

Brookdale Relatives as Parents Program

RAPP REPORTER

September 2003

A Newsletter of the Brookdale Foundation Group

RAPP Update

The Relatives As Parents Program (RAPP), initiated in 1996 by the Foundation, was created to promote the creation and expansion of services to grandparent caregivers and other relatives raising children. RAPP has evolved into a comprehensive, nationwide community approach of providing high quality services to relative caregivers and their families.

RAPPs provide services to relative caregivers and their families in 42 states. In addition, 35 State Public Agencies in the RAPP National Network serve as a focal point for addressing programmatic and policy issues statewide. See page 12 for a list of State RAPP websites.

The National Family Caregiver Support Program

The National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP) was established by Congress as part of the 2000 Amendments to the Older Americans Act. The program was implemented in 2001 by the United States Department of Health and

Human Services, Administration on Aging, with \$125 million. During fiscal year 2002, \$141.5 million was allocated nationally to support the program. States receive NFCSP funds and, in turn,

address the needs of family caregivers nationwide by encouraging states to increase "the availability and efficiency of caregiver support services." By working in partnership with their

Area Agencies on Aging and local community service providers, comprehensive support to family caregivers can be provided.

NFCSP gives states *the opportunity* to provide supportive services to grandparents and other relatives raising children under the age of 18. States may use up to 10% of the funds to provide a broad range of supportive services.

Recognition of Caregivers

The NFCSP represents recognition, at the federal level, of the importance of caregivers in the lives of their families. It recognizes the important roles caregivers play and offers states and community based organizations the opportunity to enhance services to caregivers across the country.

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allocate funds to their Area Agencies on Aging through an intrastate funding formula (in some states, the State Unit or Office on Aging serves as the AAA). The purpose of the NFCSP is to

Serving Caregivers Under 60

In keeping with the age group served by the Older Americans Act, the NFCSP limits the use of the funds to services for grandparents and other relative caregivers *over the age of 60*, who live with the child, are their primary caregivers and are either raising the child informally or have a legal relationship to the child, like custody or guardianship.

Although NFCSP funding is limited to those over 60, it is important to note that newly released Census Bureau data indicates that **71%** of relative caregivers are **under the age of 60** (See our Census Bureau article on page 4).

Because NFCSP funds are specifically targeted to caregivers over the age of 60, many programs are in a quandary about how to serve those **under** age 60. Programs that want to help relative caregivers should, however, first

concentrate on what services the caregivers need **regardless of age**. The *age limitation* applies only to *NFCSP funds* and *not* to the *services* that programs can provide to all relative caregivers that come to access needed services.

The next step is to consider what funding streams can be used to provide the services. This means thinking “outside the box” to determine what discretionary funds (public and/or private) can be used

to fund services to those under age 60.

One funding stream for those over 60 is clear: NFCSP funds can be used to create or expand activities for relative caregivers over 60.

Other funds, including RAPP funds, can then be used to provide services to all relative caregivers, including those under the age of 60.

- ◆Educational Forums and Seminars;
- ◆Resource Directories;
- ◆Newsletters with information on legal issues, legislation, health and available benefits;
- ◆Community Trainings;
- ◆Local and State Conferences on Relative Caregiving (like Annual Fall Conferences, with speakers, informative materials and daycare for the children); and
- ◆Websites and chat rooms

**The National Family Caregiver Support Program
Five Categories of Service**

- I. Information** to caregivers about available services;
- II. Assistance** to caregivers in gaining access to the services;
- III. Individual counseling, organization of support groups and training** caregivers to assist them in making decisions and solving problems relating to their caregiving roles;
- IV. respite care** to enable caregivers to be temporarily relieved from their caregiving responsibilities; and
- V. supplemental services**, on a limited basis, to complement the care provided by caregivers.

II. Assistance to Caregivers in Gaining Access to the Services

Assistance in gaining access to services is achieved in many ways including the following:

- ◆Grandparent Resource Centers;
- ◆Grandparent Advocates (part of a Grandparent Resource Center and Resource Room);
- ◆State Kinship Navigator Programs that help caregivers “navigate” their way through the Public benefits/resources maze;
- ◆Warmlines and Toll-free numbers, available to

To emphasize how well matched the NFCSP and RAPP are, the following are examples of services offered by RAPPs to grandparents and other relative caregivers, **regardless of age**, using the NFCSP categories of service.

I. Information to Caregivers about Available Services

RAPPs ensure that relative caregivers obtain information about available services in a number of ways including:

- answer questions and refer caregivers to services;
- ◆Assessments of caregiver family needs and referral to appropriate agencies;
- ◆Computer Training for caregivers and children;
- ◆Case management and referrals;
- ◆Resource Libraries;
- ◆Outreach by legal services to caregivers through community legal education, individualized legal counseling and legal representation.

III. Individual Counseling, Organization of Support Groups and Trainings

RAPPs are responsible for creating or expanding support, social or educational groups. These groups are accessible and meet at least once a month. Along with regular monthly group meetings, group and individual services are offered to relative caregivers including, but are not limited to:

- ◆individual and/or family counseling;
- ◆child care;
- ◆children’s services;
- ◆transportation assistance;
- ◆benefits and legal guidance;
- ◆educational seminars;
- ◆health care services;
- ◆mediation and empowerment training;
- ◆housing assistance;
- ◆intergenerational activities;
- ◆services to special populations;
- ◆mental health services; and
- ◆other program activities that provide support to caregivers

To help achieve the goal of providing needed services, RAPPs create collaborative partnerships with community organizations and other service systems including family services, child care, aging, education, legal, health care, mental health, cooperative extension services and universities.

Advisory committees, composed of relative caregivers and professionals from the above service systems, assist with programmatic issues, service provision, fundraising and assure that RAPPs achieve program goals.

IV. Respite Care to Enable Caregivers to be Temporarily Relieved from their Caregiving Responsibilities

RAPPs know that any time programs provide activities for children, relative caregivers have the opportunity to enjoy some much needed respite.

Here are some examples of RAPP *Children’s Activities* that provide caregiver respite:

Children’s monthly therapeutic activity groups (play therapy, coping and social skills, grief, psycho-education, building self-esteem), pizza parties, arts and crafts days, dance parties, movie days, zoo outings, movies, dinners, danceathons, Back to School Bashes (with free school materials), Boys and Girls Club time during support group meetings; day care service on Saturdays, Fall sports programs, pajama parties, roller-skating, evening art classes, face painting, art contests, day, evening, weekend, overnight and/or week-long camp opportunities during the summer, spring, winter and fall (some collaborate with YW/YMCAs, Boys and Girls Clubs); and a Respite Activity Support Program, that assists caregivers by making camp and other activities available to children; scholarships that enable children to attend programs during school breaks and summer vacations; after-school and weekend recreational and educational child care programs; and special camps for disabled children.

All of these activities provide respite for caregivers because, anytime caregivers are relieved of the responsibility of caring for the children, they are receiving respite services.

Don’t forget activities/social events and outings for **the caregivers themselves**. Some examples include:

Senior Prom Night, where caregivers dress up and enjoy dinner and dancing; *Family Spa Night*, a monthly evening of relaxation and stress reduction for caregivers with separate activities for the children (haircuts, manicures, foot soaks, nutrition education, therapeutic massage, acupuncture and stress management techniques help make this a success); dinners at local restaurants, concerts, comedy shows, short day trips (provided through a partnership with a Park District); and computer classes (in collaboration with a University).

Finally, some caregivers just want to have fun with the children in their care and enjoy **intergenerational activities** like:

Holiday parties (Christmas, Easter, Halloween), summer outings; and a program like “Getting Connected,” that provides grandparents and grandchildren with technology training and gives them an Internet-ready computer when the training is completed.

V. Supplemental Services, on a limited basis, to complement the care provided by caregivers.

RAPPs have been very creative in this category. Some of the supplemental services that have been offered to caregivers include:

- ◆Utility Payments;
- ◆Rent and security deposits;
- ◆Help with payment of medications;
- ◆Purchase of appliances and personal needs items like diapers;
- ◆Legal Assistance

- ◆Pre-paid cell phone cards;
- ◆Scholarships for after-school activity fees for children;
- ◆Membership fees, like with the YM/YWCA
- ◆Retreats; workshops;
- ◆Transportation Assistance;
- ◆Purchase of Microwave oven to help caregiver prepare meals;
- ◆Vouchers for food or respite services;
- ◆Emergency Funds;
- ◆Specific Home Repairs;
- ◆Clothing Closets;
- ◆Installation of a ramp to allow access to the home; and
- ◆Payments for groceries, gasoline, school clothes and supplies.

Conclusion

Those asking “how do we serve the under 60 crowd?” can learn a valuable lesson from RAPPs. First, don’t give up! Think about what programmatic initiatives are needed by the caregivers you serve, regardless of age.

Second, evaluate your funding sources and figure out how to best utilize available funding streams to create or expand services to relative caregivers. This can include combining different funding sources, like state and federal funds, to provide assistance to caregivers regardless of age (see page 9 for tips on potential funding sources); and

Finally, contact your local Area Agency on Aging for information about available resources and how the NFCSP is being implemented in your area.

CENSUS BUREAU KINSHIP CARE UPDATE

Ken Bryson, Program Analyst
Outreach and Analysis Staff
Decennial Census Directorate
U.S. Census Bureau

In May 1999 Lynne Casper and I published the first Census Bureau report on Kinship Care.¹ A large, and sometimes bewildering, flood of data has followed.

Welfare reform legislation enacted by Congress and signed by the President in 1996 directed the Census Bureau to collect and report information about grandparent caregivers. Census 2000, therefore included, *for the first time*, a question asking people age 30 and older if they were living in the same household with any of their own grandchildren under the age of 18. If they answered *yes*, they were asked if they were responsible for most of the basic needs of any of these grandchildren. The grandparent caregiver question is continued in the American Community Survey (ACS). The ACS, which replaces the census long form, has continued to ask grandparent caregiver questions every year to a nationwide sample of more than 700,000 households.

Data from the Census Bureau indicates that:

- In April 2002, there were **2,426,730** grandparent caregivers in the United States. This data, demonstrates that the number of grandparent caregivers has continued to grow; and

¹ Bryson, Ken and Lynne M. Casper, 1999. *Coresident Grandparents and Grandchildren*. Current Population Reports, Special Studies, P23-198. U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC.

- In April 2002, **6,042,435** or 8.4 percent of children under the age of 18 lived in households maintained by grandparents or other relatives. These are children whose relationship to the householder is “grandchild” or “other relative.” The householder is the person, or one of the people, who owns or rents the housing unit in which the child is living.

38% of the children live in these households with no parents present.

Data from the Decennial Census and other Census Bureau sources, tell us about *the extent of kinship care*.

Reports about kinship caregiving sometimes confuse these numbers and the concepts they reflect. It is important to:

- Know whether we are talking about *caregivers* or about *the children for whom they are providing care*;
- Make a distinction between grandparents who are **primary caregivers** and those grandparents and other relatives *who maintain a household for or share a residence with children*; and
- Differentiate between grandparents and *other relatives raising children*, who often are lumped together with grandparents, when we talk about the providers of kinship care.

Lieutenant Columbo always wants to ask “just one more question.” So it is with users of Census Bureau data about kinship care. Here is the answer to “just one more question.”

What percentage of grandparent caregivers are younger than 60?

The National Family Caregiver Support Act of 2000 allows each state to use up to 10 percent of the total funds to provide support services to eligible caregivers. Since it is part of the Older Americans Act, eligible caregivers are defined as those age 60 and older. It is therefore important to know how many grandparent caregivers are ineligible for support services under the National Family Caregiver Support Act because they are under age 60.

According to the Census 2000, **71 percent of grandparent caregivers are younger than 60.**² Answers to many other questions will be in a Census 2000 Brief, *Grandparents Living With Grandchildren: 2000*,³ which is expected to be released in October 2003.

Subsidized Guardianship Update: Expanding Permanency Options for Kinship Care Families

Mary Bissell, Senior Staff Attorney
Children's Defense Fund

As part of an expanding continuum of permanency options, thirty-four states and the District of Columbia have established subsidized guardianship programs to support children and families for whom adoption is not an appropriate permanency option.

² The Census 2000 PUMS 1% CD-ROM is available for \$50 from the Census Bureau's Customer Service Center [e-mail: Webmaster@census.gov]. The 2001 PUMS is on the 2000-2001 ACS CD-ROM available free from the Census Bureau's Marketing Services Office [e-mail: Audrey.S.Peay@census.gov].

³ Simmons, Tavia and Jane Lawler Dye, 2003. *Grandparents Living With Grandchildren: 2000*. Census 2000 Brief. U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC.

Although many caregivers have a strong commitment to the children in their care and agree to care for them permanently, some are unable to make ends meet without financial help or the services necessary to meet the children's special needs.

State subsidized guardianship programs eliminate this unnecessary barrier to permanence by providing ongoing payments *for eligible children who have left or who are leaving the state child welfare system* to live permanently in the care of a legal guardian, often a relative caregiver.

Five states, Kentucky, Minnesota, New Jersey, Nevada, and Missouri, subsidized guardianship programs *also serve children raised by relatives outside of the child welfare system* to prevent the unnecessary placement of children in foster care. Louisiana's subsidized guardianship program *is only available to children outside of the state child welfare system*.

Children's Defense Fund and Cornerstone Consulting have recently published *Expanding Permanency Options for Children: A Guide to Subsidized Guardianship Programs* to provide basic information about subsidized guardianship programs and the legislative and policy strategies that make them most effective in this challenging fiscal environment. The guide contains:

- Commonly asked questions about subsidized guardianship programs
- Checklist for state subsidized guardianship legislation
- Creative approaches to subsidized guardianship

- State-by-State survey of subsidized guardianship programs

A copy of the guide can be downloaded from www.cornerstone.to or www.childrensdefense.org. Hard copies of the guide are available on a limited basis by calling the Children's Defense Fund at 202-662-3568.

In addition, Cornerstone Consulting has established the *National Collaboration on Permanency through Subsidized Guardianship* with support from the Annie E. Casey and David and Lucile Packard Foundations. This collaboration is designed to provide technical assistance to organizations and states that want to establish a subsidized guardianship program or improve upon existing programs. For more information, contact Jennifer Miller, Cornerstone Consulting, at jmiller@cornerstone.to.

Telephone Conferencing A New Look At Caregiver Support Groups:

Camellia Pisegna, Director
Region IV Area Agency On Aging
Senior Volunteer Programs, Michigan

Support group attendance at our RAPP had been a challenge for many years in spite of the fact that caregivers consistently noted the importance of staying in contact with each other. Looking at the problem of attendance, it was evident that caregivers must overcome many of the following obstacles in order to attend support meetings:

◆**Transportation.** Southwestern Michigan is mostly rural, but transportation was even a

hindrance for those living a short distance from meeting sites; Free childcare was offered, but many caregivers found it overwhelming to travel with children, especially those with disabilities. Travel during long Michigan winters can be impossible. Although mileage reimbursement was provided, caregivers in remote areas must often travel long distances to meet at centralized locations. Many caregivers have health problems related to aging, making it difficult to travel. Public transportation remains inadequate or non-existent and many do not own vehicles.

◆**Confidentiality.** A significant number of caregivers are concerned about confidentiality; many still function under the stigma that they are raising their grandchildren because of failure to successfully raise their own children.

◆**Time Constraints.** Caregivers juggle multiple obligations to accommodate children; time constraints play a significant role in preventing support group attendance. In addition, many caregivers work outside of the home.

The “Party Line” Is Born

In April, 2003, we decided to try something entirely different! Caregivers can now “attend” support meetings without even leaving their homes by joining “The Party Line” via conference call.

When the day and time of the meeting arrives, *an operator calls each home and connects everyone to the group.* Every other month a *professional speaker joins the call*

to present information on topics requested by the caregivers. For example, a school social worker recently explained the legal rights of special education students.

Participants register in advance and receive a reminder postcard each month. The new format makes it possible to include an evening support group for those working outside the home and those concerned about being away from home at night. After “meeting” together on the phone for almost a year, caregivers were anxious to put faces to the voices that had become so familiar. Arrangements were made at a centrally located restaurant and everyone agreed to meet for breakfast. It was a spirited, enthusiastic crowd! “The Breakfast Bunch” decided to meet every other month.

Caregiver response to the Party Line has been overwhelmingly positive! The most common concern is not being able to meet each month in person. In addition to The Breakfast Bunch, our program offers quarterly family events involving the children, which provide some degree of personal contact.

In weighing the advantages and disadvantages of the telephone support group, we believe involving more caregivers in regular support is a plus! On-site meetings averaged 3-4 participants -phone support meetings average 10-15 participants. Conference call fees (approximately \$20/person for one hour) are paid for with program funds, but are comparable with mileage reimbursements, staff travel time and travel expenses.

Caregivers adapted quickly to the conference call format, which is reminiscent of the old party line system. Conference call etiquette, such as stating one’s name each time before a comment, is reviewed from time to time. Linking caregivers from all three counties contributes to lively discussions and provides a wide variety of perspectives, opinions and experience. Program staff keeps track of the conversation and who’s on the call to encourage everyone to share their thoughts if they would like to. The conference format also takes the pressure off those who prefer just to sit back and listen. For some, anonymity creates a safe place for honest and candid expression.

Caregivers with children at home during the calls are encouraged to make special “Quiet Boxes” with small toys, a healthy snack, a short educational video, library books, crayons, etc.

For more information about “The Party Line”, call Pat Herrelko or Camellia Pisegna, Region IV Area Agency On Aging Senior Volunteer Programs, 269-983-7058, or email camelliapisegna@areaagencyonaging.org.

The Children Of Alcoholics Foundation (NY): Help for Kinship Caregivers and Professionals Dealing with Parental Substance Abuse

Kim Sumner-Mayer
Kinship Care Outreach Manager

Today, more and more grandparents are stepping in when parents’ drug or alcohol use has left them unable to care for their own children. Whether the addicted parent has died, gone into treatment, been arrested, or lost custody of the child, grandparents

and other relatives are faced with a profound lack of information and services that can help the family deal with their new and unexpected living situation. The stigma that exists around drug abuse is enormous. As a result, many caregivers do not tell their friends, neighbors, or even the agencies that can help them about the substance abuse affecting their family. This means that many of these families remain unidentified and lack vital services.

In spring 2001 The Children of Alcoholics Foundation (COAF) launched *The Ties That Bind*, a national education and support program to help the millions of Americans who are caring for relatives' children because of parental alcohol and drug abuse.

The Ties That Bind offers fact sheets, a comprehensive handbook, and a website (www.coaf.org) for caregivers, as well as a curriculum for caregiver support group facilitators. In addition, COAF provides training to professionals working with kinship care families, such as government agencies, social workers, child-welfare workers, and support-group leaders. These training sessions are designed to educate professionals about the special issues involved in kinship care that directly result from parental substance abuse, as well as tips and strategies for getting the materials into the hands of those in need.

In addition to *The Ties That Bind*, COAF has also been busy with other initiatives to support kinship care families. A new program titled *Building Bridges* is currently being developed that focuses on family reunification issues by

supporting parents in substance abuse recovery and the professionals who work with them with workbooks and curricula addressing parent-child separation, visitation, and reunification planning across treatment and post-treatment timelines.

The COAF website has suggestions, tips and strategies for handling the following topics: *"Talking about alcohol and drugs with kids," "Dealing with the substance abusing parent," "Coping with kid's behavior problems," "Coping with your own feelings,"* and *"Myths and facts about substance abuse."*

To learn more about the handbook, fact sheets, curriculum, or training and consultation services, contact Kim Sumner-Mayer, Kinship Care Outreach Manager at ksumner-mayer@phoenixhouse.org, call Kim at (646) 505-2063, or visit COAF's website at www.coaf.org.

Support for Relative Caregivers Caring for Children of Incarcerated Parents

Marilyn Hammond and Sr. Pat Davis
Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

Mom is in prison. The relative is caring for the children, as almost always happens. She comes to your RAPP group. What do you do to make her feel supported and at ease?

First, recognize that this is not an uncommon problem. RAPPs are already providing services to caregivers because of drug abuse, neglect, abandonment and mental illness. Incarceration is not far removed.

Your opening statement, as a RAPP facilitator must constantly

and honestly say, "We are here for many reasons..." and then state the variety of reasons that bring you together, always including the most difficult ones. Though you are not likely to be judgmental, the group may find the idea of an adult child in prison repugnant so facilitators must take the lead in letting the caregiver know that they are not failures because their children are imprisoned.

Think of prison time as an opportunity for the adult child to make better choices. Prisons are badly stereotyped in the media as the end of the line but many a daughter in prison has said, "I wasn't arrested, I was rescued." Most imprisoned mothers spend their entire incarceration worrying about their children and parents. Many take classes, are in drug rehabilitation programs, learn new skills, and rethink their life, especially if they have meaningful contact with religion.

Let the grandmother talk about visits to her daughter with the children. Don't treat it like a curiosity -- after all entering prison is very similar to going through airport security. The constant curiosity of well meaning people can be overwhelming to someone who has felt compelled to be secretive as to why she cares for her daughter's children. Having caregivers with parents in prison is a learning opportunity. Read and talk to people who deal kindly with prisoners and find an opportunity to visit a prison or jail yourself. But mostly, focus on the needs of the people involved, the caregiver, the daughter and the children and not the barbed wire or pat down searches. Mothers and kids don't really care where mom is as long as they can keep in touch.

Do realize that these relatives, although basically the same, have some challenges different from the rest of your RAPP group:

- calls are always collect and incredibly expensive;
- visits are usually at some distance to prisons in small towns with little public transportation;
- caseworkers often write mom off because she is imprisoned and push the relative to adopt the children; and
- classmates may taunt the children if they find out that their mom is in prison.

The above notwithstanding, however, the needs of these families are basically the same as others caring for grandchildren: housing, clothing, schooling, counseling for the child, legal needs, and readjustment when mom comes home.

RAPPs can make a critical difference and bring hope and comfort to the caregiver, imprisoned mother and the family as a whole. RAPP allows caregivers to release frustration and get new tools to help them cope. Most importantly, you will assure the caregiver that the children are in good hands.

Marilyn Hammond runs Lutheran Social Services of Illinois RAPP groups specifically for relatives caring for children of mothers who are prisoners in Illinois. These RAPP programs bring the families to prison and while the children are with the moms the relatives attend a unique RAPP group in the prison. Marilyn is very familiar with the circumstances of these caregivers and would be glad to talk with you about prisons or about your RAPP members caring

for the children of an imprisoned daughter. Call her at (773) 476-1452 or email marilyn.hammond@LSSI.org.

The Grandparent Caregiver Resource Center at Catholic Charities
Santa Clara County, CA
Renie Henchy, Program Manager

The number of relative-headed families in California has doubled since the 1990 Census, and nearly 27,000 Santa Clara County children are being raised by their grandparents. The Grandparent Caregiver Resource Center (GCRC) at Catholic Charities is committed to serving this growing population. The GCRC's mission is to strengthen and support grandparent- and other relative-headed families in Santa Clara County so that they can provide safe and secure homes for the children in their care, regardless of race, religion, or culture. The GCRC is Santa Clara County's only provider of comprehensive support services to kinship families. Over the past four years, the GCRC has collaborated with public agencies and private organizations to implement multiple service programs, all of which were designed *by relative caregivers* to address their most essential needs.

Services offered by the Center include:

- ◆ Comprehensive case management;
- ◆ health assessments and plans;
- ◆ support groups;
- ◆ a "Warmline;"
- ◆ recreational events;
- ◆ respite care;
- ◆ a resource library;
- ◆ educational seminars; and

◆ extensive assistance with the legal guardianship process.

Relative caregivers who receive proper emotional support and access to needed services, information, and resources are better prepared to keep their families intact and keep their children out of the overloaded foster care system. On average, 99.7% of the families served by the GCRC remain intact, which enables siblings to stay together and allows children to be raised in their families' specific linguistic and cultural environments.

All GCRC services are consumer driven, which is important to the program's sponsors and potential funders. Grandparent caregivers have been involved in the development of the program since Catholic Charities held its first kinship care conference in 1992. 80% of the GCRC's staff are or have been relative caregivers; their personal experience with the issues involved in kinship care enables them to identify needs and provide services from the perspective of those who have "been there."

GCRC's services are designed to meet the highest priority needs identified by relative caregivers and their families. Staff relies on relative caregivers to articulate their needs and those of their children. Caregivers themselves evaluate services regularly and services are modified based on their feedback. This consumer-based model of service design has allowed the GCRC to build and sustain a diverse funding base, which includes support from the Brookdale Foundation, Catholic Charities, the County of Santa Clara, the City of San Jose, the Farrington Trust, the Nelson Fund, the SUCCESS Partnership, the

United Way, and, most recently, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. The GCRC is also a proud grantee of National Family Caregiver Support Program funds, having received a four-year renewable grant from the Council on Aging of Santa Clara County (CoA).

For more information on the Grandparent Caregiver Resource Center of Catholic Charities, please visit their recently updated website: www.ccsj.org/users/gcrc/ or contact Renie Henchy, Program Manager, (408) 325-5194 or by e-mail: rhenchy@ccsj.org.

Happy Anniversary to AARP's Grandparent Information Center!

The AARP Grandparent Information Center (AARP GIC), originally funded by a grant from the Brookdale Foundation and now supported by AARP, will celebrate 10 years of providing service to grandparents with the release of a new research report, *"Lean on Me: Support and Minority Outreach for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren."*

RAPPs are already aware of the valuable collaborative opportunities that are available with AARP state or local chapters. AARP offices at the state and local level are involved in various grandparent activities. Some offices focus broadly on fun events celebrating the grandparent-grandchild relationship while others work specifically on issues confronted by grandparents raising grandchildren and collaborate on local and state conferences or Grandparent Forums. Wherever you are located, find your AARP

State and local offices and explore a relationship with them.

The AARP GIC has a database of support groups from all across the United States. New groups can register by requesting a Support Group Survey. To do so, email the GIC at gic@aarp.org, or call Brian Williams, (202) 434-3993.

AARP GIC offers information and referral, publications, a free quarterly newsletter for grandparents and research and advocacy at the federal and state levels through 53 AARP state offices including the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES

The following is a list of funding sources that can be used to provide services to caregivers. The list is from the Funding Brainstorming Session held during our recent RAPP National Orientation and Training Conference in Kansas City, MO:

Sources of financial and in-kind support:

I. PUBLIC RESOURCES - Grant-making organizations

FEDERAL

- Older Americans Act
- National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP) – contact Area Agencies on Aging or State Office on Aging
- Supportive Program Funds (Title IIIB)
- Nutrition Programs (Title IIIC)
- Senior Aides (Title V)
- Urban Mass Transit Administration (UMTA)

- Medicaid Home and Community Waivers (Section 2176)
- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) Mental Health, Drug Addiction
- Social Services Block Grants
- Veterans Administration
- Administration For Children Youth and Families
- Department of Children's Services
- Department of Health and Human Services' Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS)

STATE

- State Programs for Respite Care and Day Care
- State Offices on Aging
- Departments of Human Services/Social Services
- Departments of Health and Mental Health
- Voucher or Subsidy Programs
- Discretionary Grants from Elected Officials
- State Funded Programs
- Criminal Justice System
- State Transportation Programs
- State Universities – Student Volunteers, Leaders/Volunteers for children's activities

LOCAL

- Area Agencies on Aging (AAA's)
- City/County Resources
- Adult Education Programs

- Senior Centers and Local Senior Services Providers
- County Recreation Departments
- Discretionary Grants from Elected Officials
- Local Health, Mental Health and Social Service Departments
- Community Development Block Grants
- Universities and Colleges - students as interns
- Cooperative Extension Services

II. PRIVATE AND VOLUNTARY SECTOR RESOURCES

- United Way
- Private Foundations
- Local Community Chest and Foundations
- Corporations – Corporate Giving Departments, Local Branch Grants
- Local Businesses
- Churches/Synagogues – Auxiliary Groups
- Memorials/Trusts
- Service/Civic Organizations (Kiwanis, Junior League, Rotary, Mason, etc.)
- Federations
- Women’s Clubs
- Big Brother, Big Sister
- Sororities/Fraternities
- Professional Organizations/Associations
- Hospitals and their Auxiliaries
- Programs Endorsed by Local Officials and Prominent Citizens
- Labor Unions
- Trade Associations
- Contributions by Employees of Local Businesses

- Retirees Association
- Family Members and Individual Donors
- AARP Chapters
- Senior Centers
- Banks and Utility Companies
- Pharmacies and other stores/places/vendors where seniors shop
- Participant Fees – for programs and / or transportation, meals, program registration
- Advisory Council Members
- National/Local Organizations Serving Special Population Groups
- Academic and Technical Colleges
- YM/YWCA
- Medical Centers
- Volunteers
- Local TV Stations
- Local Sports Organizations
- Headstart Programs
- Media (newspaper, radio, cable TV, public access)

III. SPONSOR-PROVIDED FINANCIAL AND IN-KIND SUPPORT

- Program Site
- Staff Services
- Accounting/Payroll Services (including cash flow assistance)
- Insurance Coverage
- Office Support
- Transportation
- Training
- Rent/Utilities
- Telephone
- Postage
- Program and Office Supplies
- Meals
- Public Relations
- Counseling

- Case Management
- Client Assessment
- Outreach
- Publications
- Print/Photocopying
- Recognition Activities
- Local Fund Raising Events & Activities
- Janitorial Services/Upkeep/Repairs
- Volunteer Recruitment
- Administrative and Program Staff Time
- Expertise/Technical Assistance by Staff Specialists
- Public Education Seminars and training

IV. ORGANIZATIONS AND PROGRAMS THAT CAN PROVIDE GUIDANCE, SUPPORTIVE SERVICES AND IN-KIND ASSISTANCE

- Local Hospitals
- Libraries
- Senior Companions
- Foster Grandparents
- Retired Senior Volunteer Programs (RSVP)
- Title V Senior Aides
- Extension Services
- Academic Institutions & Students from their special programs
- Bar Associations
- Legal Services Programs
- Large Chain Stores – Walmart, Target, Disney, Hallmark
- Family Service Agencies

V. SUPPORT FROM COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS IN THE PUBLIC, PRIVATE AND VOLUNTARY SECTORS

- AARP
- Utilities

- Community Education Programs
- Furniture & Equipment
- Refreshments/Meals
- Transportation
- Crafts & Program Supplies
- Assistance with Outreach & Recruitment
- Client Assessments
- Client Advocacy
- Support Group Leadership
- Individual Caregiver Counseling
- Legal/Financial Planning & Counseling
- Printing & Publication of Informational Materials
- Training of Volunteers and Staff
- Student Field Placements (from social work, nursing, public health, adult education, law schools)
- Scholarships for Low-Income Families

Tips for Effective Collaborations

RAPPs are encouraged to collaborate with community resources to augment the services provided to relative caregivers. Effective community collaborations can result in many benefits.

Partnerships and collaborations with community programs, like the YMCA/YWCA and the Boys and Girls Clubs have resulted in much needed respite for RAPP participants. Here are some tips from Denyse Variano of Cornell Cooperative Extension in Orange County, New York:

Initiating Collaborations

It must be acknowledged that collaboration is different from cooperation. A new “product” is formed through collaborative

efforts. In addition, territoriality and individual agendas must be left behind for collaborations to be effective.

Recommended Partners

Every community has a wealth of resources! Partners can be sought from both the public and private sectors, including from those places providing services to adults, the elderly and youth.

Cooperative Extension Services are a valuable resource in every community throughout the nation. Each State Extension Service is associated with a University and a list of State Extension Offices are available at each site.

In addition to Extension Offices, collaborators can include: The Office for the Aging, local youth bureaus; Junior League; Child Care Council; community Colleges; Disabilities Councils; Dispute Resolution Centers; United Way; BOCES – Board of Cooperative Education Services; and Community Health Centers.

Benefits of Collaboration

Collaborators can provide funding and even in-kind staff time which can be used for a number of things including the development and printing of materials.

Support groups can also be operated by professional partners from schools or local health centers that volunteer their time. Collaborators can also help cover publicity, childcare and assist with resource materials.

Finally, always remember to include your partners whenever possible in publicity and provide many opportunities to praise their work.

Generation United’s National Center on Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children

Here are some highlights from Generation United’s (GU) National Center on Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children which was created with a grant awarded by the US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Aging (AoA), as part of the National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP):

◆A survey of Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) , Native American Tribes and primary health care centers was conducted to assess how NFCSP funds have been utilized to serve grandparent caregivers across the country. Initial data confirms the need for continued training of interested service providers;

◆The expansion of the National Network of Expert Trainers (NNET), a network of experts that provide training, resources and expert assistance to the aging network and other community service providers that work with caregivers, to include individuals experienced in the issues of kinship care from all over the country, in a variety of topic areas. The NNET has delivered trainings around the country and is available to organizations and communities to provide training, upon request;

◆Quarterly online Expert Chats on kinship care issues hosted by members of the NNET;

◆ A growing library of resource materials and information, including fact sheets and technical assistance tools; and

◆ Technical assistance in response to hundreds of phone, email and written requests for information.

For more information on GU's National Center on Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children, visit their website at www.gu.org. See information about GU's Fact Sheets in the Resource Section of this Reporter.

Boston's GrandFamilies House: An Evaluation, Findings and Recommendations

The Gerontology Institute at the University of Massachusetts Boston announces the release of its recent evaluation report on GrandFamilies House funded by Boston Aging Concerns – Young and Old United (BAC-YOU) through support from the Boston Foundation : “Growing Pains and Challenges” GrandFamilies House Four-Year Follow-Up Evaluation.

This report presents the findings of a follow-up evaluation, conducted by the Gerontology Institute during the summer, 2002.

Interviews were conducted with resident grandparents and with agencies and organizations

The Brookdale Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP) State Websites

- Alabama A& M University-Cooperative Extension- www.aces.edu
- Arizona DES, Aging & Adult Administration- www.de.state.az.us
- Connecticut DSS, Elderly Services Division- www.dss.state.ct.us
- Delaware DHSS, Div. of Services for Aging- www.state.de.us/dhss/index.html
- Florida Kinship Ctr, Univ. of South Florida School of Social Work- www.flkin.org
- Idaho Commission on Aging- www.IdahoAging.com
- Illinois Department on Aging- www.state.il.us/aging
- Indiana FSSA, Div. of Dis., Aging and Rehab. Svcs. : www.state.in.us/fssa/
- Iowa Department of Elder Affairs- www.state.ia.us/elderaffairs/
- Kansas Department on Aging- www.agingkansas.org
- Kentucky Office of Aging Services- www.chs.state.ky.us/aging
- Maryland DHS, Social Services Administration- www.dhr.state.md.us
- Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs- www.state.ma.us
- Michigan Office of Services to the Aging- www.michigan.gov
- Minnesota Board on Aging- www.mkca.org
- University of Missouri - Outreach & Ext. Service- <http://www.outreach.missouri.edu/>
- Montana State University Extension Service- www.montana.edu
- Nebraska Health & Human Services System – NRAP- www.hhs.state.ne.us/
- NJ Dept. of Human Svcs., Kinship Navigator Program- www.state.nj.us/humanservices
- New York State Office for the Aging- www.aging.state.ny.us/findhelp/lofa.htm
- North Carolina DHHS, Division of Aging- www.dhhs.state.nc.us/aging
- Ohio Department of Aging- www.goldenbuckeye.com
- Oklahoma DHS, Aging Services Division- www.okdhs.org
- Oregon State University - Extension Service- www.osu.orst.edu/dept/ehe
- Pennsylvania Department of Aging- www.aging.state.pa.us
- Rhode Island Department of Elderly Affairs- www.dea.state.ri.us
- S. Carolina DHHS, Bureau of Senior Services- www.dhhs.state.sc.us/Default.htm
- Tennessee Department of Children's Services- www.state.tn.us/youth/
- Texas Department on Aging- www.tdoa.state.tx.us
- Virginia Department for the Aging- www.aging.state.va.us/
- Washington DSHS, Aging and Disability Services Admin. - www.wa.gov/dshs/
- West Virginia DHHR, Office of Social Services- www.wvdhhr.org/
- Wisconsin University Extension- www.uwex.edu/ces/flp/grgp/suplist.html
- Wyoming Department of Family Services- <http://dfswb.state.wy.us/>

involved with the GrandFamilies House development, front-line staff and administrators from social service agencies. Interviews were conducted and insights into the teenage experience at GFH were gleaned from a focus group conducted with resident adolescents. The following are some of the recommendations based on the report's findings:

◆ Developers must clearly state the goals of the program – who the program will serve – and the balance between providing low-cost housing and comprehensive supportive housing. A decision must also be made as to whether

the primary goal is to provide affordable housing for independent grandparent caregiver families or a

supportive program that expects participation by families in support programs and services available on-site;

◆ Policies and procedures should be well articulated and in place before opening the housing. These policies should address tenant screening, residency regulations, procedures for non-compliance, contingency plans for unforeseen emergencies and transition plans for grandchildren

aging out of the program or caregivers aging in place.

The report, in pdf format, can be downloaded from the Institute website:

<http://www.geront.umb.edu/current.htm>.

For questions or further information, please contact the authors, Alison Gottlieb and Nina Silverstein may be contacted at: Alison.gottlieb@umb.edu or nina.silverstein@umb.edu at UMass Boston, or Stephanie Chacker, schacker@bacyou.org at BAC-YOU.

Conference Alerts!

Generation United's International Conference, *Uniting Generations*

to *Build a Better World*, October 15-18, 2003 at the Hilton Hotel, Old Town Alexandria, VA. For more information, visit GU's website: www.gu.org or call (202) 638-1263.

Wednesday's in Washington Grandrally for Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children. October 15, 2003 at 1:00PM, West Grassy Front of the United States Capitol, Washington, D.C.

For more information on the Grandrally, call (202) 662-3656; log on to Children Defense Fund website at: www.childrensdefense.org or email:

grandrally@childrensdefense.org.

The Joint Conference of the National Council on the Aging and the American Society on Aging, (NCOA/ASA) will be held April 14-17, 2004 in San Francisco, California. The theme is "*The Road Ahead – Taking the Journey Together.*" For complete conference information please visit www.agingconference.org.

Unplanned Parenthood II, A Statewide Conference About Grandparents and Others Raising Children of Kin, October 6, 2003, Earle Brown Continuing Education Center, Saint Paul Campus, University of Minnesota. To register, please contact CASCW at (612) 624-4231 or email apreston@che.umn.edu

National Foster Parent Association, Inc., 34th Annual Education Conference, "*Foster Parent: Lifting Spirits, Touching Lives*" May 10th- 15th 2004. For more information, visit their website, www.nfpainc.org

AVAILABLE RESOURCES

Parenting The Second Time Around. 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. Cornell Cooperative Extension, Orange County. \$35.25. Quantity Discounts are available. To order: Media & Technology Services Resource Center (DW), Cornell University, 7 Cornell Business & Technology Park, Ithaca, NY 14850 or email: resctr@cornell.edu or visit their website: www.cce.cornell.edu.

From the Children's Defense Fund:

The Children's Defense Fund and Cornerstone Consulting Group have published, "*Expanding Permanency Options for Children: A Guide to Subsidized Guardianship Programs.*" 34 states and the District of Columbia have established subsidized guardianship programs to support children and families when adoption is not the appropriate permanency option. For more information visit: www.childrensdefense.org/ss_kincare.php.

The Grandparent's and Other Relative Caregiver's Guide to Child Care and Early Childhood Education Programs. What You Need To Know To Give The Child You Are Raising A Head Start. Schulizinger, Rhoda. Edited by Mary Lee Allen and Mary Bissell, CDF.

The Grandparent's and Other Relative Caregiver's Guide to Food and Nutrition Programs for Children. What You Need To Know To Give The Child You Are

Raising A Healthy Start. Schulizinger, Rhoda. . Edited by Mary Lee Allen and Mary Bissell, CDF.

The Grandparent's and Other Relative Caregiver's Guide to Raising Children with Disabilities. What You Need To Know To Give The Child You Are Raising A Fair Start. Schulizinger, Rhoda. Edited by Mary Lee Allen and Mary Bissell, CDF.

The Grandparent's and Other Relative Caregiver's Guide to Health Insurance for Children. What You Need To Know About Medicaid and The Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

These guides are written specifically for kinship caregivers to answer their questions about important issues affecting the children in their care. The guides offer information on federal programs, eligibility requirements and how to enroll the children they are raising.

There is no charge for single copies of each guide. For multiple copies, there is a fee for postage, shipping and handling. To order, contact The Children's Defense Fund, Child Welfare and Mental Health Division, 25 E Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001, call (202) 662-3568 or e-mail: childwelfare@childrensdefense.org

From Generations United: Revised Fact Sheets:

Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children: Support in the Workplace. Fact Sheet and Guide. Maggie Troope Biscarr, September 2002. A survey of 51 companies across the United States about the inclusion of relative caregiver in medical insurance, dental and vision benefits; child care services; employee assistance/counseling programs; leave policies and other available benefits. These materials are designed to raise awareness about the number of caregivers in the workforce, their unique needs and to provide models of supportive human resource policies and programs that employers can replicate.

Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children: Respite Care. This fact sheet provides information on respite care, including the different types of respite that can be offered and model programs that can be replicated.

Grandparents and Other Relative Caregivers Raising Children:

Caregiver Support Groups. Caroline Crocoll, 2002. This fact sheet provides information on the growing networks of caregiver support groups throughout the United States and other available resources for starting a support group.

Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children: Housing Needs and Challenges – The GrandFamilies House Response. Cara Goldstein, 2002. This fact sheet provides information about a

specific type of housing program for grandparents and other relatives raising children.

Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children: Challenges of Caring for the Second Family. Alison Frantz and Shei Steinig.

State Fact Sheets for all 50 states and the District of Columbia are available for download from many of the national partners that worked together to compile them including Casey Family Programs National Center for Resource Family Support, The Brookdale Foundation, The Children’s Defense Fund and Generations United.

The Fact Sheets provide important information on services and laws available to relative caregivers including:

- Census data on the numbers of grandparent caregivers;
- A comprehensive list of kinship care family resources and services;
- State foster care policies for kinship caregivers;
- Public benefits programs; and
- State kinship care laws.

State Facts Sheets can be downloaded by visiting any of these websites:
www.casey.org.,
www.brookdalefoundation.org., www.gu.org.
or www.childrensdefense.org.

Revised by Maggie Troope Biscarr, September 2002. A summary of the challenges (legal, physical and mental health, education and housing) faced by relative caregivers.

Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children: Access to Education. Revised. Ana Beltran, September 2002. A summary of some of the educational challenges faced by relative caregivers and a summary of state laws that have balanced the concerns of school systems and families; and

Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children: Their Inclusion in the National Family Caregiver Support Program. Revised. Ana Beltran, September 2002. A summary of the National Family Caregiver Support Program and its application to grandparents and other relative caregivers.

To obtain a copy of any of the above fact sheets or publications, visit GU’s website: www.gu.org or contact them at 122 C Street, NW, Suite 820, Washington DC 2001; (202) 638-7555; or by e-mail: gu@gu.org.

Identifying and Addressing the Needs of Children in Grandparent Care. Cynthia Andrews Scarcella, Jennifer Ehrle, Rob Geen. August 2003. Data from the 1999 National Survey of America’s Families. Among the information reported is that grandparents are as likely as other relatives to care for children with health, behavioral or emotional or school problems. Only 29 percent of children living with grandparents receive foster

care or child-only TANF payments. It can be downloaded at: www.urban.org/url.cfm?ID=310842

The Corporation for Public Broadcasting has published a guide for fundraising efforts. Successful grant writing involves the coordination of several activities, including planning, searching for data and

resources, writing and packaging a proposal, submitting a proposal to a funder and follow-up. Here are some steps that will help.

Basic Elements of Grantwriting can be found at:
<http://www.cpb.org/grants/grantwriting.html>.

Nine Fact Sheet series, "Through the Eyes of a Child: Grandparents Raising Grandchildren" is available on the Web. The Fact Sheets are designed for grandparents raising their grandchildren (ages birth to 8) and focus on the unique relationships they have with the children they are raising. The "Through the Eyes of a Child-Grandparents Raising Grandchildren" fact sheet series discusses understanding children's behaviors; the importance of close relationships; and open communication.

Drs. Julie Poehlmann, Assistant Professor, Human Development and Family Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison, and Mary Brintnall-Peterson, Professor and Program Specialist in Aging, UW-Extension, developed the fact sheets to assist grandparents and relatives understand how attachment relationships influence their grandchildren's behaviors. Grandparents provided feedback on the fact sheet series and children provided beautiful color

drawings to bring the series alive. The fact sheet series can be downloaded at:

Contact Mary Brintnall-Peterson for additional information at (608) 262-8083 or send an email to:

mary.brintnall-peterson@ces.uwex.edu.

Three Background Papers from the Pew Commission on Children in Foster Care are available: "The Federal Legal Framework for child Welfare," by Kasia O'Neill Murray, "Child Welfare and the Courts," by Sue Badeau and "The Child Welfare Financing Structure," by Kasia O'Neill Murray. Visit: www.pewfostercare.org/docs/index.php?DocID=22

A new free, confidential tool helps you find government benefits you may be eligible to receive including child care assistance, help with housing, college fellowships, health care coverage and a wide range of other government benefits just by answering some questions. Visit: www.govbenefits.gov.

The American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry has developed "Facts For Families," to provide concise and up-to-date information on issues that affect children, teenagers and their families. The Fact Sheets are available in English, Spanish, Dutch, French, Polish and Icelandic. Visit: www.aacap.org to

access the titles.

2004 FUNDING ALERT FOR LOCAL PROGRAMS AND STATE PUBLIC AGENCIES

We are pleased to announce the Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP) Local and State Seed Grant Initiatives for the year 2004.

Up to **fifteen local 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 at www.brookdalefoundation.org. in October, 2003.

The deadline for the submission of local proposals to the Brookdale Foundation is **Thursday, January 15, 2004**. Selected applicants will be notified in April and attend our National Orientation and Training Conference to be held in Secaucus, New Jersey.

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 at www.brookdalefoundation.org. in October, 2003.

<http://www.uwex.edu/relationships>

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