

# NJ Kinship Connections

A Publication of the NJ Kinship Legal Guardianship Resource Clearing House



A PROGRAM OF CHILDREN'S AID AND FAMILY SERVICES

Fall/ Winter 2012

## GrandFacts

State fact sheets for grandparents and other relatives raising children

**Each year, a publication sponsored by AARP, CWLA and other organizations features a great resource sheet called "GrandFacts."** This fact sheet has information about services around the country that can assist grandparents or relatives raising children. In this issue of *NJ Kinship Connections*, we will feature some information that may be helpful to our readers. Here are some facts about NJ:

According to the 2010 Census, over 180,000

children (or 8.8%) of children under the age of 18 live in homes where grandparents or other relatives head the household.

Almost 50,000 children live in homes where grandparents are responsible for them. Of those children, more than 17,000 do not have parents present in the home.

Of these, 60% are under the age of 60 and 14% live in poverty.

There are almost 3,000

grandparents in the city of Newark and over 2,000 in Jersey City that are head of household and are responsible for their grandchildren living with them

There are many programs in New Jersey that can help. Here are just a few:

**Caregivers Connections:** Free in-home counseling for relatives over age 60 raising children in their home. For information, call 973-715-9756.

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### Points of Interest:

- ◆ NEWJERSEY RESOURCES
- ◆ FREE KLG COUNSELING FOR DYFS FAMILIES
- ◆ TIPS ON RAISING GRANDCHILDREN
- ◆ KINKONNECT FREE LENDING LIBRARY

### Inside this issue:

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## Which Vaccines Do Adolescents Need?

Vaccines aren't just for babies and older people. Some vaccines are recommended specifically for adolescents to help them avoid serious and deadly diseases.

Knowing which vaccines are recommended for pre-teens and teens—and

getting them vaccinated—is one of the easiest things you can do to help protect your child's health and keep them on a road to a healthy adulthood.

To download the publication: *Adolescent Vaccination - Protecting*

*Adolescents Now and Into the Future*, log onto [www.adolescentvaccination.org/](http://www.adolescentvaccination.org/) or call our KinConnect warmline at 877-KLG-LINE (877-554-5463) and we would be happy to send it to you. Let's all work together to keep our children healthy!



## NJ Kinship Connections



### **DID YOU KNOW?**

THOSE FAMILIES WHO  
ACHIEVE KINSHIP LEGAL  
GUARDIANSHIP THROUGH  
DYFS MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR

### **FREE**

### **IN-HOME COUNSELING?**

TO LOCATE A PROVIDER NEAR  
YOU, CHECK OUT  
[WWW.KINKONNECT.ORG](http://WWW.KINKONNECT.ORG) OR  
CONTACT THE WARM-LINE AT  
1-877-KLG-LINE  
(1-877-554-5463)

THE KINKONNECT FREE  
LENDING LIBRARY  
OFFERS ARTICLES AND  
BOOKS ON HUNDREDS  
OF TOPICS.

CONTACT A WARMLINE  
REPRESENTATIVE AT  
1-877-KLG-LINE  
(1-877-554-5463) OR  
[WARMLINE@KINKONNECT.ORG](mailto:WARMLINE@KINKONNECT.ORG)  
TO MAKE YOUR REQUEST.



## Support Services in New Jersey

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### **Burlington County Community Action Program**

**Head Start:** Information, referrals and support group.  
[www.bccap.org/head\\_start.cfm](http://www.bccap.org/head_start.cfm), 609-261-2323.

### **Grandma K.A.R.E.S**

Monthly support group, South Orange NJ.  
[www.grandmakares.vpweb.com](http://www.grandmakares.vpweb.com); 973-327-4114.

### **Grandparents Raising Grandchildren**

Program, Rutgers Cooperative, Monthly meetings and more; 609-465-5115 Ext 609.

### **NJ Kinship Navigator Program:**

Information and referral to wrap-around services and KLG assistance. Call 2-1-1 or 609-588-2171.

To download **GrandFacts**, log onto [www.kinkconnect.org/images/grandfacts-newjersey.pdf](http://www.kinkconnect.org/images/grandfacts-newjersey.pdf) or call our KinConnect Warm-line at 877-KLG - LINE (877-554-5463). We would be happy to do the research for you!

### ***KinConnect in Partnership with "Grandma K.A.R.E.S."***

*presents a free training workshop:*

### ***"Advocating for your Grandchild in School"***

***Friday, March 23 from 1:00 - 3:00 pm***

*South Orange Public Library 65 Scotland Road, South Orange NJ 07079*

*Library number: (973) 762-0230*

*To learn more about this free event and to reserve your seat, please contact Louise Eagle at (973) 327-4114*

*This workshop will assist grandparents in advocating for their grandchildren in school. Learn about the IEP process, your legal rights and more. Join our interactive discussion facilitated by Dana W. Fried, Assistant Director of KinConnect, a Program of Children's Aid and Family Services.*

## Social Security and SSI Cost of Living Adjustment

Did you know that the **Cost-Of-Living Adjustment (COLA)** has increased 3.6% for Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) beneficiaries? The adjustment will help to cover the increases in the Medicare Premiums, co-insurances,

and co-pays. Visit the Social Security website to find more information related to COLA and its effect on benefits for retirees, widow(er)s, disabled individuals, and students.

To download the fact-sheets log onto:

[www.ssa.gov/cola/2012/factsheet.htm](http://www.ssa.gov/cola/2012/factsheet.htm) or call 1-800-772-1213 and speak to a Social Security Representative.



## Tips on Raising Grandchildren

Raising grandchildren can be a tremendous challenge. Grandparent caregivers need to develop a support system to help them with the many tasks at hand. It's also important for grandparents to take good care of themselves, so they can stay mentally and physically healthy enough to do the job.

One way to make the task easier is to connect with other grandparents in the same situation. There are many grandparent support groups located all over the country. Find one in your area by contacting KinKconnect at 877-KLG-LINE (877-554-5463).

As you take on the task of caring for grandchildren, your friends and family will probably want to help, but they may not be sure of what they can do. It's up to you to:

- Ask for help. Make a list of small and large ways family and friends can support you.
- Have a "family conference" or meeting of close and extended family members. Discuss how your life, your grand-

child's life and other family members' lives will change.

- Try to divide up tasks and responsibilities for other areas of your life, such as caring for older parents, so you can have the time and energy for raising children again. A small amount of planning can save you some big headaches later.
- Talk with your friends about how your social life will change. Let them know you'd still like to see them, but you might need help with babysitting.

You probably will be able to find services and support for you and/or your grandchildren in your community. Start by checking out these resources:

- Schools: Talk to the social worker at your grandchild's school about what kind of help might be available.
- Social service agencies or Child Welfare Offices. Call your town or county government offices to find out what kind of help you may be eligible for.
- Your church group or other faith-based organizations.

- Community Centers, YMCA and YWCA, County Extension Offices, Boys and Girls Clubs, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and other youth groups.
- Mentoring programs like Big Brothers and Big Sisters.
- Local Colleges and Universities (for example, they may have free legal clinics in their law schools, or might have students who can work with your grandchildren).

Remember, you are not alone. Take advantage of all the community resources available. To find resources in your area, contact us at 877-KLG-LINE.



Excerpts from this article from the AARP website: [www.aarp.org/relationships/friends-family/info-08-2011/grandfamilies-guide-support.print.html](http://www.aarp.org/relationships/friends-family/info-08-2011/grandfamilies-guide-support.print.html).

**The KinKconnect Free Lending Library**  
1-877-KLG-LINE  
(1-877-554-5463)

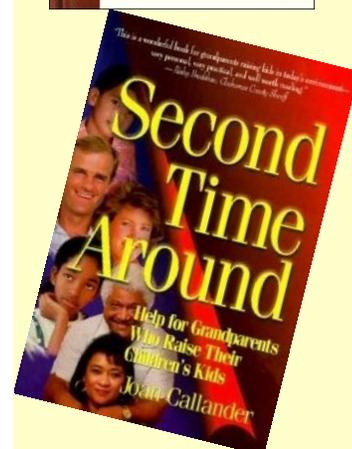
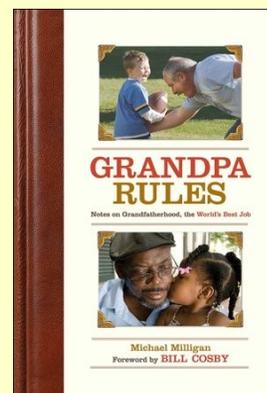
### **Titles In the Spotlight:**

#### **Grandpa Rules**

Notes on Grandfatherhood, the World's Best Job  
By: Michael Milligan  
Foreword by Bill Cosby  
2008

#### **Second Time Around**

Help for Grandparents Who Raise Their Children's Kids  
By: Joan Callander  
1999





NJ KINSHIP LEGAL GUARDIANSHIP  
RESOURCE CLEARING HOUSE

WWW.KINKONNECT.ORG

A PROGRAM OF CHILDREN'S AID AND FAMILY SERVICES

WWW.CAFSNJ.ORG

Children's Aid and Family Services  
76 South Orange Avenue, Suite 209  
South Orange, NJ 07079

Phone: 973-763-2041  
KLG Warmline: 866-KLG-LINE  
866-554-5463

E-mail: [warmline@kinkonnnect.org](mailto:warmline@kinkonnnect.org)  
Visit us at: [www.kinkonnnect.org](http://www.kinkonnnect.org)

Children's Aid and Family Services is one of northern New Jersey's leading non-profit human service agencies. Since 1899, we have built better lives for thousands of disadvantaged children who have been abused, neglected, or abandoned. For more information, visit our website: [www.cafsnj.org](http://www.cafsnj.org)

**DISCLAIMER**

While NJ Kinship Legal Guardianship Resource Clearing House (KinKonnnect) or Children's Aid and Family Services, Inc. makes every effort to present accurate and reliable information, neither KinKonnnect nor Children's Aid and Family Services guarantees the completeness, efficacy or timeliness of such information. In addition, reference herein to any specific product, process, service, organization, or viewpoint does not constitute or imply endorsement, recommendation or favoring by KinKonnnect or Children's Aid and Family Services.

## Upcoming Events

### February is Black History Month

Join UMDNJ and the African American Heritage Committee when they present: *Black History Month 2012: Impact of the Economy on Healthcare in African American Communities.* :

**Wednesday, February 15, 12:00 - 1:00 pm**  
"Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (Revisited)", Stanley S. Bergen Building, 65 Bergen Street, Newark.

**Monday, January 27, 6:00 - 8:00 pm** "Essex Woman's Coalition", Stanley S. Bergen Building, 65 Bergen Street, Newark.

**Wednesday, February 29, 12:00 - 1:30 pm**  
"Affordable Care Act – Healthcare Reform Legislation", with speaker Julane Miller-Armbrister, VP of Government and Community Affairs, NJMS– Medical Science Building, 185 South Orange Avenue, South Orange.

Events are free. For information and directions, call 973-972-7275 or 973-972-6935.

Join the **Family Support Organization (FSO)** of Hunterdon, Somerset and Warren Counties in **HOPE**, a support group for parents and caregivers:

**Sussex County Support Groups:** 2nd Wednesday of each month 10:30 am - 12:00 noon, Sussex County FSO Office, Newton, NJ

**Morris County Support Groups:** Spanish Group, last Monday of each month: 4:30 - 6:00 pm, Head Start of Morris County, Dover.

Events are free. For information and directions, call 973-940-3194.

