Kinship Navigator Program
SUPPORTING GRANDPARENTS AND OTHER RELATIVES RAISING CHILDREN

“CAPITALIZING ON PARTNERSHIPS TO EXTEND REACH OF THE KINSHIP NAVIGATOR PROGRAM”

Contact Us:
2155 Arlington Ave.
Toledo, OH 43609
Phone: (419) 382-0624
Fax: (419) 382-4560
Website: www.AreaOfficeOnAging.com

The Kinship Navigator Program is supported by the Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio, Inc., Lucas County Children Services, and Lucas County Department of Job and Family Services.
CAPITALIZING ON PARTNERSHIPS TO EXTEND REACH OF THE KINSHIP NAVIGATOR PROGRAM

ARCELIA ARMSTRONG, LSW
COORDINATOR, CAREGIVER SUPPORT & KINSHIP NAVIGATOR PROGRAMS

MARSHA ROSE, LSW
SUPERVISOR, KINSHIP NAVIGATOR PROGRAM
✓ Learn about the services offered by the Kinship Navigator Program at the Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio, Inc.
✓ Learn how cost neutral community partnerships can extend the reach and capacity of a program.
✓ Learn how to establish and cultivate meaningful contractual and in-kind partnerships to benefit kinship families and meet critical needs.
✓ Learn how to develop outreach tools and strategies that increase awareness about the growing needs of kinship families, increase community engagement, and build partnerships around common goals.
Kinship care is when grandparents, other relatives, or friends are raising children when the biological parents are unable or unwilling to do so.
WHAT DO THESE FAMOUS FACES HAVE IN COMMON?
Please turn to page 6 of the Parenting Smarts Resource Guide for the “Raised by Grandparents” Word Search.
Quick Facts & Statistics About Kinship Care

Children in Grandfamilies

8 million
Number of children who live with a relative who is the head of the household

2.6 million
Number of children who are being raised by a relative or close family friend and do not have a parent living in the household

137,356
Number of children in foster care being raised by relatives

Grandparents Responsible for Grandchildren

- 67% are married
- 56% are in the workforce
- 33% live below the poverty line
- 25% have a disability
- 48% are age 60 and older
- 13% speak English "less than very well"
- 46% have raised grandchildren for five or more years

For every 1 child being raised by kin in foster care, there are 18 children being raised by kin outside foster care.

KINSHIP CARE LEADS TO BETTER OUTCOMES & PERMANENCY

- Safety
- Permanency
- Mental Health
- Cultural Identity
- Belonging
- Behavioral Health
- Brothers and Sisters
- Stability
The Kinship Navigator Program originated in the year 2000 in response to a state-wide initiative by the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services which sought to address the rising need of support for kinship families. Through local collaboration by agency directors at the Area Office on Aging (AOoA), Lucas County Children Services, and Lucas County Department of Job and Family Services the AOoA Kinship Navigator Program began supporting kinship caregivers in Lucas County Ohio.

The Kinship Navigator Program is a premier program supporting over 1,100 grandparents and relative caregivers in Lucas County for over 22 years.
KINSHIP NAVIGATOR PROGRAM FUNDING

► Lucas County Children Services Levy
► Lucas County Department of Job & Family Services (Title XX)
► National Family Caregiver Support Program (Title III-E)
► Lucas County Senior Services Levy
Quick Facts:

• Kinship Navigator Program employees have over **60 years** of combined clinical experience in the field of social services.
• Kinship Navigator Program managers are Licensed Social Workers in the State of Ohio.

Our Team:

• Kinship Navigator
• Marsha Rose, LSW, Supervisor, Kinship Navigator Program
• Arcelia Armstrong, LSW, Coordinator, Caregiver Support & Kinship Navigator Programs
Getting In-Kind Gifts and Pro-Bono Services for Kinship/Grandfamilies. Two Examples from: AgeSpan and Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio, Inc.

www.agespan.org and www.areaofficeonaging.com

Since 1997, AgeSpan, an Area Agency on Aging, has partnered with other organizations working with older adults to establish the Breakfast Exchange Club of Greater Havemill under the auspices of the National Exchange Club. Club members support the community by donating funds to support the needs of older adults. The Breakfast Exchange Club helps pay for “specific needs” that are outside the AAA’s kinship/grandfamily budget such as holiday gifts for grandparents and their grandchildren, grocery store gift cards, summer camp fees, and other extracurricular activities for children. The Breakfast Exchange Club also has helped a grandchild with vision loss attend a summer camp on Martha’s Vineyard and paid for another grandchild to participate in a cheerleading competition in Florida.

Over time, AAAs can turn one or two partnerships into many. That’s what the Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio, Inc. did. The AAA has served kinship/grandfamilies for 20 years and supports more than 1,100 kinship/grandfamilies. In this time, the agency has cultivated cost-neutral partnerships with many organizations, including more than 60 nonprofits, managed care plans, government agencies, and universities. These partners offer a variety of free goods and/or pro-bono services to the kinship/grandfamilies the AAA serves. For example, one nonprofit partner provides free winter coats to children in kinship/grandfamilies. Managed care partners pay for turkeys and hams during the holidays. Other partners help with gift cards, school supplies, space for AAA events, minor league baseball and hockey tickets, and pro bono legal assistance for the families.

When asked how other AAAs and Title VI programs can replicate its success, Colletta Gentova, Vice President of Special Contracts and Analytics at the Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio, Inc. suggested they build and nurture relationships at the local level by engaging in meaningful outreach activities. She also encouraged AAAs and Title VI programs to find opportunities to teach other entities about kinship/grandfamilies. Requests to partners, she says, may start small and build over time.
Monthly Resource: March 2023

Making a Difference

This month, we’re spotlighting kinship programs making a difference in their communities.

Extending Program Reach: The Northwest Ohio Area Office on Aging

Jerrica Armstrong and Marsha Rose are a dynamic pair of social workers who make you believe anything is possible. Along with another colleague, they are the Kinship Navigator Program at the Northwest Ohio Area Office on Aging, and they’re part of an impressive network of partnerships that greatly extends their reach.

How are grandfamily and kin caregiver referrals referred for services? Referrals come from the VMCAs, the court system, school nurses, neighbors, food banks, and places of worship. Caregivers must be residents of the County and the primary caregivers of children aged 16 and under. There are no age, income, or legal custody requirements.

What services are offered? The program office refers and assists to help caregivers. Staff conduct an intake assessment and then follow-up with each family. They update their 64-page resource packet for all family caregivers every other year, and it includes resources for kinship grandfamilies.

How did this begin? More than two decades ago, Ohio’s child welfare agency referred to as (SWEFS) made specific funds available to address the needs of kinship families. For many organizations, the end of the grant marked the end of the services. For the Northwest Ohio Area Office on Aging, it was just the beginning.

Where does ongoing funding come from? Current funding comes from the federal National Family Caregiver Support Program as well as local letters and agencies, including the county child welfare agency.

What services are grandfamily and kin caregivers referred to? Partners provide legal assistance, financial assistance, transportation, food, mental health services, childcare, education, housing, furniture, and clothing. More than 5,000 caregivers received assistance in 2021.

What are some examples of goods and services that partners donate for the families? In-kind and monetary donations cover sports tickets, camp scholarships, winter coats, school supplies, food for farm markets, holiday hams and turkeys, and farm-fresh food delivery.

Want to know more? Subscribe to the program’s quarterly newsletter and monthly e-blast here: [www.AreaOfficeonAging.com](http://www.AreaOfficeonAging.com).

The Grandfamilies & Kinship Support Network: A National Technical Assistance Center (NTAC) helps government agencies and nonprofits in states, tribes, and territories work across jurisdictional and systemic boundaries to improve supports and services for families in which grandparents, other relatives, or close family friends are raising children whose parents are unable to do so. For more information, please visit [www.GKSNetwork.org](http://www.GKSNetwork.org).

The Network is a project of Generations United. Generations United promotes the well-being of America’s families by building a network of support and resources for families in which grandparents, other relatives, or close family friends are raising children whose parents are unable to do so. For more information, please visit [www.GenerationsUnited.org](http://www.GenerationsUnited.org).

The Network is supported by the Administration for Community Living (ACL), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling $9,905,000 with 80 percent percentage funded by ACL/HHS and $292,004 and 20 percent funded by non-government sources. The contents are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by ACL/HHS, or the U.S. Government.
The Goal:
Determine what types of partnerships are the best match for your strategic goals, increasing your success in managing uncertainty, reducing risk, and driving growth.

NANO TOOL:
All companies need growth strategies that minimize risk while enhancing their competitive positions.

Partnerships can decrease costs and increase flexibility, thereby minimizing risk. But many organizations are all too familiar with the risks of partnerships themselves; and when they avoid those risks by opting out, they lose the potential of some highly advantageous alliances.

Wharton management professor Harbir Singh has developed a way to mitigate those risks — and realize the full advantage of partnerships — by employing the right kind of partnering strategy. Singh has identified three distinct strategies for successful alliances, each with unique strategic objectives, key success factors, and potential problems. By clearly identifying what you want to achieve through the partnership, and choosing the appropriate strategy, you can stretch your innovation dollars, share in the costs of investments, better handle uncertainty, and access new resources, capabilities, and markets.

A **Window Strategy** uses a partnership as a window onto new technologies or developments in your industry by providing access in real time to their progress. It’s appropriate when there is a high level of uncertainty because it helps you stay in the flow of new ideas, explore multiple paths, and reduce uncertainty about possible alternatives. It also lets you understand new ideas and technologies without over-investing, keeping you agile in a fast-changing marketplace. Successful Window Strategy partnerships are formed with companies that are making promising progress on one or more of your strategic objectives. Potential challenges include leakage of your firm’s technologies and managing a shifting web of partnerships.

The role of an Options Strategy partnership is to create real strategic options for the firm and/or build a capability platform by creating a combination of people, routines, and assets that can be scaled up or down. It’s used when there is a moderate amount of uncertainty about which option(s) will ultimately succeed, because it lets you make a calculated bet without prematurely committing to just one option. For example, you can make moderate investments in companies with new technologies or services, with options to expand your involvement if the firm becomes a winner. The potential challenge of this strategy is that companies are often reluctant to shift quickly after investing.

A **Positioning Strategy** partnership is appropriate when there is a low level of uncertainty, and you want to partner with another firm to create a best-in-class advantage. It can help you achieve scale- or scope-based advantages, optimize market segmentation, or acquire a new customer base. Successful Positioning Strategy partnerships are formed between firms with complementary capabilities who seek to create a combination with the best capabilities in the industry.

ACTION STEPS: The following steps will help you determine which type of strategic partnership will help you best meet your needs and deal with current levels of uncertainty as they impact returns on the business.

1. **Identify the goal(s) that you want to achieve from the partnership:**
   - (A) Do you need to track technologies or developments in your industry, learn what they mean, and stay in the flow of ideas?
   - (B) Are you seeking to create new options for the firm and/or build a capability platform?
   - (C) Are you looking for scale-based advantages, market segmentation, or a new customer base?

2. **As you look at the level of financial and managerial resources you plan to invest in a new venture, consider both the magnitude and the level of uncertainty about the expected returns.** The role, scope, and nature of alliances will change depending upon the degree of uncertainty faced by the firm. Are you experiencing
   - (A) high levels of uncertainty, with a wide range of risky options for growth;
   - (B) moderate levels of uncertainty, under which you can make some strategic bets on a narrower range of growth options;
   - (C) relatively low levels of uncertainty, when growth is possible primarily by increasing scope and/or scale?

3. **Identify your partnering strategy based on your answers to questions one and two.**
   - “A” answers would lead to a Window Strategy;
   - “B” answers to an Options Strategy;
   - and “C” answers to a Positioning Strategy. Once you’ve identified your approach and your goals, clarify your partnership strategy and objectives with your potential partners to ensure that it will be successful for all and ensure a sustainable long-term alliance.
In Kind Support

➢ **Donation of Space:** Senior Centers, Public Libraries, Community Centers, ProMedica Ebeid Institute.

➢ **Distribution of Parenting Smarts Resource Guide:** Public Libraries, Board Of Developmental Disabilities, Community Centers, Lucas County Juvenile Court, Court Appointed Special Advocates, Lucas County Children Services, Lucas County Department of Job and Family Services, Community Mental Health Agencies.

➢ **Donation of Time and Expertise:** Expert guest presenters at educational programs, RSVP volunteers, evidenced-based programs.

➢ **Donation of Services:** Legal consultations, delivery of home cooked holiday meals, ongoing food assistance.

➢ **Donation of Items:** Minor league baseball and hockey game tickets, camp scholarships, Toledo Zoo memberships, winter coats, school supplies, holiday meal boxes, gift cards, clothing, books.

**The Goal:**
Determine what types of partnerships are the best match for your strategic goals, increasing your success in managing uncertainty, reducing risk, and driving growth.
There are no limits to the types of partnerships that can be considered; local, state and federal.

**Contractual**

- **Program Funders:** Lucas County Department of Job and Family Services, Lucas County Children Services Levy, Lucas County Senior Services Levy, and National Family Caregiver Support Program.

- **Program Requirements:**
  - Information, Referral and Assistance
  - Educational Enrichment and Respite
  - Community Outreach/Communications
  - Bi-Annual Customer Satisfaction Survey
  - Quarterly Performance Measures

- **Program Purchased Services:**
  - Special event needs: venue, food, seating, transportation, and personal service contracts for childcare or educational programming for children
  - Emergency home delivered meals during Pandemic
  - Electronic tablet initiative: device, data plan, and technical support
  - Respite through day/overnight camps and mentoring of kinship children

New Partnership with Ohio Federation for Health Equity and Social Justice is related to the dental health of kinship children.
The Goal:
Determine what types of partnerships are the best match for your strategic goals, increasing your success in managing uncertainty, reducing risk, and driving growth.

- **Donation of Funds:**
  For the purchase of Toledo Farmer’s Market tokens, and holiday hams and turkeys for Kinship Families

- **Grants:** Walmart Foundation Grant of $70,000 received for *Mitigating Malnutrition with Farm Fresh Delivery* for Kinship Families
Technical Support
Media Outreach

Media Outreach

[Logos of various media outlets]
What do you see...

opportunities?

or

challenges?

It's not what you look at that matters, it's what you see.

—Henry David Thoreau
Benefits caregivers by providing access to support, education, goods and services, and linkage to reliable and committed local providers.

Builds capacity and extends program reach without burden to the program budget.

Strengthens investment in the local community.

Promotes collaboration across multiple systems at the local level.

Maximizes the creativity and diversity of thought necessary to address local community needs.

Plants the seed and leads to future partnership opportunities.

Saying YES to partnership opportunities is key!
1. What year was the first National Family Caregivers Month Presidential Proclamation signed?
   a. 2001
   b. 2003
   c. 1997
   d. 1998

2. How many children in Ohio live in homes where the householders are grandparents or other relatives?
   a. 325,742 children
   b. 178,859 children
   c. 227,862 children
   d. 423,523 children

3. Which of the following individuals was raised by their grandparents?
   a. Leonardo DiCaprio
   b. John Lennon
   c. Maya Angelou
   d. All of the above
Trivia correct responses:
1. c
2. c
3. d
1,020 Kinship Caregivers were provided with Information and Referral Services in FFY 2022 (October 1, 2021, through September 30, 2022)
Benefits for Caregivers:

- Respond appropriately to behavioral and emotional challenges of traumatized children.
- Help traumatized children develop healthy attachments, recognize and develop strengths, and develop positive coping strategies.
- Learn self-care and how to seek support.

Virtual Child Traumatic Stress Workshop

Come Join Us

We invite you to attend the Virtual Child Traumatic Stress Workshop for kinship caregivers enrolled in the Area Office on Aging Kinship Navigator Program. Workshop facilitated by and in partnership with clinical experts from the Sophia Center.

BUILDING SUPPORT FOR KINSHIP CAREGIVERS

Through this series, caregivers will learn about the impact of trauma on development and behavior of children in foster care and gain the following knowledge and skills:

- Respond appropriately to behavioral and emotional challenges of traumatized children
- Help traumatized children develop healthy attachments
- Help traumatized children recognize and develop their strengths
- Help traumatized children develop coping strategies
- Take care of themselves and seek support from others

For more information contact:

Marsha Rose, LSW, Kinship Navigator Program Supervisor
Phone: 419-380-0831 Extension #3728
Email: mrose@areaofficeonaging.com

The Sophia Center offers individual and group counseling, educational training, and a wide range of services that NURTURE WELLNESS IN MIND, BODY, AND HEART. Phone: 419-862-4129

Free Three-Part Series:

Friday February 3rd, 10th, & 17th 2023
9:30am - 2:00pm

Sign Up Today! To REGISTER Click Here or scan the QR Code

Gift Card provided by the Sophia Center will be given to participants who complete all three workshops. The Sophia Center will determine gift card value and distribution.
Benefits to Caregivers:

• Learn about the aging process and how to make healthy lifestyle choices.
• Celebrate this exciting stage of life and the benefits that come with it.
• Learn risk factors and behaviors to avoid to stay healthy.
• Learn how alcohol, prescription medications, and over-the-counter medications affect older adults differently and how to avoid problems.
• Learn how to use simple tools to help feel more empowered about their health and the healthcare received.
• First time participants earn a free $50 Kroger gift card upon successful completion of the program.
Benefits to Caregivers:

- Connect with others in a similar caregiving situation.
- Cope with the added stress of parenting again.
- Increase knowledge and skills in areas of parenting, child development, and community resources.
- Strengthen relationships with children in their care.
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Adult Programming</th>
<th>Youth Programming</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday July 11,</td>
<td>10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2022 Education</td>
<td>Session #1: “Foster Care and Adoption” and “YWCA Child Care Resource and Referral Center”</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Speakers: Vonda Williams and Lori McCullers, YWCA of Northwest Ohio</td>
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<td>Session #2: “Connecting Kids to Meals”</td>
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<td>Speaker: Wendi Huntley, Connecting Kids to Meals</td>
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<td>Tuesday July 12,</td>
<td>10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>2022 Mental Health</td>
<td>Session #1: “9 Dimensions of Wellness and Mindfulness Activity”</td>
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<td>Speaker: Patrice Powers-Barker, OSU Extension Office of Lucas County</td>
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<td>Session #2: “NAMI KidTalk and TeenTalk Programs”</td>
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<td>Speaker: Mary Finch, NAMI Toledo</td>
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<td>Wednesday July 13,</td>
<td>10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>2022 Permanency &amp; Support</td>
<td>Session #1: “Social Security Benefits Available to Children and Adults”</td>
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<td>Speaker: Erin Thompson, Social Security Administration</td>
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<td>Session #2: “Lifelong Learning Programs”</td>
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<td>Speaker: Laura Megath, Lourdes University</td>
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<td>Thursday July 14,</td>
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<td>2022 Legal</td>
<td>Session #1: “Human Trafficking - What You Need to Know”</td>
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<td>Speakers: Lucas County Human Trafficking Coalition; Erin Thompson, SSA and Oralee Macklan, Mercy Health</td>
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<td>Session #2: “Navigating Child Support and the Legal System”</td>
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<td>Speaker: Twila Ferguson, Lucas County Juvenile Court</td>
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<td>Friday July 15,</td>
<td>10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>12:30 – 1:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>2022 Self-Care &amp; Activities</td>
<td>Session #1: “Get Involved with Toledo PAL”</td>
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<td>Speaker: Officer Kimberly Darlington, Toledo Police Athletic League</td>
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<td>Session #2: “Minority Health Disparities”</td>
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<td>Speaker: Kim Toles, Lucas County Health Dept. Office on Minority Health</td>
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<td>Monday July 18,</td>
<td>10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>12:30 – 1:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>2022 Wrap-Up</td>
<td>Session #1: TED Talk Presentation</td>
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<td>Speakers: AOA Kinship Staff: Marsha Rose, LSW and Amy Johnson, LSW, MSW</td>
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<td>Session #2: Summer Series Wrap Up</td>
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<td>Speakers: AOA Kinship Staff: Marsha Rose, LSW and Amy Johnson, LSW, MSW</td>
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**ANNUALLY IN JULY**

Six days of educational programming for kinship caregivers and children.

**Guest presenter topics:**

- Education
- Mental Health
- Permanency and Support
- Legal Issues
- Health and Wellness
- Caregiver Self-Care
Since 2021, we have offered additional educational programs so caregivers can increase their knowledge, skills, and boost resiliency.

- Computer and Technology Training
- Compassion Fatigue
- Mental Health First Aid
- Trauma and Parenting
- Managing Chronic Pain
- Medication Management in Adults
- Healthy and Budget Friendly Meals
Electronic Tablet Initiative

Staying connected during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The Kinship Navigator Program is participating in a pilot program to lend electronic tablets with internet to Kinship Caregivers. This program was made possible with funds from the CARES ACT. If you are age 55 or older you may be eligible to receive an electronic tablet.

This is a 6 month pilot program that will include the following:
- Electronic tablet
- Internet for tablet provided
- One on One Training provided
- Group lessons available
- No cost to you!

These electronic tablets will be used to participate in the following virtual programs available with the Kinship Navigator Program:
- Kinship Club Support Group Meetings
- Summer Series
- Wellness Initiative for Senior Education Series (WISE)
- Other Kinship Workshops
- Assist Children with Special Needs to participate in online learning

Contact the Kinship Navigator Staff at 419-382-0624 for more information and to complete an eligibility questionnaire.

Benefits to Caregivers:

- No contact delivery of electronic tablet.
- Decrease social isolation and loneliness.
- Increase and strengthen social connections.
- Increase access to virtual kinship programs.
- Learn about Apps that make life easier.
- Wi-Fi connectivity with unlimited free data for 6-months.
- Up to 90-minutes of free individualized tech support.
- Free virtual group technology classes.
VIRTUAL KINSHIP CLUBS
Let’s Talk Support Group
Friday, June 10th, 2022
11:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.
Kinship Club Meeting
Thursday, June 23rd, 2022
5:30 P.M. – 6:30 P.M.
CALL IN OR JOIN ONLINE VIA ZOOM.

VIRTUAL SUMMER SERIES
SIX DAYS OF VIRTUAL PROGRAMMING ON VARIOUS TOPICS, RESOURCES AND ACTIVITIES SPECIFICALLY FOR OUR KINSHIP CAREGIVERS AND CHILDREN.
CALL IN OR JOIN ONLINE VIA ZOOM.
Contact the Kinship Navigator Program at 419-382-0625 to learn more about our 2022 Kinship Quarterly Resiliency Resilience Program.

Spring 2022 Newsletter
KINSHIP NAVIGATOR PROGRAM
AREA OFFICE ON AGING OF NORTHWESTERN OHIO, INC.

A FLOWER BLOOMS FOR ITS OWN JOY.”
– OSCAR WILDE

Resource Corner...

Resource Corner...
Rental Assistance

If you are unable to pay your rent due to recent COVID-19 Pandemic, which was up to 18 months of rent, call and please support.

For further assistance, please contact:

TOLEDO LUCAS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
FREE Mobile WiFi hotspots Available
• Loan for 21 days
• Limit 1 loan per adult card
• Able to renew 2 times if there aren’t outstanding holds
• Requestable
• Item can be picked up at remote lockers and with Grab and Go
For further assistance please call 419-259-5200 or visit: www.toledolibrary.org/wifi-hotspots

THE 9 DIMENSIONS
OF WELLNESS
Your well-being is like a wheel. This Wellness Wheel shows nine different dimensions of your life to consider.
Each dimension of wellness is interconnected and influenced by the other components, this means that each aspect of wellness is equally important to finding balance (also thriving) in your life. Analyze your well-being based on areas you feel you are currently thriving in.

TOLEDO LUCAS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
FREE Mobile WiFi hotspots Available
• Loan for 21 days
• Limit 1 loan per adult card
• Able to renew 2 times if there aren’t outstanding holds
• Requestable
• Item can be picked up at remote lockers and with Grab and Go
For further assistance please call 419-259-5200 or visit: www.toledolibrary.org/wifi-hotspots

MAY IS NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED AS MENTAL HEALTH & TRAUMA AWARENESS MONTH. IN HONOR OF THESE IMPORTANT TOPICS, WE WILL BE INVITING 2 SPEAKERS TO BRING AWARENESS AND CONNECT KINSHIP CAREGIVERS TO COMMUNITY RESOURCES.

THURSDAY, MAY 19TH, 2022
3:00 – 4:30 P.M.
Minority Mental Health
Guest Presenter: Kimberly Toles, Toledo-Lucas County Health Department Local Office on Minority Health

Mental Health First Aid
Guest Presenter: Robert Kasprzak, Lucas County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board
Call in or join online via ZOOM.
ENROLLED KINSHIP CAREGIVERS CAN EARN UP TO 3 TICKETS TO BE ENTERED INTO THE MAY QUARTERLY KINSHIP RESILIENCY RAFFLE.

FALL - WINTER - SPRING - SUMMER
Self-Subscribe to the Kinship Newsletter and Bi-Monthly E-Blast at www.AreaOfficeOnAging.com
The Parenting Smarts Resource Guide is a 64-page publication that is 100% FREE. This guide includes information and resources for kinship families.

- Kinship Resources
- Tips for Boosting Resiliency
- Parenting and Child Development
- Help with Expenses
- Early Childhood Education
- Babysitting and Occasional Care
- School and Education
- Understanding Legal Issues
- Medical Services, Mental Health and Wellness
- Family Activities and Recreation
- And MUCH MORE!

Call (419) 382-0624 or visit www.AreaOfficeOnAging.com
Through generous donations from community partners, we offer special events and distributions to kinship caregivers.

- Toledo Mud Hens Tickets
- Toledo Walleye Tickets
- Gene Cook Baseball Camp
- School Supplies
- Winter Coats, Hats and Gloves
- Pajama Bags with Books, Toys, and Blankets
- Holiday Meal Boxes
- Holiday Hams & Turkeys
- Toledo Zoo Family Memberships
With generous in-kind support from Palmer Energy, Inc. and Buckeye Health Plan the Kinship Navigator Program distributed 128 backpack totes filled with school supplies to Kinship Families in 2022.
300 tickets to Toledo Mud Hens games were distributed to Kinship Families in 2022 allowing access to a family fun night.

8 Kinship Children received scholarships to attend the Gene Cook Baseball Camp at Fifth Third Field in 2022.
Because of our longstanding partnership with LCCS caregivers enrolled in the Kinship Navigator Program with a closed LCCS case and legal custody of a kinship child can now access vital assistance through the LCCS Stabilization Program. Formerly this assistance was only available to caregivers with an open case at LCCS.

The Kinship Navigator Program completes caregiver pre-screening and submits the application with an interview narrative summary to LCCS. LCCS makes an eligibility determination and issues vouchers to caregivers when assistance is approved.
The LCCS Stabilization Program provided kinship families with assistance including food, clothing, cleaning supplies, hygiene products, furniture, school tuition, tutoring, camp fees, childcare, rent, utility assistance, home and vehicle repair, and educational enrichment memberships to the YMCA, Toledo Zoo, and Imagination Station.

This VITAL assistance stabilizes the household and provides resources families would not otherwise be able to access.

- Most Requested Assistance: Food, Clothing, Furniture.
- Unique Assistance: Tutoring, Vehicle Repairs, Tree Removal.
Caregivers enrolled in the Kinship Navigator Program get convenient and seamless access to the wide array of programs and services at the Area Office on Aging.

- Older Adults Resource Guide
- Caregiving Smarts Resource Guide
- Long Term Care Consultations
- Aging and Disability Resource Network (ADRN)
- Family Caregiver Support Program
- Medicaid Waiver Programs: PASSPORT, Ohio Home Care Waiver, and MyCare Ohio Waiver
- Plan 4 Home
- Nutrition and Wellness Program
- Senior Farmer’s Market Nutrition Program
- Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)
- Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program
- Area Office on Aging Special Events
- And SO MUCH MORE!

Call (419) 382-0624 or visit www.AreaOfficeOnAging.com
Kinship Navigator Program Coordinated Multiple Drive-Up No-Contact Distributions in FFY 2020:

- **83** Kinship Families received Winter Coats, Hats, and Gloves for kinship children made possible through in-kind donations from Toledo Christ Child Society.
- **47** Kinship Families received **200- $50.00 Kroger Gift Cards** compliments of the Toledo-Lucas County Health Department COVID-19 Relief Grant. A total of **$10,000** in assistance was provided to kinship households.
- **69** Kinship Families received school supplies through an in-kind partnership with United Way of Greater Toledo and Palmer Energy, Inc.
- **300** Holiday Meals were distributed to Kinship Families for Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter Holidays which was made possible through in-kind donations from the AOoA Nutrition and Wellness Program.
- **167** Kinship Families received **daily** Emergency Home Delivered Meals through paid contracts with Mobile Meals and Simply EZ Meals (May 2020 – November 2020).
- **628** referrals for food assistance were made to the Toledo Seagate Food Bank’s Families In Recovery Sticking Together (FIRST) Program through an in-kind partnership.
- **24** Kinship Caregivers received electronic tablets with **free** connectivity and technical support through the AOoA Tablet Initiative so they could remain connected with family and friends and access virtual programming offered by the Kinship Navigator Program during the COVID-19 Pandemic. The tablet initiative was made possible through Cares Act funding.
Kinship Navigator Program is **FREE** for kinship caregivers who meet the following criteria:

- Caregiver is the primary caregiver raising a child or children from birth to 18 years of age with no biological parent living in the home.
- Caregiver is a resident of Lucas County, Ohio.

Noteworthy regarding Kinship Navigator Program eligibility:

- No caregiver age requirements.
- No caregiver or household income requirements.
- No legal custody or guardianship requirements.
- No involvement with child welfare system required.
“The Kinship Navigator Program helped me purchase bunk beds for the boys, meals, and a tablet which I used to learn Spanish. The Kinship Program also helped me with resources after losing everything in a house fire recently that was caused when a neighbor’s house caught fire.”

— Tina Boyd
OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

[Image of various community partnerships logos]
EXAMPLES OF OUTREACH TOOLS AND METHODS TO INCREASE AWARENESS ABOUT THE KINSHIP NAVIGATOR PROGRAM AND BUILD COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Outreach Tools:
➢ Parenting Smarts Resource Guide
➢ Bookmark
➢ Brochures/Flyers
➢ Annual Event Calendar
➢ Quarterly Newsletter
➢ Referral Form
➢ Constant Contact Bi-Monthly E-Blast

Outreach Methods:
➢ In-Person and Virtual Program Overviews
➢ Attending Community Events and Health Fairs
➢ Targeted Mailings
➢ Media Interviews: Television, Radio, Podcasts, Newspapers, and Magazines
➢ Placing Advertisements
➢ Distribution of Materials to Libraries and Other Community Partners
➢ AOoA and Community Partner Websites
➢ AOoA and AOoA Community Partner Social Media e.g., Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, etc.
Keeping in mind the types of partnerships:
- Window Strategy
- Options Strategy
- Positioning Strategy

What types of entities or organizations can you partner with in your community to help kinship and grandfamilies?
Targeted Outreach Across Sectors:

- **Government Agencies** - County Children Services, County Department of Job & Family Services, Child Support Enforcement Office, County Board of Developmental Disabilities, Juvenile Court, Family Court, County Health Department, Court Appointed Special Advocates, County Mental Health Boards, City Parks & Recreation, Metroparks, Social Security Administration, Family and Children First Councils, and Libraries.

- **Non-Profits** - Area Agencies on Aging, Places of Worship, Behavioral & Mental Health Entities, United Way 2-1-1, YWCA, YMCA, Art Museums, Symphony, Senior Centers, Community Centers, Food Banks, Local Coalitions, & Credit Unions.

- **For-Profits** - Hospital Systems, Childcare Centers, Physician & Dental Offices, Managed Care Plans, Area Businesses, Banks, Transportation Companies.

- **Schools** - Head Start, Early Childhood, Elementary & High Schools (Public, Private, Parochial, Charter), Colleges and Universities.
PARTNERSHIP GOALS

TOGETHER
WE CAN
ACHIEVE
MORE

TEAM
Lucas County Children Services believes kinship caregivers are vital to help keep children safe and maintain family connections. Kinship caregivers are often given short notice when asked to take in children, and the Kinship Navigator program ensures the caregivers know what community resources are available and how to navigate effectively.

**Robin Reese, Former Executive Director, Lucas County Children Services**

The Kinship Navigator staff possesses an excellent and in-depth knowledge of how to navigate the complex child welfare, special education and disability education, metal health and substance abuse treatment, and financial assistance systems in our community.

**Judith Leb J.D., Court of Common Pleas, Juvenile Division**

School counselors and nurses routinely call these advocates so students and their caregivers can get the information, support, education and connections they need to continue flourishing in a stable home environment instead of the student unnecessarily ending up in the foster care system.

**Dr. Romules Durant, Superintendent Toledo Public Schools**

I can speak directly to the gap in services that both our aging and our youth populations experience. Even more so, minority populations are vastly underserved. The Kinship Navigator Program is one of the few services that address these important gaps by providing excellent support, education and resources to families in need here in our community.

**Danielle Cisterino-Hajdu, Teen PEP Coordinator, ProMedica Toledo Children’s Hospital**

In this day and age there are more grandparents and other relatives who are rearing children in their extended families. These families are in desperate need of support and services that the Kinship Navigator Program has been able to provide to them. This program has helped kinship care families become better informed about service and support in our community.

**Linda Decker, Supervisor Community Relations, United Healthcare Community Plan of Ohio**
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