

# Links

## CALL YOUR STATE REPRESENTATIVE TODAY – URGE THEM TO SUPPORT KPI

After the Ohio General Assembly created it in the 2005-06 biennial budget, Ohio implemented the **Kinship Permanency Incentive Program** on January 1, 2006, funded with \$10 million / year TANF funds. This program provides modest but effective financial support for minor children in the legal and physical custody of grandparents, relatives, or other kinship caregivers (defined in Ohio as any relative or non-relative adult who has a long-standing relationship or bond with the child and/or family). It has been very successful in creating safe, permanent homes for children when their own parents do not or cannot care for them.

The program provides a total of \$3,500 over the course of three years, as an incentive and support to these caregivers, to make a legal commitment to that child, and stick with the commitment to provide a permanent home.

The program has been VERY successful – over 6,000 children are being supported by the Kinship Permanency Incentive program. Evaluations show these families are safe, stable and enduring. A majority of the caregivers are

Over 6,000 children are being supported by the Kinship Permanency Incentive program

## linking kinship caregivers

in the workforce, but with low incomes and set budgets and expenses. The modest support from KPI allows them to welcome the unexpected addition to their household, and even make the legal commitment. From a child welfare perspective, we know how important legal relationships are – both for the commitment of the caregiver and the emotional perspective of the child.



KPI is also an important diversion from foster care (50% of the children had previously been in the child welfare agency's custody, the other half were a diversion from costly foster care.) KPI provides the child welfare and juvenile justice systems an attractive tool to discuss with kin caregivers the option to accept judicial custody.

**Call your state representative today and urge them to fund the KPI program.**

John Husted - 614-466-4538  
SD06@senate.state.oh.us  
Seth Morgan - 614-644-8051  
district36@ohr.state.oh.us  
Roland Winburn - 614-466-2960  
district40@ohr.state.oh.us

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## Current News

### WSU Raiders Celebrated Kinship Families

Raiders Celebrate Kinship Families



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On Sunday, December 21, 2008 the Wright State University Women Raiders Basketball Program recognized kinship families. On one of the coldest days of the year hundreds of Raiders and Flyers fans came out to support kinship families by donating canned foods and small toys. Over twenty kinship families enjoyed a fierce basketball game against the University of Dayton.

During the half time show the lights shined on the kinship families. The families were recognized for their dedication to the children in their care. All of the families received a twenty five dollar gift card from Meijer and a box of goodies.

We would like to thank the many caring organizations and individuals that made this event possible.

Wright State University, Center for Healthy Communities, the University of Dayton, Glory Foods, Life Enrichment Center, WHIOTV-7, WROU-92.1, HOT-102.9, the Halfpap & Rogers Family.



Food items were collected at the door, sorted by the Kinship Navigators and volunteers, and were distributed to the kinship families that night.

#### Can a Kinship Navigator help you?

Call the Kinship Navigator Intake Line at 937-775-1144 or visit: [www.med.wright.edu/chc/kinship](http://www.med.wright.edu/chc/kinship) for kinship resources.



# TV Digital Transition: More Time to Prepare



Feb 20, 2009 - U.S. Senator Voinovich  
<http://voinovich.senate.gov>

Congress has voted to delay the "DTV transition" deadline for television stations to replace traditional analog broadcasts until June 12, 2009. This date-change will give consumers more time to get a converter box, cable or

a new television set, receive their converter box coupons if they are currently on the waiting list and re-apply for expired coupons.

It was projected that about 720,000 Ohio households would have been affected if the change happened one year ago. It is my hope that the educational campaigns that have been flooding the airwaves and your mailboxes – in addition to the deadline adjustment – will decrease that number dramatically, helping many of you decide whether this change will affect you and what you can do to ease the impact of the DTV transition.

The DTV transition won't directly affect everyone. Those who have a digital tuner in their television, or subscribe

to a cable, satellite or telephone company television service provider need not worry. But those who are impacted will be impacted dramatically.

The new deadline is your last opportunity to prepare, so you need to take immediate action if you are one of the 19.6 million American households that use a rooftop antenna or "rabbit ears" to receive free, over-the-air broadcasts. Even if you do subscribe to a television service provider, you may have a television set in your second bedroom or kitchen that is affected.

Additionally, some local television stations may be permitted to change over to digital programming before the new June deadline, so the sooner you prepare the better if you don't want to lose your television signal.

Fortunately, navigating the transition is manageable. You only have to follow one of three simple steps to make sure your family continues to receive free, over-the-air television:

**1) Purchase a DTV converter box** that will convert the digital signal into analog for an existing analog television set. The DTV converter box, sometimes referred to as a set-top box, is an electronic device that makes the new digital signal viewable on an older analog television set. Converter boxes are available for purchase and cost between \$50 and \$70. One will still need basic antennas in addition to the converter box to receive a digital signal on their analog television sets, but current antennas will work the same as before.

You may have heard that \$40 coupons are available to help cover the cost of converter boxes for eligible households. Because of high-demand for coupons, the program has reached its \$1.34 billion ceiling – which consists of both redeemed and ordered coupons. American households have requested more than 46 million coupons and 18 million of these coupons have been redeemed. But it is not too late.

If these coupons are not redeemed within 90 days from the date mailed, they will expire. The funds from these expired coupons will then become available for the program as they are returned to the U.S. Treasury.

## 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, 140 E. Monument Avenue, Room 315, Dayton, Ohio 45402; (937) 775-1116.*

The Center for Healthy Communities is funded through Wright State University, Boonshoft School of Medicine, Sinclair Community College, Area Health Education Centers (AHEC), Physicians Charitable Foundation, Junior League of Dayton, Montgomery County Sunrise Weed & Seed, Public Health Dayton - Montgomery County Ryan White, Montgomery County Department of Job and Family Services, Springfield Safe Schools/Healthy Students, Health Policy Institute of Ohio (HPIO), JXT, Ohio Commission on Minority Health, Ohio Department of Health, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Ohio Department of Education, United States Department of Health and Human Services.

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.

## Kinship Stories

### A Letter from a Grandparent Caregiver

Dear Kinship Navigator:

I have wanted to call or e-mail you since Tuesday of this week. I just haven't had the chance, but I wanted to let you know that without your advice and kindness I don't think the outcome of custody would have turned out the way it did. I filed Pro Se in November of last year and had wanted to do it sooner, but my Mother has been very ill and work has been overwhelming, we were given a court date of Feb.10.

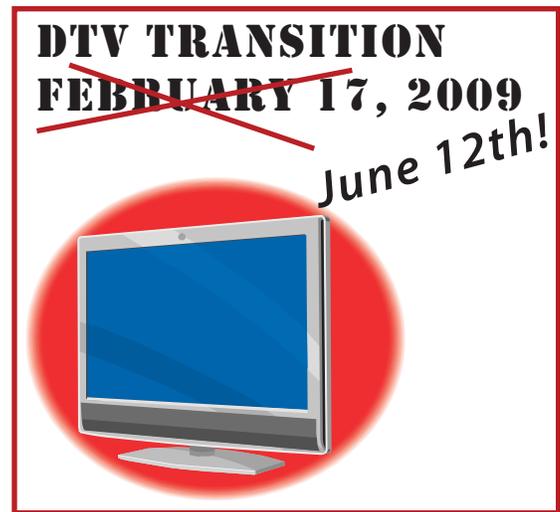
I thought Ms. X was going to give us a fight for our life, but was I shocked. The judge talked to her and told her what her rights were and what she could do. After 3 times of explaining it to her, she very boldly said "I don't want him, and I can't take care of him, so give him to them". The judge asked us a few things and then asked Ms. X again what did she want, and she said "I don't want him!" Ten minutes later the judge was ending the hearing and we have permanent custody of him until he is 18.

I still don't believe it, and probably won't until I get the papers from the court. She called that evening and said some horrible things to me. But I understand her a bit better now, and we have not heard from her since. It has been the quietest 4 days in about 20 years!

I want to try and come to more of the Grandparents meetings but my work schedule has changed and right now it is very difficult for me to get to the Wednesday meetings. But hopefully I will get to the one in Trotwood soon. You are a saint, and I can't thank you enough for the information and your kind words that you have given me. I felt like I was lost and couldn't find my way out. Thank you from the bottom of my heart and soul.

TV Digital Transition . . . Continued from page 3

You can still contact the Coupon Program to request coupons, but you will currently receive a message that you have been placed on a waiting list and will receive coupons on a first-come, first-serve basis as the funds from the expired coupons becomes available. For more information about the converter box coupon program, call 1-888-DTV-2009 (1-888-388-2009) or visit [www.dtv2009.gov](http://www.dtv2009.gov).



**2) Purchase a new television set with a built-in digital tuner.** Another option you may choose is to upgrade to a new television set with a built-in digital tuner. As with older sets, you will need basic antennas that provide quality reception of over-the-air analog television signals to pick up free digital broadcast programming from local stations. Before deciding to purchase a new digital TV, make sure your current TV doesn't have a built-in digital tuner. Most sets sold in the last few years that are larger than 27 inches will likely have a digital tuner.

**3) Subscribe to cable, satellite or a telephone company television service provider.** All of these services will allow you to receive digital television signals on analog television sets, as long as all the sets are connected to the service. No additional equipment is required for consumers who decide to go this route.

This new deadline gives you more time, but don't delay. The DTV transition, which means a better quality television experience for viewers, will be here in no time. Please take action now to avoid problems.

**If you have any additional questions, please call 1-888-CALL-FCC (1-888-255-5322) or visit [www.dtv.gov](http://www.dtv.gov)**



### Carseats to Booster seats; the LAW

Contributed by: Jessica Saunders,  
Children's Medical Center of Dayton

Ohio's new booster seat law requires federally approved booster seats for children ages 4 to 8-years-old and who are under 4 feet, 9 inches in height.



Boosters are designed to keep the lap belt low across the child's hips, and many have a shoulder harness guide to keep the shoulder belt on the center of the child's shoulder.

Booster seats come in many types and styles. Check the label for the weight limits and always follow the manufacturer's guidelines.

**Combination child seat/booster seat:** This seat converts from a five-point harness system to a belt-positioning booster seat. Check the instruction manual or the car seat label for exact weight and height limits.

**No-back booster:** Must be used with a lap/shoulder-style seat belt. It is best if your car's seat back or headrests come above your child's ears when he or she is sitting in the booster seat. This model is easy to pack up and move from car to car.

**High-back booster:** Must be used with a lap/shoulder style seat belt. A high-back booster protects against whiplash in cars with low seat backs. It can be used in cars with or without headrests. The high back also supports a sleeping child. A high-back booster may also have seat belt guides to help position



the seat belt.

Dayton Children's offers the top five good booster seat habits:

1. Use a booster seat correctly in a back seat every time your child rides in a car.
2. A booster seat uses no harness. It uses the vehicle's lap and shoulder belts only. Be sure the safety belt is properly buckled.
3. Booster seats are not installed tightly. They sit on the vehicle seat; the child buckles the lap and shoulder belt and wears the safety belt like you do. Never use only the lap belt.
4. Use the vehicle's lap and shoulder belts on every booster seat. Never place the shoulder belt under the child's arm or behind the child's back.
5. Be sure all occupants wear safety belts correctly every time. Children learn from watching you.

For additional information contact:  
Jessica Saunders at (937) 641-3385 or  
saundersj@childrensdayton.org.



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937-775-1144 or visit:  
[www.med.wright.edu/chc/kinship](http://www.med.wright.edu/chc/kinship)  
for kinship resources.

# Resources

## WIC Program

The WIC (Women, Infants & Children) Program provides nutritious foods, nutrition education and health and other social services to participants at no charge.

WIC serves low income pregnant, postpartum and breast feeding women, and infants and children up to age 5 who are at nutritional risk.

**Caregivers with temporary or permanent custody of a child under the age of 5 may be eligible for this program.**

Charles R. Drew WIC  
1323 W. Third St. 225-4491  
Corwin-Nixon WIC  
2349 Stanley Ave. 225-6355  
Salem WIC  
4699 Salem Ave. 496-3176  
Sunrise WIC  
1320 E. 5th St. 225-6166  
West Carrollton WIC  
113 Central Ave. 859-7974



## Child Support Benefits

There are more than one million children in Ohio who are entitled to child support.

Caregivers with temporary or permanent custody may be eligible to receive child support by coming to the Montgomery County Support Enforcement Agency office and filling out an application. The office is located at 14 W. Fourth St., 3rd floor, Reibold Bldg., 937-225-4600. Call first to find out what documents are required.

The program's goal is to ensure that all children are supported financially by both parents, and to reduce the number of children receiving public assistance.

## Need a Birth Certificate?

### Montgomery County Vital Records Office

Public Health Dayton & Montgomery County

Bureau of Vital Statistics

Reibold Building

117 South Main Street, Dayton, OH 45422

Monday – Friday: 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

- Certified birth certificate – \$18.00 each

To obtain a copy of a birth/death certificate in Montgomery County, write or go to the Vital Statistics Office in the county where the event occurred. (State requests must be submitted in writing only.) To ensure that you receive an accurate record for your request and that your request is filled with all due speed, please follow these steps:

- Make your letters concise and to the point.
- Do NOT include more than one or two requests at once, and be careful not to write confusing details of your family lines.
- Type or print all names and addresses in your letter.
- Provide complete information on an individual and event for which you need documents.
- Always provide a self addressed stamped envelope.
- Be sure and include the following information:
  - ◇ date of request
  - ◇ full name of person (last name in caps)
  - ◇ sex of that person
  - ◇ date of birth/death
  - ◇ place of birth/death (city or town, county, state, and name of the hospital/location, if known)
  - ◇ mother's maiden name
  - ◇ father's name
  - ◇ relationship to party
  - ◇ the purpose for which the record is needed
  - ◇ requestor's name & address
  - ◇ requestor's signature

## Need a Social Security Card?

### Social Security Office

200 W 2nd Street, Room 209 Federal Bldg

Dayton, OH 45402

937-225-2542

Monday - Friday: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Caregivers should take picture I.D. , custody documentation and birth certificate and go into the office to apply for a social security replacement card.

There is no cost.



**ADVENTURE CENTRAL**  
AT WESLEYAN METROPARK

## Activity Nights

**Tuesday & Thursday Nights**

**7:00pm -8:00pm**

Beginning January 6, 2009 to May 21, 2009

**Grades K & Up**

**(NON-AFTERSCHOOL PARTICIPANTS ONLY)**

Adventure Central is the place where the kids  
have fun learning about Nature & Science

This program provides hands-on learning in nature and science. Youth will learn skills to help them now and later in life. Youth will have the opportunity to work with caring adults in a fun learning environment.

**Contact Information:**

2222 James H. McGee Blvd.  
Dayton, OH 45427 Phone 937-278-2601



*"PARTNERS IN POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT"*

## **Support Groups for Kinship Caregivers/Children**

**Trotwood Madison Support Group -  
Saturday, April 18, 2009 at 10:00a.m.,  
615 E. Main Street, Trotwood, Ohio  
Call Marsha Jones for additional in-  
formation at 937-770-2137**

**Kettering Support Group -  
Wednesday, April 1, 2009 at  
10:00am Area Agency on Aging,  
Ann Fennigan, Guest Speaker**

**For additional information contact  
Shirley Schumacher, 937-298-4720,  
Support Group Facilitator**

**Celebrating Life Health and Well-  
ness Fair - Saturday, April 11, 2009,  
11:00a.m. - 5:00p.m. Lunch will be  
served, free health screening, and  
prizes. Sinclair Community College -  
Ponitz Center (building 12)**