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Care for Caregivers *Prentiss Care Networks Project*

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Kinship Care Resources

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services developed a guide for Kinship Caregivers and their families. To obtain a copy of the guide please call 614- 466-9274 or visit the website at

www.odjfs.state.oh.us

The Ohio Grandparent Coalition

937-775-1116

Ohio Area Agency on Aging

<http://www.med.wright.edu/chc/kinship/about.htm>

In Cuyahoga county, Grandparent & Other Kinship Caregiver Initiative at

www.cuyahoga.oh.us

Nationally, AARP Grandparent Information Center
1-888-687-2277 or

www.aarp.org/grandparents

Kinship Care

More than 6 million children are being reared in households headed by grandparents or other relatives. In Ohio, 76,794 children are living in households headed by grandparents or other relatives without a parent present in the home. Kinship care refers to any extended family member or non-relative adult who assumes the primary responsibility for raising a child.

Kinship care can be an informal arrangement when family members decide to take on the responsibilities of raising a child because the child's parents are unable or unwilling to do so because of death, mental or physical illness, incarceration, abusive environments, substance misuse, financial problems or other difficulties. Most recently, military deployment of one or both parents has been a reason for temporary kinship care arrangements in some families.

Kinship care can also be a formal arrangement such as when a court appoints custody of a minor child to a relative. These formal arrangements, whether temporary or permanent placements, are deemed the most desirable for children and families because of the familiarity of loved ones and the continuity of the common culture, traditions, and customs. Many kinship caregivers are grandparents, but aunts, uncles, adult siblings, and other adults close to the child have taken on the parental role. According to the 2000 US Census, over 2.4 million grandparents had primary responsibility for raising grandchildren, although this figure does not include all kinship caregivers. It is estimated that the majority of the caregivers are women with limited financial resources. Additionally, there are a disproportionate number of people of color in kinship care arrangements.

Kinship caregivers are often involved in multiple caregiving roles that include helping friends or other family members while raising children. Caregivers to children may be providing assistance to elderly parents or in-laws and must manage the competing demands of raising a family, caregiving to aging relatives, and oftentimes working outside of the home. Caregivers in this role have been referred to as the "sandwich generation" and may feel overwhelmed by addressing the needs of family members.

Issues facing kinship caregivers and their families include negotiating the new roles and responsibilities of family members, increased financial obligations, handling legal matters, addressing the mental and physical health needs of the child, participating in the child's educational process, parenting and disciplinary matters and many others.

Kinship care can be a very rewarding and uplifting experience for caregivers despite the mental, physical and financial challenges that often accompany the caregiver role. At times, families may require assistance and services to help meet the challenges of raising a child or just need some reassurance and support. Kinship caregivers are unsung heroes who help to keep children and families together.

National and state data taken from 2000 US Census.



Prentiss Care Networks promotes caregiving for multiple generations...



Calendar of community caregiving & aging events

Case Cares for Caregivers ...

Prentiss Care Networks
10900 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44106-4904
216.368.2692

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AGING AND HEALTH**



Are you looking for education regarding caregiving, or about the care needs of the people for whom you provide care? The staff and faculty of the Prentiss Care Networks can provide free education for your facility, for your church or caregiver group, or for your civic event. We would be pleased to share free information to help you meet your education and training goals.

(216) 368-2692

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event / sponsoring agency</u>
November 3	"Helping family members care for a person with memory loss", sponsored by Benjamin Rose Institute
November 5, 2006	Caregiving: the Whole Package" Resource day for caregivers, including the Foley Lecture. Call Fairhill Center for more details.
November 6-7, 2006	"Reflecting on 100 years of Alzheimer's" International Alzheimer's conference. Contact University Center on Aging and Health at Case Western Reserve University to register.
December 1, 2006	"Caregiver Stress and its Impact on Memory", sponsored by Center for Aging Initiatives, Cuyahoga Community College.

News & Notes

The Ohio Kinship Permanency Incentive Program provides incentive payments to eligible families caring for minor children. For more information and eligibility requirements, contact your local children services agency or call 1-866-886-3537; select option 4.

A new publication from the National Alliance on Caregiving on "Care for Caregivers" is available at

<http://www.caregiving.org/pubs/brochures/CFC.pdf>

The Older Americans Act of 2006 has been passed by the Congress and signed into law.

This reauthorization includes continued and broadened outreach to family caregivers through the National Family Caregiver Support Program

In the next issue...

Caring for yourself while preparing for your holidays

Want more information?
Call us: (216) 368-2692
or go to
<http://caregiving.case.edu>