

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 and the children in their care.

MEMBERS

- AARP
- The Boyhood Initiative of MO
- Cardinal Ritter Senior Services
- Children's Home Society of MO
- Legal Services of Eastern Missouri
- Let's Start Caregivers Group, St. Vincent de Paul Church
- Mid-East Area Agency on Aging (MEAAA)
- Missouri Department of Social Services, Children's Division
- St. Louis Area Agency on Aging (SLAAA), Department of Human Services
- University of Missouri Extension

University of Missouri Extension Contacts:

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[extension.missouri.edu/
ecregion/grandparent](http://extension.missouri.edu/ecregion/grandparent)

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

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KinCare Connections

A newsletter for grandparents and other relatives in a parenting role

Reading is Relative— Supporting Family Reading

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Information & Assistance Team Leader
Mid-East Area Agency on Aging
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A child's interest in and ability to read affects all aspects of his/her education and sets a foundation for a lifetime of learning. In addition, a family that reads together may develop a sense of closeness.

Mid-East Area Agency on Aging (MEAAA) is sponsoring a program called Reading is Relative which encourages and supports family reading. In addition, the program encourages and supports relative caregivers in their sometimes daunting task of raising grandchildren, nieces, nephews and other relatives. The Reading is Relative program is funded by a grant from the Brookdale Foundation and receives in-kind support from Mid-East Area Agency on Aging.

MEAAA identified school districts in St. Louis County which had a high concentration of households headed by a relative caregiver. With the assistance of Early Childhood Education Departments and Parents as Teachers Parent Educators, we recruited families with children ages 0-5 years.

A wonderful partner emerged from our local Gateway Grandparent Kinship Network, and a relationship was

forged between Mid-East Area Agency on Aging and the Parents As Teachers National Center's Curriculum Developer. Her expertise in the field of child development has proved invaluable in planning and carrying out group events with our participants. In addition, she has the knowledge to respond to questions posed by the group regarding children's behaviors and growth.

Our Reading is Relative group meets every month at Senior Towne in Northwest Plaza. Participants are encouraged to bring the children in their care if possible, to allow for interaction between all families. Incentives are offered such as books, tote bags and notebooks. Other activity-appropriate items such as pizza gift cards to support a "family read in" and bookstore gift cards to help our families fill their own bookshelves are given to those attending our gatherings.

In the months that we do not plan a gathering, a newsletter is sent to each household. This one page bulletin allows for a recap of our last get-together, details of our next event and a "Spotlight on Resources" corner. We've found that offering a fun, activity-filled event, lends itself well to being an ideal way for caregivers to relax, discuss, ask questions and support each other.

New Legislation

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RSMo 210.305, House Bill 154

This bill gives grandparents first consideration for placement before other relative options and requires Children's Division to complete an immediate diligent search to locate, contact, and place with a grandparent once a decision has been made to take protective custody of a child during the first (3) three hours after custody. Notification can occur prior to custody, but notification **and** placement must occur no later than three (3) hours after custody.

The statute also requires that Children's Division place with grandparents unless the decision to place with grandparents is

contrary to the welfare of the child. If a grandparent or grandparents, or other relatives of the child cannot be located within the three (3) hour period, the child may be placed in an emergency placement. However, the bill requires Children's Division to continue to make diligent efforts, while the child is in care, to contact, locate, and place the child with a grandparent or another relative, with first consideration given to a grandparent for placement.

Fostering Connections to Increasing Adoptions Act

The Fostering Connections to Increasing Adoption Act requires the Children's Division to identify and notify **all** adult grandparents and **other** adult relatives within 30 days when a child is removed from the custody of their parent(s) unless there is domestic violence. Relative is

defined as a grandparent or any other person related to another by blood or affinity (marriage or adoption) within the third degree. Some of these relatives may include: parents, spouses, adult siblings, grandparents, grandchildren, aunts, uncles, nephews, nieces, great-grandparents, great-grandchildren, great aunts, great uncles, half-brother, half-sister, and first cousins. Relatives by affinity may include: stepparent, stepbrother, and stepsister.

If relatives cannot be identified or found initially, Children's Division should continue to search for relatives should continue while the child is in care. When a suitable grandparent or relative has been located consideration should be made to making placement with the grandparent or relative a part of the primary or concurrent permanency plan for the child.

Beyond Consequences Parenting Techniques Training

Saturday, March 13, 2010

9:00 am-4:00 pm

Edward Jones

12555 Manchester Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63131

Sponsored by:

Sarah B. Boeker, MSW, LCSW, The Children's Home Society of Missouri, 9445 Litzsinger Road, St. Louis, MO 63144

ph: 314-968-2350 ext 235, fax: 314-968-4239

e-mail: sarahb@chsmo.org

Join us for an empowering day of learning. The cost of the conference is the purchase of one of the Beyond Consequences books for about \$20. Your book is your "ticket" for admission to the training for you and your spouse or you and a support person.

For more information and to register, go to

www.BeyondConsequencesLive.com

Thoughts to Ponder ...

The best inheritance a parent can give to his children is a few minutes of their time each day.

~M. Grundler

Children will not remember you for the material things you provided, but for the feeling that you cherished them.

~Richard L. Evans

Low/No cost Prescriptions, Benefits and Groceries

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Needy Meds.org: <http://www.needy meds.org/>
Where you can look up specific medications and see if you qualify for free medication.

http://www.pparx.org/prescription_assistance_programs/free_clinic_finder
Where you can type in a zip code to find low/no cost medical clinics.

Missouri Developmental Disabilities Resource Center Institute for Human Development.
1-800-444-0821 or <http://www.moddrc.org>

Benefits QuickLink is an AARP online tool that grandfamilies and relative caregivers can use to check on benefits that may apply to them. It is free and easy to use. To see if you qualify go to:
<https://www.aarp.org/quicklink>

Angel Food is available in a quantity that can fit into a medium-sized box at \$30 per box and consists of both fresh and frozen items with an average retail value of approximately \$60. Generally, one unit of food assists in feeding a family of four for about one week or a single senior citizen for almost a month. To find out about this month's menu, order deadline, pick-up date and a location near you, go to
<http://www.angelfoodministries.com/>
or call 1-877-FOOD-MINISTRY (1-877-366-3646).

New Support Groups

Grandparent/Kinship Support Group
2nd and 4th Thursdays from 9:30-11 a.m.
Children's Home Society of Missouri
For information contact Sarah Boeker 314-968-2350 ext. 235

Adoptive Parent Support Group
1st and 3rd Tuesdays from 6:30-8 p.m.
Children's Home Society of Missouri
For information contact Sarah Boeker 314-968-2350 ext. 235

Need a Laugh or an Attitude Adjustment?

The Comedy Cures phone line and web site were started by a single mom, Saranne, and her young daughter, Lauriel. In 1999, Saranne, was diagnosed with cancer and decided to fight it with chemotherapy and humor. Saranne is a stage IV cancer survivor, with no visible signs of disease. You and your children can listen to a new joke or riddle each day and also record one for future use on the Comedy Cures phone line.
Comedy Cures
1-888-HAHAHAHA or
1-888-424-4242
www.comedycures.org

Free subscription to Kincare Connections

Fill this out, clip and mail to:
Kincare Connections Newsletter
St. Louis County Extension Center
121 S. Meramec, Suite 501
St. Louis, MO 63105

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____



Raising your grandchildren? Do you have parenting questions?

Call: 1-800-552-8522 En Español 1-888-460-0008

or visit: grandfamilies.missouri.edu

Parents and professionals can call ParentLink’s toll-free WarmLine to access parenting information and receive problem solving support. The WarmLine is available in English and Spanish and answered Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m. by a family support specialist.

***Need information? Don't know where to go?
Call a Warm-Line!***

Relatives As Parents/Grandparents Information Warm-Line

► **St. Louis area: 314-961-8000, ext. 242**

Answered by: Cardinal Ritter Senior Services

Sponsors: Cardinal Ritter Senior Services
Legal Services of Eastern Missouri



Get answers to questions on custody, guardianship, adoption issues, public benefits, legal services, support with groups and other community services. When you call, be prepared to leave a message and contact number. Within 2 days, you’ll receive a follow-up call. *This service is not for emergencies.*

Kincare Connections is written and published by Gateway Grandparents/Kinship Network for grandparents and other relatives in a parenting role in the St. Louis Metropolitan Area. Contributing writers are staff members of member organizations of the Network. **Articles may be reprinted for educational purposes. Please credit as follows:** Author, Organization, *Kincare Connections*. Kincare Connections is available in print or on the web. **To subscribe**, contact Elizabeth Reinsch, Human Development Specialist, 121 S. Meramec, Suite 501, St. Louis, MO 63105, Ph: (314) 615-7605, Email: reinsche@missouri.edu

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grandparent](http://extension.missouri.edu/ecregion/grandparent)**

St. Louis Metro Area Support Groups

St. Louis City

Carver House Grandparents Group
Contact: Brenda Manon 314-652-8485

Keepers of the Flame
Contact: Kathleen Mc Aleenan, 314-961-8000 ext. 302

Let’s Start Caregivers Group
(Grandparents raising kids of incarcerated or chemically dependent parents)
Contact: Cynthia Stevenson-Johnson, 314-241-2342

Parents and Grandparents of Drug Abusers (PAGODA)
Contact: Eddie Mae Binion, 314-432-0109

Proud Grandparents
Contact: Kathleen Mc Aleenan, 314-961-8000 ext. 302

St. Louis County

Kimble Cares Relatives As Parents Program & The Boyhood Initiative of Missouri
Contact: Huey Hawkins, Jr., 314-882-6840 or
Ericka Webb 314-882-6830

***Greater St. Louis Metro Area &
Neighboring Counties***

Children’s Home Society of Missouri
Contact: Sarah B. Boeker, 314-968-2350 ext. 235