

It's ALL Relative

GCCOA Kinship Newsletter

Spring 2021

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OhioKAN

There is a new statewide program called Ohio Kinship and Adoption Navigation (OhioKAN). Greene County is one of eight counties in OhioKAN Region 6.

An important goal of OhioKAN is to make sure each Kinship family is connected with all the resources available to them. These resources include:

- Kinship Permanency Incentive Program - a series of up to eight payments to support Kinship caregivers (more info inside).
- Kinship Caregiver Program - temporary funding to assist with stabilizing the home when a child is placed, including assistance with child care.
- Post Adoption Special Services Subsidy (PASSS) Program, State Adoption Maintenance Subsidy (SAMS) program, and Adoption Assistance - various funding towards caring for a child after adoption.
- Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) - Food Assistance.
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Benefits - benefits for disabled children.
- Subsidized Child Care - help with child care expenses for families who qualify.

OhioKAN holds a monthly informational session in Zoom. The next session is Thursday, April 8th at 11:00 am. To register call 1-844-644-6226.

OhioKAN does not replace the Council's Kinship Program. Rather, it is another resource that may be more up-to-date on program changes and interactions. Your Kinship Liaison is always available at 937-376-5486 x119 or susan.finstler@gccoa.org

p.s. For another resource, find *The Ohio Resource Guide for Relatives Caring for Children*, revised this month, at <https://tinyurl.com/OhioResourceGuide>



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How Long Should I Keep Personal Documents?

How long should you keep documents that have sensitive information on them? The answers vary, depending on the document.

Keep tax returns 3 years under most circumstances. *Keep any document that supports a claim on a tax return for as long as you keep your tax return.*

Otherwise:

- Medical bills/statements: Keep 1 year.
- Pay stubs, checking account statements, credit card statements: Keep until you have your annual summary.
- Utility bills, bank deposit/withdrawal receipts, credit card receipts: Keep until you can verify on your next statement.
- Paid off mortgages, legal filings, inheritances, birth/death certificates: Keep all of these permanently.

Check our web site (www.gcco.org) for a more detailed document.



Once you decide to get rid of a document, the safest way is by shredding it. The Council is holding a spring shredding event on Saturday, April 10th, 9am to Noon at the Xenia Community Center (1265 W Second St, the building next to the Council office). No reservations required. Drive up with your 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.

SeniorPalooza Going the 2021 DISTANCE



Last year we took SeniorPalooza online with videos, contests, and Facebook posts. This year we're upping our game. SeniorPalooza will run from May 10th through May 21st, with a mix of videos, challenges, activities, trivia, and other events that you can participate in at home, or out in the community, and there will be a couple in-person events with your Council team.

"Going the Distance" refers to something that lasts. If you are in a relationship that has stood the test of time, and would be willing to share your story with us, please let us know. (Our Kinship Liaison has known her best friend for almost 45 years.)

All SeniorPalooza activities are family friendly. Signing up is easy, and it will give you something fun and new to try. Did we mention prizes?

To receive a schedule of SeniorPalooza activities, call us at 937-376-5486 or send an email to yourfriends@gcco.org

As always, you will be able to find updates on our web site (www.gcco.org) and on our Facebook page.

We hope you will join us in the festivities!



KPI Review

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 or on or after July 1, 2005. Temporary 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, contact: Greene County Job and Family Services, 541 Ledbetter Road, Xenia, OH 45385 or call 937-562-6600

Vaccine Update

As more Covid-19 vaccine doses become available in Ohio, you may be wondering - what about the children? Most children who get sick with Covid-19 recover quickly, but a few unlucky ones develop more severe, long-term symptoms, and some have died.

The good news is that every Covid-19 vaccine manufacturer is now running studies in children under 18. Some of the studies will wrap up by early summer.

For more information, visit

<https://gettheshot.coronavirus.ohio.gov/>



Do you need help getting to your Covid-19 vaccination appointment?

Transportation for vaccination appointments is being provided by Greene County senior centers with transportation programs – Beaver Creek (426-6166), Fairborn (878-4141), Xenia (376-4353) and Yellow Springs (767-5751), based on availability.

Greene CATS Public Transit is providing free transportation for seniors who have appointments to receive their COVID vaccination at the GCPH vaccine site. Request a trip by noon the day before (or earlier). For other vaccine sites, Greene CATS reservations must be requested two business days in advance by noon. Greene CATS Scheduling Office at (937) 708-8322 (Option 1), Monday-Friday 8am-4pm.

Kinship

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Upcoming Programs & Events

- ◆ **RAP Group (“Relatives As Parents” Support Group)**
2nd Tuesday of each month (Apr 13, May 11, Jun 8), 10:00-11:30 am
Registration required. Contact Susan Finster for details at 937-376-5486 x119 or susan.finster@gcco.org
- ◆ **Drive-By Shred Event**
Saturday, April 10th, 9am to Noon
Xenia Community Center (1265 W Second St)
- ◆ **Medicare 101 and Memory Loss, Dementia, and Alzheimer’s Disease** presentations are happening regularly, with safety precautions in place.
- ◆ **SeniorPalooza 2021 ~ Going the Distance**
May 10th-21st. Watch our website (www.gcco.org) or Facebook page for the latest information.



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**.