and sexuality.

Mercy Senior Care, GA, is collaborating with Chattooga County School System to reach out to relative caregivers. RAPP meetings are held at the school and personnel help by distributing fliers and calling caregivers to attend. They are also working with the Health department to promote RAPP and they assist by providing activities.

Syracuse Housing Authority, (SHA) NY, participated in the Head Start Family and Community Partnerships Recruitment Luncheon where they learned about Head Start activities and shared information about RAPP. They have also staffed a table on RAPP at a local conference. In collaboration with Dunbar Association, a fellow RAPP, collaborative meetings were held to address bullying and to provide groups with an opportunity to support each other. SHA will also be working with our new RAPP, Syracuse Jewish Family Services to provide free individual and family counseling to RAPP families. Finally, in collaboration with AARP Syracuse hosted a conference for relative caregivers!

Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw, (CSSW) MI, is collaborating with the Ann Arbor District Library to inform the public about issues affecting relative caregivers and by offering a bibliography for caregiver families. The library will also work with CSSW on intergenerational events with relative caregivers in the community. A goal is to establish a partnership with the local senior and community centers to offer support groups and/or have a resource library for relative caregivers.

Family Services Society, IN, has partnered with a County Deputy Prosecutor who distributes RAPP fliers to judges and family lawyers to help get the word out about RAPP. They are also working with school social workers to identify relative caregiver families and refer potential caregivers. The local Probation Department also helps by distributing information on RAPP.

The Children’s Service Society of Utah’s Grandfamilies Program is working closely with the Department for Children and Families to educate them on services available to relative caregivers. RAPP has been able to use the DCFS building to advertise their RAPP support group classes.

Child Crisis Center of El Paso, TX is working with school principals on their RAPP. These principals have provided space for meetings, snacks and copy supplies.

Cornell Cooperative Extension, NY was invited to present at the New York State Office of Disability and Temporary Assistance, who was having a training on the Child Only grant. Local caseworkers were informed about RAPP and the statewide RAPPs. The Orange County Department of Social Services has designated 4 caseworkers to work with non-parent caregiver cases! Their goal is to provide “wrap around” comprehensive services.

NEW FUNDING/RESOURCES

The Catholic Charities Kinship Program, CO, received funding from the Area Agency on Aging for the metropolitan Denver area, the Denver Regional Council of Governments. The additional funding will allow the program to increase staff and expand services to more counties in the Denver metro area. Great News!

The Mahube Community Council, MN was selected to participate in the Grandparent
Resource Site Project of Western Michigan University. Congratulations!

Catholic Charities Caregiver Support Services, Albany received a $500 donation from the Stewart Foundation to provide financial assistance to their youth. The contribution will help defray the costs of school photos, class trips, team membership fees, uniforms and school supplies!

Region IV Area Agency on Aging, MI received a $20,000 grant from Whirlpool Foundation to develop intergenerational programming for RAPP and the Community Action Agency awarded ten weatherization and home remodeling grants to kinship families!

Pinebelt Association for Families, MS, received a $2,500 Venture Grant from United Way of Pinebelt to enroll grandparents in a water aerobics class at the local hospital’s Wellness Community Center.

Area Agency on Aging, District #7, Inc, Ohio received a grant from Family and

Children’s First Council to assist with respite activities for caregivers and their children.

The University of Arizona Coconino County Cooperative Extension received $100 donation from the Munds Park Fire Department Auxiliary; $50 Walmart for two consecutive months; and a $5,000 research grant from the University of Arizona.

Syracuse Housing Authority received a $5,000 contract from the Onondaga County Department of Aging and Youth to continue the SHA RAPP program for this calendar year!

University of Houston Parent Education Project received a $10,000 grant from the local

Simmons Foundation for their RAPP program.

Mercy Senior Center, GA, searches the web for new resources; reaches out to local civic organizations like the Chattooga Optimist Club; and has continuous contact with their local representative to keep her informed on relative caregiver issues and to hear about her advocacy efforts in the Georgia Legislature.

McMinnville Warren County Senior Center, TN, received a donation of $275 from the Security Federal Savings Bank to buy books for their relative caregivers!

RAPP NEWS

Join us in welcoming the following new RAPP staff: Carrie Walker, the new group facilitator and Melissa McGinn the new Family Support Program Coordinator at the Greater Richmond SCAN RAPP; Deidra Mays, Senior Center Coordinator of Gainesville-Hall County Community Service Center; Holly Player with the Idaho
Commission on Aging; **Dan Campbell**, Program Director of Big Brother Big Sisters of Sun Coast; **Natalie Meade** of Big Brother Big Sisters of Central Maryland; **Craig Cooper**, of the Department for Aging and Independent Living, in Kentucky; **Charlene Smith**, Executive Director, Prevent Child Abuse Wyoming and **Kathleen McAllenan**, Cardinal Ritter Senior Services, Missouri. Last, but certainly not least, congratulations to Julie Rosenbluth and her husband on the birth of their beautiful baby girl, Annabelle Faye!

Welcome to the RAPP family!

**RAPP Network News**

Did you know?

RAPPs are asked to join the RAPP Network after completing their grant funds? In exchange for reporting three times a year, RAPPs benefit from invitations to the RAPP National Orientation and Training Conferences, site bulletins, web chats and technical assistance conference calls.

**The Foundation’s RAPP Resource Page**

To ensure that your fellow RAPPs and others who visit the Foundation website find out about materials your program has created, send an e-mail to us with the name of the publication, tip sheet, book, resource directory or other programmatic resources and we’ll put it on the RAPP Resource Page along with ordering information or a link to your website.

**Webchats**

The RAPP Private Page has transcripts of all of our RAPP webchats. A transcript of our last web chat, “AARP Foundation’s Benefits QuickLINK,” as well as a one page description of Benefits QuickLINK, is now available on the RAPP private page.

**RAPP LIST SERVE**

Marva Williams of **Kansas Department on Aging** asked about warm-lines and teleconferencing. Anne Strozier of the **Florida Kinship Center at the University of South Florida** said that the Florida Kinship Center is a state-wide center offering statewide services, including a Warm line. They started their Warm line in 2000 and it has continued to grow every year. The warmline can be accessed at 1(813) 974-1328; out of state, the number is 1 (800) 640-6444 in state.

The Kinship Resource Center in CA also has a warmline. Marilou Cristina can be contacted with any questions at cristina@ccsj.org or (408) 325-5101.

Region IV Area Agency on Aging Senior Volunteer Programs offers support group meetings through teleconferencing of their RAPP, “The Party Line.” On the day and time of the meeting, an operator calls each home and connects everyone to the group. Every other month they have a professional speaker join the call to present information on topics requested by caregivers. Participants register in advance and receive a postcard each month. Caregiver response to the Party Line has been overwhelmingly positive and averaged more participants than their regular support group! Conference call fees were approximately $20 per person for one hour. For more information, about the Party Line, contact Camellia Pisegna at (269)983-7058 or email camelliapisegna@areagencyona ging.org.

After our web chat on Evaluating Your RAPP, Linda Hammerstein of Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota (LSSM) submitted the following to the list serve. Linda wanted to share outcomes that LSSM uses to measure program outcomes. She sent us the following examples of program outcomes:

1. Grandparents, other extended family caregivers, and the children they are raising will report improved interpersonal and family relationships.”
Questions we ask in surveys to measure this outcome are answered on a scale of 1 to 4 with a range of “strongly agree” to “strongly disagree.” Survey items for this outcome are:

As a result of service from LSS: “I feel my family is stronger.” “I feel more able to raise the children in my care.” “It has been helpful to know others who are raising relative children.”

Children’s surveys administered at an annual weekend camp: “Do you have a friend here at camp? (old or new)” “Did you have fun with your family at camp?”

2. “Program participants report receiving information, emotional support, and utilizing social supports that have assisted them in dealing effectively with transitions and other stresses in their lives that affect family functioning.”

Questions asked in surveys to measure this outcome are also answered on a 4 point scale of “strongly agree to strongly disagree.” Survey items are:

As a result of service from LSS: “I have received some helpful information or referrals.” “I have felt supported or emotionally uplifted.” “My stress or anxiety level is lower.” “I have used resources or social supports that I was referred to.”

Since we do a lot of individual consultation by phone and in person, we also have an outcome specific to that service.

3. “People receiving telephone counseling and information and referral will report that the consultation received was helpful to resolving their issues.”

The survey item related to this outcome is: “Telephone calls to LSS staff are helpful.” And “LSS staff listens to me.” The above are outcomes used for GrandFamily Connection funders. Additionally, LSSM has a continuous quality improvement program required by the National Council on Accreditation where different types of services work together to define common desirable outcomes. There are approximately 25 LSSM programs in the state of Minnesota that are considered “Community Based Youth Programs.” Our rationale is that while the majority of our direct service time is with adults, it is done to benefit the children.

We have 3 outcomes/questions, used quarterly, to measure continuous quality improvement. We survey for all needs in one survey:

“Did staff listen to you?” “Did you learn something useful?” and “Would you recommend this program to others?”

As part of this process, we also measure some actual physical benefit to clients. Toward that end, we count all the children in the families we serve and assume they are safer than they would have been had their relatives not intervened to take care of them and that our service can claim at least partial responsibility for the adult relatives being able to take care of the children.

We administer some surveys, anonymously, at some of our events, while other surveys are incorporated into registration forms that are mailed with the newsletter that is mailed out 3 times per year. Unfortunately, the mailed surveys aren’t anonymous, but it does help with return rate. Every survey opportunity has a section for open ended comments/feedback. For more information on LSSM’s outcome measurements, please contact Linda Hammersten at lhammers@lssmn.org.

RAPP Notes

Don’t forget to log on to our website for copies of the RAPP Reporter (including previous copies), site bulletins, RAPP Reporting Schedule, Report Forms and more.

To access the RAPP private page, visit the Foundation website, www.brookdalefoundation.org.
click on “Relatives As Parents Program,” scroll down until you see the private page log in box. To log in, enter “RAPP” as your User Id and “member” as your password. Both are case sensitive.

If you have ideas of other material that should be included in the private page, contact us at the Foundation Office!

**RAPP Reports**

RAPP Reports can be sent to the Foundation at: RAPPreports@brookdalefoundation.org.

Programmatic materials or other attachments can be sent to the Foundation by mail to Melinda Perez-Porter.

**RESOURCES**

**From the Administration on Aging:**

The Health and Human Services initiative "Improving Hispanic Elders' Health: Community Partnerships for Evidence-Based Solutions" is designed to encourage Hispanic elders and their families to take advantage of new Medicare benefits, including prescription drug coverage, flu shots, diabetes screening and self-management, cardiovascular screening, cancer screening services and smoking cessation programs. Findings from the 2006 National Healthcare Disparities Report prepared by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) show that persistent and growing health disparities exist among Hispanic elders compared to the non-Hispanic white elderly population.

For more details about "Improving Hispanic Elders' Health: Community Partnerships for Evidence-Based Solutions," visit: http://www.academyhealth.org/ahrg/elders]. The deadline for applications is Tuesday, July 24, 2007.

**From LeAnn Thieman:**

Chicken Soup for the Grandma’s Soul

Over 54 million Americans help care for ailing family members. Millions more lay and professional caregivers selflessly minister to people in homes, daycare, and community services. While often rewarding, this benevolence requires tremendous emotional, physical, and spiritual strength. Chicken Soup for the Caregiver’s Soul, Stories to Inspire Caregivers in the Home, the Community and

**Coming Soon!**

**The Brookdale Foundation’s Benefit’s QuickLINK Organizational Edition**

The Brookdale Foundation has agreed to partner with the AARP Foundation to make the Benefit’s QuickLINK Organizational Edition available to the RAPP Network.

Benefits QuickLINK helps ensure that our RAPP families receive key benefits. To learn more about Benefits QuickLINK, see the RAPP web chat transcript on the RAPP private page and download a copy of the one pager that explains the program.

We look forward to working with AARP and the RAPP Network on this program available to the RAPP Network!
the World is written specifically for them.

These and other LeAnn Thieman books can be ordered from her website, http://www.leannthieman.com/onlineshopping.html.

From the Brookdale Foundation:

Relatives Raising Children: A Guide to Finding Help and Hope

Marianne Takas, J.D. 166 pages, Third Edition 2005 $6.00 per copy to cover shipping and production costs. This book is based upon what long-term relative caregivers (and family services professionals who work with them) have learned about raising relative children. It is designed to provide useful information, strategies, and ideas, and to help link you with others who can help. Marianne Takas, has worked on behalf of children as an attorney, a youth worker, a parent and a foster parent.

To order this publication, visit the Brookdale Foundation website, www.brookdalefoundation.org, and click on “Publications.”

From the Center For Community Change

How to Tell and Sell Your Story: A Guide to Developing Effective Messages and Good Stories about Your Work

This publication tells you how to find and tell good stories about your work, how to frame an issue or an organization's work, the eight rules of framing, a case study in how to frame an issue, and how to do your own focus group.

A valuable new resource is available to community organizing groups that want to strengthen and diversify their funding bases. Promising Practices in Revenue Generation for Community Organizing answer questions such as:

- How can we raise more money?
- What are the attitudes that have to be changed in order to succeed at grassroots fundraising?
- What staff skills are needed to increase income?
- Why is it so difficult to engage foundations in supporting community organizing?
- What could make it easier?
- How does our thinking about technology enter in?
- What value do intermediaries add to the task of fundraising?
- What types of fundraising do highly effective organizations focus on?
- What types do they look to for the future?
- When is government funding useful? When is it risky?

Promising Practices contains dozens of examples of powerful fundraising practices. The report features an analysis of income sources from over 200 community organizations for the year 2002; results from thoughtful interviews with dozens of organizers and network leaders who have created a culture of energy and accountability around fundraising; probing interviews with funders and other observers; and an extensive annotated bibliography.

The report was researched and written by Sandy O'Donnell, PhD, Jane Beckett, and Jean Rudd. Among them they have a combined 75 years of experience in activism, grantmaking, and community-oriented research. Promising Practices is a special project of the Center for Community Change.

You can read the full report at http://www.comm.org.wisc.edu/papers.htm

Center For Community Change
1000 Wisconsin Ave NW
Washington, DC 20007-3601
Phone: 202-342-0519
From the University of Hawaii:

Booklets for Caregivers
The University of Hawaii, with an Administration on Aging National Family Caregiver Support Program Innovation Grant, has produced a series of five booklets for caregivers. Topics include:

- Advance Care Planning - Making Choices Known
- Planning Ahead - Funeral and Memorial Services
- Preparing To Say Good-Bye - Care for the Dying
- When Death Occurs – What to Do When a Loved One Dies
- Help For The Bereaved - The Healing Journey
- Advance Directives - Short Form

The booklets can be downloaded at: www.kokuamau.org/tools/booklets.htm.

From the Autism Education Network:

The Autism Education Network's mission is to improve public special education programs and to influence public policy that affects individuals with autism. We use new technology and the Internet to connect and empower people in order to affect change. Free information about special education rights and programs as well as special education law and conferences on best practices in autism treatment and methodologies. Visit their website: http://www.autismeducation.net

From the National Institute on Health

A list of topics and links to resources on the health of seniors is available at: http://www.nihseniorhealth.gov.

From the American Bar Association’s Center on Children and the Law


From the Child Welfare Information Gateway

The Child Welfare Information Gateway has redesigned its State Statutes Search and made it easier to access Federal and State laws and policies regarding child abuse and neglect, permanency planning, and adoption. Access the State Statutes Series by title, or search statutes by individual States. For more information, visit their website: http://www.childwelfare.gov/systemwide/laws_policies/

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EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS

Local RAPPs are responsible for providing monthly support, social or educational groups to relatives that are primary caregivers of children and State RAPPs are responsible for helping create or expand local RAPPs across their states. Presenters for group meetings can come from community organizations, your RAPP partners or collaborators or can even be members of your advisory committees. Here is a list of educational workshops reported by your fellow RAPPs:

- Addicted to the Addict
- Caregiver Health
- Feeling: Anger, Sadness and Happiness
- Prenatal Alcohol and Other Drug Exposure
- Family Law and Legal Issues
- The Library as a Resource
- Using Art to Empower Caregivers
- Housing Availability
- Parenting Classes
- You Can Heal Your Life
- Medicinal Usages of Plants
- Balancing a Checking Account
- Helping Families Face Depression
- Coping with Teenage Behavior
- Healthy Families through Diet and Exercise
- Group Reading Project
- Domestic Violence Awareness
- Meals and Nutrition for Special Needs Kids
- Voter Registration/Education Forum
- Parents of Special Needs Students
- Surviving Middle School- Caregivers and Student
- Helping You Help Your Child
- Communicating to a Hip Hop Generation
- Role Confusion for RAPP Families
- Helping Children Learn to Mind
- Get it together for teens
- Entitlements/Benefits
- Financial Well being
- Educational Advocacy – Special Education Law
- Parenting Teenagers
- Picking Up the Pieces
- Challenges of Parenting
- Bike Safety, Parts I and II
- Summer Activities
- Bingo Night with Pizza
- Finding Resources in Your Community
- Healthy You!
- Discipline /Controlling Your Anger
- Healthy and Safety Education
- Practicing Interview Skills
- Living on Your Own
- How to fill out an Employment Application
- Interview Skills
- Resume Writing
- Your Money and You
- The Role of Faith in the Lives of Kin care Families
- Grief and Loss
- ADHD and Temperament in Children
- Childhood Illnesses
- Grief, Loss and Life Transitions
- Consequences (for youth)
- Methamphetamine: Impact on Children
- Child Sex Abuse and Post Traumatic Stress
- Health Foods: Do’s and Don’ts
- Realistic Goal Setting: Can it really get done?
- How Can You Make a Recreational Activity Work with All Kids?
- Do you know someone with an attitude problem?
- Heart Health: It’s Not Just for Valentine’s Day
- Clear Communication, It’s Not that Easy!
- Stress! It’s Real!
- Medicare Part D
- HEAP
- Peer Pressure in our Schools
- Affordable Housing for Relative Caregivers
- The State of DC Public Schools
- Filing Income Taxes
- Healthy Adults/Children
- Bullying
- Vocational Rehabilitation
- Communication
- Tips for Financial Benefits for Seniors
- Angry All the Time
- Child Rearing and How to Access Resources (like therapists and summer camps)
- Celebrating YOU! A series of groups focused on overcoming challenges and positive outcomes for RAPP family successes.
Outreach and Marketing Ideas

- If you are having difficulty recruiting caregivers because of their differing needs and expectations, be FLEXIBLE. Plan different activities for your monthly group meetings to encourage new members to participate and to meet the varied needs of those participants already involved. A picnic, a play, educational seminars on new topics such as “sexuality and teens” and, whenever possible, offer travel and child care assistance to support the participants or have meetings during school hours.
- Continue to seek new ways of publicizing the group and their activities.
- Quarterly newsletters are distributed to all RAPP families as well as professionals, interested persons who ask to be on list, community organizations and Area Agencies on Aging. Newsletters provide information including services offered by RAPP, dates and times of support group meetings, health and mental health information and a NAME and CONTACT information that caregiver families can call for more information!
- For one RAPP, the major form of recruitment comes from referrals from agencies such as schools, the Department of Social Services, the Office for the Aging, Family Court, Clinics and Big Brothers/Big Sisters
- Fliers are mailed regularly to RAPP participants, both active and non-active. These fliers and mailings inform all families about upcoming meetings, special events and other opportunities.
- Post fliers in agencies, schools, public libraries and community bulletin boards. A RAPP has brochures and fliers in the family court.
- Distribute fliers at interagency meetings so that all staff are aware of available RAPP services
- Work with schools – they can use their databases to identify relative caregivers and mail RAPP flier to each caregiver family AND, some have even called them to encourage them to attend RAPP meetings.
- Send mailings and fliers to faith-based groups.
- Have ongoing communication - in the form of fliers and newsletters - with faith-based organizations, Department of Family and Children’s Services, the public school system and other local and community agencies.
- Calls are made to RAPP families to remind them of meetings, answer questions and hear about family needs.
- Create posters on RAPP and ask that they be displayed in key locations like medical offices, clinics, Laundromats and libraries.
- Fliers and brochures are dropped off at local elementary and public schools, courts, doctor’s offices and community and senior centers regularly. Early education programs, head start and service organizations like the Department of Social Services, the Social Security, Medicaid and Child Health Insurance Offices, school nurses, stores and shopping centers are targeted.
- An intern is used to outreach and recruit by visiting local programs, agencies, schools, doctor’s offices, community and senior centers on a regular basis. For example, the intern met with the local library about possible collaborative activities. The library agreed to have books on relative care available and to work with the RAPP on special events for caregiver families in the summer!
Outreach and Marketing Ideas

- Ask for email addresses from people on your mailing list and include listserv announcements of upcoming RAPP support, educational or social groups!
- Send advertisements to local community organizations and others to be included with their Newsletters; get emails from Departments of Human Resources and others to send RAPP meeting dates and times.
- Develop a list of emails of professionals and add them to your very own RAPP listserv and send RAPP announcements, calendars and notices of special events!
- Some RAPPs provide childcare vouchers that can be used toward childcare with any community childcare provider.
- Newspaper announcements are sent out regularly to advertise RAPP meetings and events. Where possible, public service announcements are sent to local radio stations to advise the public of the availability of RAPP meetings. In addition, local TV stations also receive information on the availability of RAPP services, meetings. (A sample Public Service Announcement (PSA) by AARP is available in the RAPP library).
- Participate in Health and Community Fairs (like the one in collaboration with the School of Community Nursing at the University of Southern Mississippi at the local YMCA. Caregivers received free blood sugar testing, blood pressure readings, physical assessments of strength and flexibility and nutritional information on healthy snacks! These fairs are also a great opportunity to advertise your RAPP initiative!