



Guardians

Raising

And

Nurturing

Dependents

Individual Highlights

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GRAND Kinship Navigator Program and Support Group

What is a Kinship Navigator?

Kinship Navigator Services provide linkage and support for kinship families and the children they care for. Services may include: Legal Assistance, Financial Assistance, Medical Coverage, Educational Services, Day Care Assistance, Referrals to Community Agencies, Advocacy, and Support Kinship caregivers have made a courageous and life changing decision that exemplifies their commitment and devotion to the children in their care. With that in mind, GRAND Kinship Navigator Services

strives to maintain children with their caregivers, to promote stability and sense of belonging, maintain extended family relationships and continue to benefit from inclusion in family traditions and cultural beliefs.

Who is a Kinship Family?

Relatives and Non-Relatives providing substitute care who have a longstanding relationship with a child.

G.R.A.N.D. Support Group:

G.R.A.N.D. Kinship Support Group was established by community kinship families seeking to support and empower others.

When we meet:

The G.R.A.N.D. group meets the 3rd Monday of the month at 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm.

We meet at Family & Community Services, Inc. at 705 Oakwood St. Suite 122 Ravenna, OH.

All family members welcome.

Daycare provided.

A Letter from the GRAND President

Dear GRAND members and future GRAND members,

As we welcome in Spring, I'd like to invite you to attend our GRAND support group meetings. We meet on the third Monday of every month and now, at a new time, 6:00 – 7:30 pm. We are here to offer support, information, encouragement and TLC. We understand how rewarding and challenging raising a child can be, especially one who is not your biological child. You are very courageous.

We are planning some fun activities for the whole family this summer. Some are free and some will have a minimal cost. A variety of interesting speakers give us much needed information to help us perform our best when raising and nurturing our loved ones. Come join us for a meeting, child care and a light snack is provided.

Yours Truly,
Linda Carmen Bouchonville
President of the GRAND Support Group

Ohio's Kinship Permanency Incentive Program

Ohio's Biennial Budget (HB 66) established the Kinship Permanency Incentive Program (KPI). The new program was implemented January 1, 2006.

This program will provide **financial support** for minor children in the legal custody or guardianship of grandparents, relatives, or other "kinship caregivers" (defined in Ohio as any relative or non-relative adult who has a long-standing relationship or bond with the child and/or family).

Eligible kin caregivers must have received judicial custody or guardianship on or after July 1, 2005.

For more details on KPI – Contact the Kinship Navigator at 330-677-4124 ext. 28.



Recipe Corner

This recipe comes from the President of Grand, she hopes you enjoy!

Spicy Chicken and Orzo Skillet

Prep time: 45 minutes

Makes 4 servings

Ingredients:

- 1 tablespoon of olive oil or vegetable oil
- 4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts (cut into bite-size strips)
- 1 clove of garlic, finely chopped
- 1 cup of ready to eat baby carrots (quartered length wise)
- 1 small onion, cut into thin wedges
- ¾ cup uncooked rosamarina or orzo paste (5 oz.)
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- ½ teaspoon Italian seasoning
- ½ teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes
- ½ cup water
- 1 can (15 oz.) Progresso chick peas (garbanzo beans) drained and rinsed
- 1 ¾ cup Progresso chicken broth (from 32 oz. carton)
- 2 cups fresh spinach leaves, cut into thin strips

Directions:

1. In a 12 inch skillet, heat oil over medium-high heat. Add chicken and garlic, cook and stir for 3 minutes. Then add the carrots and onion. Cover and cook for 2-3 minutes, stir one time, cook until the vegetables are crisp-tender.
2. Stir in all remaining ingredients except the spinach. Heat to a boil, then reduce heat. Cover and let simmer for 12-15 minutes, stirring occasionally until most of the liquid has been absorbed and the orzo is tender.
3. Stir in spinach. Cover and cook 2-3 minutes or until spinach is wilted.

**This recipe can be made without the chicken and used as a side dish.*

GRAND Meeting Reminder

Please remember that our future monthly Guardians Raising and Nurturing Dependents (GRAND) Support Group meetings will be held on **Monday, May 16, 2011 and Monday, June 20, 2011**. These meetings will be held at a new time from **6:00 pm – 7:30 pm** at the Place of Peace, located at 705 Oakwood St., Suite 122, in Ravenna. All are welcome to attend the meeting and child care is provided. During the May meeting a representative from the Big Brothers & Sisters of Portage County will be present to distribute information and answer questions. The June meeting will host the Portage Park District Information will be provided about the parks and local activities. For more information, please contact the Kinship Navigator at 330-677-4124 ext. 28.

"The family is on of nature's masterpieces" – George Santayana

Summer Fun – Free and Low Cost Summer Activities

Free Summer Activities:

- A variety of fun and informative activities will be hosted throughout the entire summer, beginning in May, at the Michael J. Kirwan Dam Visitor Center – West Branch State Park. These programs include fishing, hiking, animal presentations and more! Please contact 330-358-2622 for more information, dates and times of the events.
- Child Immunization Clinics – Every Wednesday in June from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. at the Portage County Health Department located at 449 S. Meridian St. (next to WIC) in Ravenna. Walk-in only. 330-296-9919
- The Life of the Honeybee – May 15, 2011 hosted by the Aurora Conservation Council at 929 E. Mennonite Rd., Aurora from 3:00-4:00 pm. Call 330-562-1010 for more info.
- May Mart Plant Sale – May 21, 2011 from 9:00 am-2:00 pm hosted by the Portage County Gardeners at 5154 S. Prospect St., Ravenna.
- Home Heritage Concerts – located at the Home Savings Bank Plaza in Kent from 7:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. on May 26, 2011, June 9, 2011, July 14, 2011, August 11, 2011 and September 8, 2011.
- Masterpieces on Main – June 4, 2011 at the Home Savings Bank Plaza from 12:00-7:00 pm. Call 330-673-5058 for more info.
- Grill for Good – June 11, 2011 at the Home Savings Bank Plaza in Kent from 11:00 am – 8:00 pm. Call 330-673-9827 for more info.
- Summerfest – located in downtown Ravenna on June 11, 2011
- Garrettsville Summerfest – June 24 – 26, 2011 Games, contests, food and fun! Call 330-527-5761 for more information.
- Sidewalk Cinema Outdoor Movie – June 24, July 29 & August 25, 2011 at the Home Savings Bank Plaza in Kent from 9:00 pm-11:00 pm. Call 330-677-8000 for more info.
- Kent Heritage Festival – located in downtown Kent on July 2, 2011. Food, fun, games and more.
- St. Joseph's Ox Roast Fair – Mantua, July 15th from 6:00 pm.-11:00 p.m. July 16th from 3:00 p.m.-11:30 p.m. and July 17th from 12:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. Food, games, music and fun. For more information call 330-274-2253.
- Full Moon Walk – July 15, 2011 at the Michael J. Kirwan Dam Visitor Center – West Branch from 8:30 pm-9:30 pm. Call 330-358-2622 for more info.
- Camp Diabetes Concert – July 16, 2011 on the Ravenna Court House lawn from 6:00 pm-9:00 pm. Call 330-373-9827 for more info.
- Blues Festival – July 22 – 23, 2011 downtown Kent from 7:00 pm-11:00 pm. Call 330-677-8000 for more info.

- Streetsboro Family Fun Days – July 28 – July 31,, 2011. Located at the Streetsboro City Park. Admission is FREE. Food, games and entertainment. For more information call 330-626-4729.
- Kent Lions Sweet Corn Festival – August 6-7, 2011 from 12:00 pm-5:00 pm. Call 330-676-4012 for more info.
- Ice Cream Social – August 13, 2011 from 1:00 pm-3:00pm at the Home Savings Bank Plaza in Kent. Call 330-677-8000 for more info.
- Suffield Music Festival – August 12-13 located at the Suffield Lions Park.

Low-Cost Summer Activities:

- Portage County Randolph Fair – August 23-28, 2010 located at the Portage County Fair Grounds in Randolph. Food, games, entertainment and fun! General admission tickets are \$5.00, for children between the ages of 6-11 tickets cost \$1.00 and children under age 6 get in for FREE!
- Akron Zoo – Open every day from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Ticket prices are as follows: adults - \$10.00, senior citizens - \$7.50, children ages 2-14 - \$6.00 and parking is \$2.00. For more information call 330-375-2550.
- Akron Aeros Games – Bleacher seats are \$5.00, children 3 and under are free. Call 330-253-5153 for more information.
- Akron Art Museum – Adult tickets are \$7.00, senior citizen tickets are \$5.00 and children are free with an adult. For more information call 330-376-9185.
- Cleveland Children's Museum - \$7.00 for adults and children. Call 216-791-7114 for more info.
- Cleveland Metroparks Zoo – Open daily from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Ticket prices for the zoo and rainforest are as follows: adults - \$11.00, children 2-11 \$8.00 and children under 2 are free. Parking is also free. For more information call 216-661-6500.
- Cleveland Museum of Natural History – The hours of operation vary. Ticket prices are: adults - \$10.00, seniors (with Buckeye Card) \$8.00, youths (7-18) - \$8.00, children (3-6) - \$7.00 and children under 2 are free. For more information call 216-231-4600.
- Cleveland Botanical Gardens – Hours of operation vary. Ticket prices are: adults - \$8.50 and children (3-12) - \$3.00. For more information call 216-721-1600.
- Water Works Aquatic Center – Daily fees are \$12.00 for persons between 13 and 59 years of age and \$8.00 for those 13 and under. Please call 330-971-8433 for more information.



**Family & Community Services, Inc.
GRAND Kinship Navigator Program**

143 Gougler Avenue
Kent, Ohio 44240

Phone
330-677-4124 ext. 28

Fax
330-677-4134

A program of:



In conjunction with:



Portage County Jobs &
Family Services



**Find out more about
Kinship**

www.kinshipohio.org

About Our Organization and the Grant

About Family & Community Services, Inc.-

For more than 60 years, people in Northeast Ohio have turned to **Family & Community Services, Inc.** As one of the largest, non-profit social service agencies in Northeast Ohio, we can respond quickly and compassionately to Individuals and families who encounter adversity or have difficulty coping with the basics of living can contact us for help. We have the ability and program diversity to help meet emergency situations, as well as work directly with clients to develop long-term independence and self-reliance.

Our belief in individual dignity and our strong sense of community determine our focus direct our policies and drive our efforts. Our programs and community centers could not operate efficiently operate without our dedicated 3,000+ volunteers. In fact, our volunteers help us to provide the wide array of community-based programs and services we offer throughout Northeast Ohio. Our volunteers cook and serve meals, tutor school children, distribute clothing, assist senior citizens and work as advocates for the homeless and abused.

About the Grant-

As part of implementing the Fostering Connections to Success Act, Public Children Services Association of Ohio, in collaboration with seven Ohio counties and the Human Services Research Institute received a grant from the US Department of Health and Human Services to demonstrate the effectiveness of Kinship Navigator Programs in high need areas. Each of the seven county agencies involved including Portage Children Services , will provide enhanced Kinship Navigator services to a broad population of kinship caregivers, regardless of their involvement with the child welfare system.

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