



Links

Thanks, Ohio, for Keeping the Kinship Permanency Incentive Program in the Budget

The Kinship Permanency Incentive (KPI) program is a key element of Ohio's success in safely reducing the number of children in foster care. KPI was first created in 2005 to provide cost-effective financial support to kinship caregivers for stepping up to the plate and doing the right thing. As most of you know, as kinship caregivers, the financial burden of raising children is a huge undertaking. KPI funding has been able to assist families with some the initial expenses for the children.

We are pleased to report that the Ohio General Assembly included \$3.5 million for 2012, and \$2.5 million for 2013.

Over the last few months we have heard from many caregivers about some interruptions of KPI payments. The program is now accepting applications and payments will continue. If your KPI payments have been interrupted, call Montgomery County Children Services at (937) 224-KIDS (5437). Rena Taylor or James Lingg will assist you.

KPI Eligibility Requirements:

- Caregivers who have been awarded

linking kinship caregivers

custody or guardianship of a child on or after July 1, 2005

- Caregivers' household income can't exceed 200 percent of federal poverty guidelines
- Caregivers must complete a home study with Montgomery County Children Services Agency

Congratulations to OGKC for a Successful 3rd Bi Annual Kinship Conference "Healing Hearts – Kinship Care"

The 3rd Bi Annual Ohio Statewide Kinship Conference, "Healing Hearts – Kinship Care," was held on Friday, September 9, 2011 at the Embassy Suites North in Columbus, Ohio. Over sixty registered participants attended the conference. Among the participants were kinship caregivers, kinship navigators, educators, social workers, and other professionals who were eager to learn about resources that will assist families.

The keynote speaker was Senator Charleta Tavares. The Senator's keynote address focused on the benefits of good partnerships.

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She encouraged those in attendance to become familiar with representatives on both sides of the Ohio house. Senator Tavares was the first African American Democrat female to serve in the state legislature from Franklin County and the first African American woman to serve in a leadership position in the Ohio General Assembly.

During the conference, participants attended a number of workshops on current issues in kinship care. The workshops included: A Healthy Diet Promotes Success in Children, Parents Rights in Special Education, Understanding Your Child's Individual Education Plan (IEP), Grandmother Study: Intergenerational Caregiving to Youth, The Dangers of Text Messaging, and Overview of NAMI (National Association of Mental Illness).



Dionne Simmons, (right), OGKC Co-President, receives award of recognition for her service.

At the conference, the Ohio Grandparent Kinship Coalition (OGKC) acknowledged the following individuals and organizations for their commitment to kinship families:



Adel Samad (right), Kinship Navigator, OGKC Co-Treasurer, at registration table.

Michael Colbert - Ohio Department of Job and Family Services; Rita Sororen - Dave Thomas Foundation; Crystal Ward - Public Children Services Association of Ohio; Senator Charleta Tavares and Ron Browder- Chair, Kinship Advisory Board. A special recognition was made in memory of John Misko, a dedicated kinship caregiver and a member of OGKC. Additionally, the OGKC sent get well wishes to Barbara Harvey. Finally, the OGKC conference planning committee acknowledged the hard work of the leadership, Co-Presidents Dionne Simmons and Jamie Richardson.

The conference was supported by the following individuals and organizations: Ronald Browder, Benjamin and Barbara Turpin & Family, ActivStyle, Powers Family, Sigma Iota Zeta Amicae, Franklin County Office on Aging, Public Children Services Association of Ohio, and the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption.

Shining the Spotlight On

For the fourth year in a row, the Wright State University Student Health Services Department donated school supplies to the Kinship Caregiver Coalition and Trotwood Madison Grandparent Support Group. This August, the department presented the groups with two car loads full of school supplies! The school supplies will be provided to kinship families throughout the school year. The Kinship Caregiver Coalition and Trotwood Madison Grandparent Support Group are grateful for the continued support and generosity of Wright State University Student Health Services Department.



What is the Lunch N Learn Workshop?

As a grandparent or relative parenting for a second time, you may be faced with challenges and uncertainty about who to turn to for help. The Kinship Caregiver Coalition is offering free relevant educational workshops to help you. The workshops will be provided three times a year to kinship caregivers. We have titled these 90 minute workshops "Lunch n Learns." We encourage you to bring your lunch, find out some new information, and get the facts from experts in the field.



Jim Bolden and Jill Parker role playing with caregivers

Links

is a publication of the Kinship Caregiver Coalition (KCC), an initiative of the Center for Healthy Communities.

For more information or to make suggestions, please contact Dionne Simmons, Program Director, Kinship Caregiver Coalition, at the Center for Healthy Communities, 1 Elizabeth Place, West Medical Plaza, Ste 110, Dayton, Ohio 45417; (937) 775-8249.

The Center for Healthy Communities is primarily funded through Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine, Sinclair Community College, Area Health Education Centers (AHEC), Dayton Public Schools, JXT, Inc., Montgomery County Department of Job and Family Services, Ohio Commission on Minority Health, Ohio Department of Health, Michigan Department of Community Health, National Libraries of Medicine, and the United States Social Security Administration.

Charter Funding: The W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Community Mutual Insurance Company, Ohio Board of Regents Action Fund, Ohio Department of Health, and The Dayton Foundation.

The first Lunch N Learn was held in June on the topic, "Coping with Difficult Behaviors." The second session will be held on October 26, 2011 on "The Dangers of Bullying." Mr. Jim Bolden with Public Health-Dayton Montgomery County will present information about addressing and preventing bullying. Mr. Bolden has been working in the field of Violence Prevention for over 15 years.

If you have any suggestions for topics for 2012, please email them to Dionne at dionne.henderson@wright.edu or call at 937-775-8249.

Resources

Feast of Giving Thanksgiving Dinner

The 3rd Annual Feast of Giving Thanksgiving Day dinner will be held at the Dayton Convention Center on Nov. 24. Doors will open at 11 a.m. No tickets are needed for this year's event, according to a news release from ABC 22 & Fox 45 Dayton's News Source, which sponsors the event along with Dermatologists of Southwest Ohio and Laster Inc.

Free parking will be available at the convention center garage. Free bus transportation will be provided by the Greater Dayton Regional Transit Authority.



Organizers said the event — which began in 2009 as a replacement for the Beerman annual Thanksgiving Day dinner that had been a Dayton tradition for forty years — is designed to provide a traditional-style Thanksgiving dinner at no charge for anyone who might be spending the holiday alone, those who are homeless or less fortunate, or for anyone who wants to attend.

Carl's Coats for Kids

Carl's Coats for Kids is at a new location: 5565 Webster Street, Dayton, Ohio, 45414. This location will open Thursday, November 10, 2011. The doors are open from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.



Boys & Girls and Club of Dayton

The Boys & Girls Club of Dayton is offering an afterschool program through May 24, 2012. The afterschool program hours are Monday through Friday, 2:30 to 6:30 p.m. Dinner and snacks are served daily to the participants. The afterschool membership is affordable at \$20.00 for the school year. Call today for more information (Joy Raglin at 937-262-8377).



Need Help with Food for Christmas?

Christmas applications will be taken at the Salvation Army Kroc Center, 1000 N. Keowee Street, Dayton, Ohio 45404.

Morning Applications will be taken from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon on November 7, 8, 14, and 15 only.

Evening applications will be taken from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. on November 14 only. This session is for working applicants only.



You must bring the following items to register: photo ID and social security card for each adult in your home, social security card and medical card for each child, proof of income, proof of current address

For additional information call 937-528-5200.

Dayton Metro Library Offers FREE Computer Classes

Mouse Basics: Monday Oct. 31 at 10:00am, Tuesday Nov. 1 at 2:00pm, Thursday Nov. 17 at 10:00am, Wednesday Nov. 23 at 2:00pm, and Monday Dec. 19 at 10:00am

Computer Basics: Wednesday Nov. 2 at 10:00am, Monday Nov. 28 at 10:00am, and Tuesday Dec. 20 at 2:00pm

Internet Basics: Monday Nov. 7 at 2:00pm, Monday Dec. 5 at 10:00am, Wednesday Dec. 21 at 10:00am

Email Basics: Monday Nov. 14 at 10:00am, Monday Dec. 12 at 10:00am, Thursday Dec. 22 at 2:00pm

These classes are just the tip of the iceberg. The Dayton Metro Library has open lab sessions where people can practice their skills and get informal assistance. In addition, they offer three more "tracks" of increasingly advanced classes. More info on these is available on the DML website: www.daytonmetrolibrary.org. This information is also available in DML's Spotlight on your Library, which is available at all the library branches.

People who may not be able to get downtown to the main library for one of these courses can contact their "home" branch and set up a one on one session to address their computer instruction needs. Several of the branches have also begun to offer some of the Basics courses including East, Huber Heights, Miami Township, Miamisburg, and Trotwood. The best way to find out details about what they are offering is to call that particular branch.

Resources

The Winter Crisis Program Begins November 1

Through the Winter Crisis Program, eligible households in emergency situations may qualify to receive, once per heating season, up to \$175 in payment assistance to help maintain, restore, transfer or initiate their utility services. In addition, those with a 10-day or less supply of bulk fuel may also qualify to receive up to \$750 in assistance. Those households serviced by a regulated utility company such as Dayton Power & Light or Vectren Energy Delivery Services of Ohio must sign up for the Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP Plus) or another payment plan in order to receive emergency assistance. This program can also help pay for heating system repairs in limited situations.

There are some changes to PIPP Plus this year. To re-enroll in the PIPP Plus program, customers will be required to pay up to \$50 to their electric and/or gas utility after receiving the Winter Crisis Assistance. This payment must be made 5 days of re-enrolling in PIPP Plus.

For those without an appointment, walk-ins are seen Monday through Friday at 7:00a.m. In addition, Community Action Partnership offers late night appointments on Tuesday and Thursday, during the Winter Crisis Program at:

Community Action Partnership
719 S. Main Street
Dayton, Ohio 45402

To schedule an appointment please call CAP 24-hours appointment line at 1-866-504-7379.

Resources

Support Groups for Kinship Caregivers

Trotwood Support Group

Trotwood Grandparent and other Relatives Raising Children Support Group will meet on Saturday, November 19, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. at the Trotwood Branch Dayton Metro Library on 651 E. Main Street. The Trotwood Support Group would like to invite all relatives raising children living in Montgomery County.

For additional information please contact **Marsha Jones at 937-770-2137.**

**Future Meeting Dates:
December 17**

Kettering Support Group

(Note: This is a new location)
Town & Country Shopping Center, Community Room, 300 E. Stroop Road, Kettering, Ohio 45429. Meeting times first Wednesday of the month from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00a.m. For additional information on the Kettering Support Group contact **Shirley Schumacher, at 937-298-4720.**

**Or visit their website:
www.grandparentsraisinggrandkids.weebly.com**

**Future Meeting Dates:
December 7**

Get a Free Mammogram and Pap Smear

Every year, many women die of cervical and breast cancer. The earlier the cancer is detected, the greater the chances of survival. However, some women without insurance are not able to receive the screening tests necessary to make sure they are healthy, so cancer can sometimes go undetected.

Premier Community Health, along with the Ohio Breast and Cervical Cancer Project (BCCP), offers free Pap tests for women 40 or older and free mammograms for women 50 or older who meet program guidelines.

BCCP Eligibility Requirements:

- Low income
- No healthcare insurance
- Age 40 and older for Pap test and clinical breast exams
- Age 50 and older for screening mammograms

Appointments are required and can be made by calling 937-227-9444 or toll-free at 866-838-8973.



**Can a Kinship
Navigator help you?**

Call the Kinship Navigator
Intake Line at
937-775-8245 or visit:
[www.med.wright.edu/chc/
kinship](http://www.med.wright.edu/chc/kinship)