

## Inside This Issue:

- Healthy Eating Tips for Kids
- Books that Help Grandparents and Grandchildren
- An Intergenerational Partnership Assist Grandparents



Winter Issue  
2007

# Kinship Chronicles

## Single System of Care for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

A single system of care is afforded to grandparents through efforts of the five core Department of Human Resources (DHR) Division and Offices. If a grandparent walks through a Aging Services office or a Child Support Services office, for example, staff will listen and refer grandparents to another DHR office based upon the grandparents needs.

In addition to existing services for all grandparents, some DHR offices have created more services to assist grandparents.

The new programs are as follows:

**Emergency/ Crisis Intervention Services** may be



used to help pay for the cost of emergent needs (i.e. shelter, utilities, school expenses, furniture, etc). A grandparent must be 60 years of age or

older and/or disabled and make at least 160% of the poverty level.

A **Monthly Subsidy Payment** of \$50 per grandchild per month may be added to the monthly cash assistance check through the TANF program. A grandparent must be 60 years of age or older and/or disabled and make at least 160% of the poverty level.

The **Childcare** program for low-income families will prioritize services for this population with grandchildren under five years old. *Continued on page 3*

## Cliff's Notes

### Newly Revised Fact Sheets

Georgetown University Long-Term Care Financing Project has released two newly revised fact sheets providing up-to-date information on long term care financing. The first, *National Spending on Long Term Care*, looks at total spending for nursing home and home care services nationwide, in total and by major payers.

The second fact sheet, *Medicaid and Long-Term Care*, describes Medicaid's role in financing long-term care with a particular focus on home and community-based services, and how states' provision of these services may be affected by the policy changes in the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005.

The fact sheets may be viewed/printed at the Georgetown University website, which is

<http://ltc.georgetown.edu/>

## Partner's Pad "Legally Speaking"

Georgia Legal Services Program (GLSP) participated in the taping of "Legally Speaking." The taping highlighted special concerns of grandparents raising grandchildren.

The Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys works in conjunction with Clark Atlanta University to tape "Legally Speaking," which airs in the Atlanta area on Mondays, Wednesday, and Fridays at 11:00 a.m. on Channel 23.

With Jacqueline Bunn as the host, grandparents from various kinship care programs, and GLSP attorneys participated in the taping.

The participants discussed the different experiences of kinship care for the perspective of the relative caregiver and from an individual raised by a relative.

Wendy A. Jerkins, the Kinship Care Project Attorney with GLSP, produced the segment. The segment will air within a few weeks.



## Easy and Healthy Eating Tips for Kids

- 1. Power Up with Breakfast
- 2. Grab Quick and Easy Snacks
- 3. Move More; Sit Less

The USDA Food and Nutrition Services has an "Eat Smart, Play Hard" campaign. The campaign's goal is to motivate children and their families to adopt healthy eating.

Here are some of their easy tips:

**Eat** a peanut butter and banana sandwich for a different breakfast.

**Grab** an apple, or an orange or any other fruit for a quick treat.

**Turn on** the stereo and dance around the house

for fun exercise.

**Quench** your thirst with water or 100% juice.

**Munch** on veggies, pretzels or popcorn.

**Mix** low fat-milk or low-fat yogurt with berries for a cool shake.

## Books That Can Help Grandparents and Grandchildren

Check out these books referenced in the *Grandparents and More* website: [www.grandsandmore.com](http://www.grandsandmore.com).

Cobain, Bev, R.N. *When Nothing Matters Anymore: A Survival Guide for Depressed Teens*.

Author reaches out to teens who are sad, discouraged or depressed. Lots of personal stories from teens that dealt with depression.

Johnson, Sue and Car-

olson, Julie. *GrandLoving: Making Memories with Your Grandchildren*. 200 activities to do with grandchildren ages 0-8. Also, check out their website [www.grandloving.com](http://www.grandloving.com)

# Intergenerational Partnership Assists Grandparents Raising Grandchildren— Central Savannah River Area Agency on Aging

Bikes, toys, bedding, kitchen supplies, and furniture crowd the usually-bare conference room at the CSRA Regional Development Center (CSRA RDC). Upon the suggestion of Jeanette Cummings, Area Agency on Aging Director and Communities in Schools Board member, RDC employees are working with the “stay in school” network to help grandparents raising grandchildren.

One of the grandmothers, Mrs. W is 65 years old and is raising



her two granddaughters. The girls’ mother is bed bound due to complications from multiple sclerosis. Partners from the CSRA

Regional Development Center and Walton Options for Independent Living provided Christmas gifts for the entire family. Mrs. W fought back tears as she commented that this year has been particularly difficult. Mary Crawford, director of Communities in Schools of Augusta-Richmond County, states, “We believe that kids will prosper when surrounded by a caring community and working alongside caring adults.”

The Area Agency on Aging program of CSRA hope to foster communities by connecting grandparents and other relative caregivers to community resources.

Picture: Anne Floyd (CSRA RDC Local Government Services Director)

*“Our role is not to force change, but to encourage healthy relationships”— Irma Garcia Rose, Caregiver Support Coordinator, Grands Who Care Program*

## When Faced with Raising the Kids’ Kids’... Relatives as Caregivers in Chattooga County— Grand’s Who Care

The Grand Who Care Program, a Kinship Care Program subcontractor of Northwest Georgia Area Agency on Aging , recently had an extended article in the *Summerville News* regarding their program.

The newspaper explained the complex issues of grandparents raising grandchildren such as social isolation, health problems, and depression and how the Grands Who Care program helps grandparents address those issues, and

the like. Irma Garcia Rose, was interviewed and had an opportunity to explain the program’s goals and accomplishments. The Grands Who Care currently services nearly one hundred families in Floyd, Walker, Chattooga and Gordon counties.

*Continued, page 1*

## Single System of Care for Grandparents

Child Support Monies will be redirected to grandparents with physical custody of their grand-

children in an expedited manner. If there is no existing order of support, staff will assist the grandparent in obtaining these monies.

for Primary Relatives involves certifying the grandparent to receive 100% of foster care payments through IMPACT training.

### One-on-One IMPACT Training

Department of Human Resources  
Division of Aging Services  
2 Peachtree Street  
9th Floor  
Atlanta, GA 30303



The Georgia Department of Human Resources, Division of Aging Services administers a state-wide system of services for senior citizens, their families and caregivers. We work with other aging agencies and organizations to effectively and efficiently respond to the needs of elderly Georgians. The Division of Aging Services meets the challenge of Georgia's growing older population through continued service improvement and innovation.

The Division of Aging Services vision is to assist older Georgians in Living Longer, Living Safely, Living Well.

---

## Tis' the Season to be Jolly.... "Granny Bo" from Project GRANDD Shares Her Joy

*I was sitting here trying to think of a way to say thank you to Project GRANDD, because just to say thank you doesn't seem like enough. Anyone can say thanks, some mean it and others don't. So here it goes straight from the heart.*

*Thank you for all you and our guest speakers whom I've had the chance to meet, those who have accepted me as an aging grandmother with disabilities of my own trying to make sure that the grandchildren I am raising have every chance to learn and get an education and be able to take care of themselves.*

*Project GRANDD gives others and*

*me the chance to voice our opinion, to vent how we handle our problems. The guests that visit are just great. The topics we discuss touch on something that all of us are going through. We learn by listening to each other. So many times I have gone to meetings burdened down, and after listening to others I leave knowing that my problems are non compared to others and that I am very blessed. I thank God for Janice, Cheryl and Project GRANDD, and all of the grandparents that make us a family. May this program continue so others*



**"Granny Bo's" Grandchildren**

*can be helped just like I am.*

*Betty "Granny Bo"  
Bohanan*