

Kinship Services

The Greene County Council on Aging has a Kinship Liaison dedicated to helping kinship caregivers.

Services include:

- ◆ Supportive contact via Home visits, Phone calls and/or Email
- ◆ Referrals to agencies or programs
- ◆ A monthly support group
- ◆ A Kinship newsletter
- ◆ Educational programs
- ◆ Books, articles, and web links to relevant information

The program is free, confidential, and there is no age or income limit.

It has been a painful and difficult journey filled with feelings of fear, shame, anger, hurt, sadness, guilt, and grief. But there is one emotion that is stronger than all the rest and that is love—love for my granddaughter who needed to be cared for and kept safe and healthy. When we have some time together and she puts her arms around me with a big hug and says, “I love you”, this journey has been worth it.

—S.P., Kinship Caregiver

Support Groups:

Relatives as Parents (“RAP”)

2nd Tuesday every month, 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Greene County Council on Aging
1195 W. Second Street, Xenia

Share your experiences, learn from and support other kinship caregivers.

Please note that child care is *not* provided.

Contact: Susan Finster at 937-376-5486 x 119
or Susan.Finster@gccoa.org

Contact:

Greene County Council on Aging
Susan Finster/Kinship Liaison
1195 W. Second Street
Xenia, OH 45387

Phone: 937-376-5486 x 119

Email: Susan.Finster@gccoa.org



Kinship Program

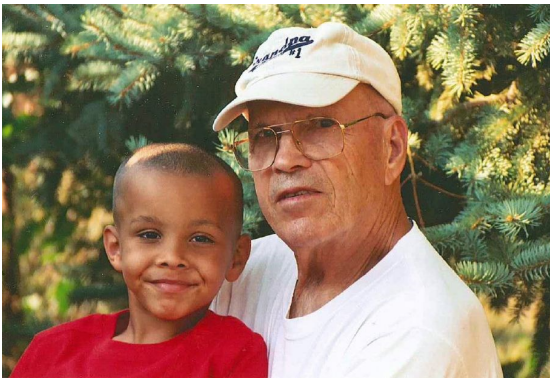


You are not alone.

What is Kinship?

Kinship is a situation in which someone steps in to raise a child when the parents cannot. By this definition there doesn't need to be any blood relationship at all, but most of the time this person is a grandparent or great-grandparent. According to the 2010 census, almost 7% of Ohio's children are being raised in a grandparent's home and another 1.7% are being raised by another relative or caring adult. Nationally, over 2.6 million grandparents have legal responsibility for their grandchildren.

It can be overwhelming to become a parent unexpectedly and overnight. The Greene County Council on Aging's Kinship Program is designed to help caregivers on this journey. The Kinship Liaison can offer you valuable information about programs and services available through local organizations and agencies as well.



I just took in a child. What do I need to know?

Ask for help.

Getting help early can prevent you from falling into a desperate situation.

Keep records.

Document everything – programs applied to, people you talk with, expenses, etc.

Make sure you have and keep track of legal documents such as birth certificates, social security cards, immunization records, health insurance information, etc.

Medical and Financial Assistance:

If the child's biological parents are not living in your home, you may file for cash assistance through the Ohio Works First (OWF) child-only program, and the child is eligible for insurance through Medicaid. For details on both of these programs, contact the Greene County Department of Job & Family Services. (937-562-6000)

For qualifying families, the Kinship Permanency Incentive (KPI) provides up to 8 payments to help with the costs of taking in a child. Contact Greene County Children's Services for more information. (937-562-6600)

Other programs you may qualify for include Prevention, Retention and Contingency (PRC) or Food Assistance through Job and Family Services, and Supplemental Security Income for caregiver/child, Social Security Retirement, or Survivor's benefits through the Social Security Administration. (800-772-1213)

Legal/Custody Questions:

Your rights and duties as a caregiver depend on having legal authority to care for the child. This includes medical and dental care, enrollment in school, access to information, and the ability to give consent for educational activities/field trips.

For custody or power of attorney forms or questions about procedures, contact the Greene County Juvenile Court (937-562-4000).

For legal advice you must consult with a licensed attorney. The Greene County Bar Association has a Lawyer Referral Service. (937-562-5140)

Counseling:

Counseling is available for children through age 18 at Family Solutions Center. (937-427-3837)

Adults may receive counseling at TCN. (937-376-8700 or 937-879-3400)