

Gateway Grandparents/Kinship Network is a collaboration of organizations & agencies in the St. Louis Metro Area working to enhance the lives of grandparents and relative caregivers.

MEMBERS

St. Louis City/County

- AARP
- Cardinal Ritter Senior Services
- County Older Resident Programs (CORP), Saint Louis County Human Services
- Edgewood Children's Center
- Legal Services of Eastern Missouri
- Mid-East Area Agency on Aging (MEAAA)
- Minority Aging Program, Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services
- Missouri Department of Social Services, Children's Division
- St. Louis Area Agency on Aging (SLAAA), Department of Human Services
- University of Missouri Extension
Contact: Elizabeth Reinsch
314-615-7605

Franklin County

HOPE (Helping Others Parent Effectively)
Contact: Sandra McKinnon
636-583-5141

Jefferson County

Grandparents As Caregivers
Contacts: Sherron Hancock
B.J. Eavy
636-797-5391

St. Charles County

Grandparents and Relatives Acting As Parents (GRAAP)
Contact: Teresa Mareschal
636-970-3000

<http://extension.missouri.edu/ecregion/grandparent>

University of Missouri,
Lincoln University, U.S.
Department of Agriculture &
Local University Extension
Councils Cooperating

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/
ADA INSTITUTIONS

Gateway Grandparents/Kinship Network

Kinship Connections

A newsletter for grandparents and other relatives in a parenting role

Raising grandchildren may qualify you for tax breaks



Sherron Hancock, MS

Consumer & Family Economics Specialist
University of Missouri Extension
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Grandparents who have children living in their home may be able to get extra money from the IRS. Both grandparents and great grandparents can qualify. If grandparents qualify for the tax break, they will not have to pay as much to Uncle Sam each year.

According to AARP, a tax credit is better than a tax deduction. A tax credit is better because you get to subtract a tax credit from any federal income tax you owe. A tax deduction, on the other hand, reduces the income you use to figure out how much tax you owe. A credit keeps money in your pocket.

The **Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)** is available for low-income individuals and families. To receive this EITC, you do not have to be raising children, but if you are, you will get a bigger tax break.

You will get a refund from the IRS if your tax credit is greater than the taxes you owe the government. To take advantage of the EITC, you must work during the tax year, and you must file a Federal tax return. There is also a specific amount of money you must earn. (For details, see IRS publication 596.)

To be able to claim children as a tax credit, your grandchildren must be full-time students. If children are full-

time students, you may claim them until the age of 24. If they are not full-time students, they can be claimed only to the age of 19. Disabled students qualify at any age.

As grandparents, you may also take advantage of the **Child Tax Credit**, even if your family makes too much money to be eligible for the EITC. To qualify, you must 1) owe taxes, 2) claim the child/children on the Federal income tax return, and 3) the child/children must be under the age of 17. For 2004 taxes, you may take a tax credit of \$1,000 for each child who qualifies. In 2005, the tax credit will be reduced to \$700 per child.

Grandparents who have children living in their home may be able to get extra money from the IRS.

Grandparents may also be eligible for a **Child and Dependent Care Credit**. This credit is to be used to pay for childcare so that grandparents can work or look for work. The amount of tax credit available depends on how many children you're raising. Both amount of income and amount paid for child care will be used to determine the credit amount given. The refund can not exceed the taxes you owe.

Source: AARP (for persons 50+).
Visit <http://www.aarp.org>.

Looking ahead to summer: Planning your vacation



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With summer just a few months away, parents and children alike are looking forward to opportunities for summer fun and enrichment. Whether you stay home with your children, send them to camp, continue their enrollment in a child care program or plan a family vacation, there are several things to consider when making summer plans.

Here are some key ingredients to designing and creating your family's summer activities:

- **Gather resources.** Be sure to include information on summer camps, parks and recreation activities, sports camps and lessons, library, museums, community education classes and your vacation. Many summer camps and sports camps fill up fast, so be sure to register early.
- **Consult your children for ideas.** When children have an opportunity to have an active voice and role in planning outings and activities, the days will run more smoothly.
- **Allow for a combination of structure and flexibility in the schedule.** Plan both indoor and outdoor activities. If you get rained out, you can swap activities. Also consider the needs of your children. If a child

usually naps in the afternoon, allow for this in your schedule.

- **Include entertainment, free time, recreation and educational moments.** Allow for a variety of activities throughout the week. If you can plan for most activities to be low-cost or no cost, the children may be more appreciative when they get to spend money on activities such as the movies or a water park.

When children have an opportunity to have an active voice and role in planning outings and activities, the days will run more smoothly.

- **Fill in your calendar.** Talk with your children again, discuss activities they enjoy and you can afford. Recording these activities on your calendar will provide the basic framework of your plan. This will allow you to build in free time and fill in blank spots with additional activities. You can set up a schedule in which each day of the week includes a particular type of activity, each week can have a theme, or you can fill in the calendar with a variety of activities sprinkled throughout the summer.

What is the Gateway Grandparents/Kinship Network?

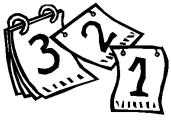
The Gateway Grandparents/Kinship Network is a collaboration of organizations and agencies in the St. Louis Metro Area working to enhance the lives of grandparents and relative caregivers. Its goals are to:

- **Provide education** on issues related to grandparents raising grandchildren and relative caregivers
- **Help connect** grandparents and relative caregivers to community resources
- **Facilitate networking** among service providers to improve their ability to help grandparents and relative caregivers cope with the challenges of raising children.

The Network maintains a web site at <http://extension.missouri.edu/ecregion/grandparent>. This site provides resources and information to grandparents and relative caregivers, including the following:

- **Resource Manual** of contacts for grandparenting services in a five-county area (Franklin, Jefferson, St. Charles, St. Louis City and County).
- **Information Warm-Line** 314-961-8000, ext. 242
- **Regional event listings.**

Visit us on the Web:
<http://extension.missouri.edu/ecregion/grandparent>



Coming Events!

For grandparents and relative caregivers in East Central Missouri

ST. LOUIS COUNTY

Sock-It-To-Me Saturday

Get ready for a fun, FREE, relaxing day for relative caregivers and the children in their care. Registration form is available on the Web (listed below).

Date: Saturday, June 18, 2005

Time: 9 am - 1 pm

Place: Clayton Shaw Park
Brentwood Blvd.
Clayton, MO 63105

Parking: Free on the street around the park, or in the Bonhomme Avenue parking garage (at Bonhomme & Brentwood)

What:

- Parenting resources & information
- Lunch
- Hands-on activities
- Afternoon swim passes
- Give-aways
- Networking

Cost: No charge for grandparents/relative caregivers and children in their care

Registration: Registration form available on the web. Postmark deadline: June 1.
No phone reservations accepted.

Contact: Betty Reinsch, University of Missouri Extension, 314-615-2911

Web: extension.missouri.edu/ecregion/grandparent/events.shtml

JEFFERSON COUNTY

Grandparents As Caregivers

This group offers activities and support for area grandparents and relatives as caregivers. Next event:

Date: Wednesday, March 23, 2005

Time: 1-3 pm

Place: Jefferson County Courthouse

Who: Lisa Paige, Attorney at Law

What: Program on Legal Issues

Contacts: Sherron Hancock or B.J. Eavy
University of Missouri Extension
636-797-5391

Web: extension.missouri.edu/ecregion/grandparent/events.shtml

FRANKLIN COUNTY

Parenting the Second Time Around

A series of six 2-hour workshops for grandparents, relatives and others who are parenting again.

Dates: Thursdays, February 17, 24, March 3, 10, 17 & 24, 2005

Time: 6-8 pm

Place: Oak Hill Free Will Baptist Church
Hwy 47
Union, MO 63084

Who: Sessions facilitated by University of Missouri Extension faculty and Sandy Yashuk, grandparent

What: Designed to build confidence and comfort for grandparents or relatives moving into a parenting role with their grandchildren, regardless of status of legal custody

Topics: Connecting to community resources, acknowledging ambivalent feelings, assuming parenting responsibilities, adjusting to new living arrangements, handling sensitive issues, child development, discipline, legal issues, advocacy efforts

Cost: \$30 per person or \$50 per couple

Deadline: February 10, 2005

Sponsors: AARP, Brookdale Foundation

Contact: Sandra McKinnon University of Missouri Extension, 636-583-5141

Web: extension.missouri.edu/franklin

ST. CHARLES COUNTY

Grandparents and Relatives Acting As Parents (GRAAP) Seminar

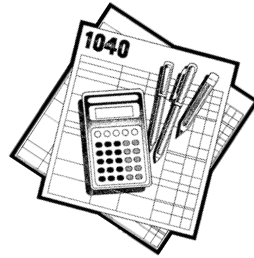
Watch for more details on the next educational event coming in April 2005 (date TBA).

Contact: Teresa Mareschal, University of Missouri Extension, 636-970-3000

Web: extension.missouri.edu/ecregion/grandparent/events.shtml



More tax facts



Claudia Angenor, MSW, MPH

Outreach Social Worker

Cardinal Ritter Senior Services

314-752-1901 ext. 17, cangenor@ccstl.org

State Property Tax Credit

If you're 65 or older or 100 percent disabled, you may qualify for the Missouri Property Tax Credit (MO-PTC Form 948), known as the *Circuit Breaker*.

Under the Circuit Breaker, the credit amount returned is determined by your income and the amount of tax or rent you have paid on your home

You may apply to receive tax credit for 2002, 2003 and 2004. If you apply before April 15, 2005, you may also file for 2001.

Please contact your tax consultant to determine if you qualify.

Tax prep assistance

If you need help with your federal and/or state tax forms, you can contact the following:

- **50 or older:**
AARP, (314) 918-7563
- **60 or older:**
Mid-East Area Agency on Aging, 1-800-243-6060
- **60 or older in St. Louis Co.**
(north of Hwy 40):
St. Louis CORP, 314-615-7447
- **60 or older in St. Louis Co.**
(south of Hwy 40):
St. Louis CORP, 314-615-4037
- **Under 50:**
State: MO Dept. of Revenue,
314-877-0178
Federal: IRS, 1-800-829-1040

Kincare Connections is written and published by the Gateway Grandparents/Kinship Network for grandparents and other relatives in a parenting role in the St. Louis Metropolitan Area.

Articles may be reprinted for educational purposes. Please credit author, organization, and *Kincare Connections*.

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For a free subscription contact

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Web: <http://extension.missouri.edu/cregion/grandparent>

Free subscription to Kincare Connections

Fill this out, clip and mail to:

Kincare Connections Newsletter
GG/K Network

University of Missouri Extension
of St. Louis County
121 S. Meramec, Suite 501
St. Louis, MO 63105

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

St. Louis Metro Area Support Groups

MISSOURI

ST. LOUIS CITY

Grandparent's Circle, Parenting a
Second Time Around, St. Louis 63112
Contact: Williestean Fulks, 314-383-0836

Keepers of the Flame, St. Louis 63118

Contact: Claudia Angenor,
314-752-1901, x 17

Let's Start Caregivers Group

(Grandparents raising kids of incarcerated
or chemically dependent parents)
St. Louis 63104
Contact: Daphne Anderson, 314-241-2342

Parents and Grandparents of Drug

Abusers (PAGODA), St. Louis 63104
Contact: Eddie Mae Binion, 314-432-0109

Proud Grandparents, St. Louis 63112

Contact: Claudia Angenor, 314-752-1901,
x 17 or St. Jane-CFS, 314-383-6539

Wise Women, St. Louis 63136

Contact: LaDoris Payne, 314-381-1915
Email: womanspirit@aol.com

ST. LOUIS COUNTY

Grandparents Caring and Sharing
Maryland Heights 63043
Contact: Cheri Held, 314-662-0692

FRANKLIN COUNTY

HOPE (Helping Others Parent Effectively)
Contact: Sandra McKinnon, 636-583-5141

JEFFERSON COUNTY

Grandparents As Caregivers
Contact: Sherron Hancock or B.J. Eavy,
636-797-5391

ST. CHARLES COUNTY

Grandparents and Relatives Acting As
Parents (GRAAP)
Contact: Teresa Mareschal, 636-970-3000.

ILLINOIS

MADISON COUNTY

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren
Maryville, IL 62062
Contact: Pat Wandling, 618-288-3100, x 3373