

It's ALL Relative

GCCOA Kinship Newsletter

October 2022

Kinship and College

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If you are the guardian of a student who is in their last year of high school, there may be questions about college. It may seem far away, but application deadlines are approaching quickly.

Is it worth it? College graduates tend to earn higher salaries, have jobs with better benefits, and have steadier employment over their lifetimes. Many professions require a degree or certificate.

Is it affordable? When it comes to cost, don't rule a school out based simply on their posted tuition. Most people do not pay the full amount of their college costs, and aid packages at private schools are typically larger than those at public schools. There are web sites that will tell you what the average student pays at a school.

You may have heard about the **FAFSA**. This is the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid**. This aid includes grants, work study programs and subsidized loans. In addition, many colleges and universities and some states use the FAFSA in determining their aid packages, so filling out the FAFSA is step one. The first date to apply for each school year is October 1st, and it is better to apply as soon as you can after that.

What you may not know is that if you have legal custody of a child, your income is not included on the FAFSA. Instead, the child is considered an independent student and only their income is used, which can translate to a larger aid package. The student should skip filling out the Parental Income section of the form (Step 4 of the FAFSA), but be sure to include any financial support you give them as personal income on Worksheet B.

The high school guidance counselor will have information about the FAFSA, as well as local scholarships and grants. The Financial Aid Department at a university or college will work with you, too.



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Pantry Items Available

Rising food prices mean that it's harder to make ends meet. In Greene County, 11% of the population has trouble getting enough food to live a healthy, active life. At the same time, many of those households are not eligible for food assistance through the state. That's where supports like food pantries can help.

A list of local food pantries can be found in the GCCOA Service and Support Directory, which can be downloaded from our website at www.gcco.org/directory, or picked up at our office.

Foodbank Dayton has a drive-thru pantry in addition to a mobile food pantry that visits several locations in Greene County each month. If you are at least 60 years old, you may qualify for their Senior Box Program. Contact them at (937) 461-0265 or info@thefoodbankdayton.org for more information.



The Council's Kinship program periodically receives a generous donation of pantry items from the Clay Swafford Benefits Group in Xenia. If you would like to receive a share of these items, now or in the future, contact Susan Finster at 937-376-5486 x119 or susan.finster@gcco.org.

Kinship Permanency Incentive

Ohio's *Kinship Permanency Program*, or KPI, is intended to provide initial financial support for minor children who are being cared for in a kinship situation. Funds include an initial larger payment, followed by a series of smaller payments at 6 month intervals, up to a total of 8 payments.

There is no deadline for the initial application.

Eligibility requirements:

- A court-issued order granting legal custody on or after July 1, 2005. Temporary or informal guardianship is not sufficient.
- The child must live with the kinship caregiver.
- Everyone 18 years or older in the home must complete a background check.
- If the placement was not made by an approved children services agency, the kinship family must undergo a home study (at no cost) prior to KPI approval.
- The gross income of the household cannot exceed 300% of federal poverty guidelines.

To request the KPI application packet, visit Greene County Job and Family Services, 541 Ledbetter Road, Xenia, OH 45385 or call 937-562-6600

Save the Date! Holiday Soirée



Our elves are busy creating handmade gifts for this year's

Holiday Gift Soiree

Wednesday, November 30th

10am to 6pm

Xenia Community Center

(Next to the Council's office)

We have a very special and beautiful experience planned, along with the opportunity to purchase some one-of-a-kind handcrafted items and homemade treats.

Stay up-to-date on this and other Council events on our web site (www.gcco.org/events) or on our Facebook page.

Mission Addiction says: The MAP is our best healing and personal growth program that can truly help anyone. Our experience in dealing with a broad range of family and life challenges reveals that they're almost all symptoms of the same root causes. It's about the interaction of physical, emotional, relational and spiritual health. Our faith-based "**MAP for Healing and Recovery**" is a fast-track guide that will help you master these four areas and much more.

Our participants agree that this program is a "map for life" and can help anyone! Everyone is welcome – whether you're struggling with anxiety, anger and shame, worry and fear, abuse or trauma, addiction, faith, marriage, family dynamics, life balance, life purpose – or any combination of these.

The MAP program can be attended in-person or online. For information, contact Edward at Edward@Mission-Addiction.org or (937) 490-9605

Shredding Event



Come to our

Spooktacular Shredding Event

Saturday, October 29th

9am to Noon

Xenia Community Center

1265 W Second St

No reservations required. Drive up with up to 3 bags or boxes of documents. Volunteers will move them from your car to the Shred-it truck for shredding. Please be sure that the bags/boxes only contain paper—no checkbook covers, for example. Papers that need to be shredded include old tax documents, and old credit card or bank statements. Instruction booklets, envelopes, and junk mail should be recycled.



Kinship (and foster) families can receive a free family membership at the YMCA. To take advantage of this program, contact the agency who placed the child with you to get a letter stating that you are in good standing and there is an eligible kinship child living in the home.

Contact your local YMCA branch to apply or for more information.

Kinship

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Xenia, OH 45385



Upcoming Programs & Events

- ◆ **RAP Group (“Relatives As Parents” Support Group)**
2nd Tuesday of each month (Oct 11th, Nov 8th, Dec 13th), 10:00-11:30 am
Council Office, 1195 W 2nd St, Xenia
Contact Susan Finster for details at 937-376-5486 x119 or susan.finster@gcco.org
- ◆ **Drive-by Shredding Event**
Saturday, October 29th, 9-Noon, Xenia Community Center, 1265 W Second St, Xenia
- ◆ **Medicare Open Enrollment**
October 15th - December 7th; Review your Part D plan. Contact us at 937-376-5486 for help.
- ◆ **Holiday Open House and Gift Soiree**
Wednesday, November 30th, 10 am - 6 pm, Xenia Community Center
- ◆ **Weekly Programming with our Partners at Real Roots Radio, WBZI FM 100.3:**
Wednesdays between 12:05pm & 12:15pm *Boomers and Beyond*
Thursdays soon after 6:00pm *Partners in Caregiving*

October is Fire Prevention Month



CONTACT US: The above programs are sponsored by the Greene County Council on Aging (GCCOA). For information on these programs, contact us at **937-376-5486** or **yourfriends@gcco.org**.