

It's ALL Relative

GCCOA Kinship Newsletter

Winter 2022

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You Are Special!

While every situation is different, there are things that many Kinship caregivers have in common. Please know that you are not alone if:

- The biological parents of the children you care for abuse drugs and/or alcohol, are in prison, or are deceased.
- The children you care for have experienced emotional trauma.
- The children you care for have learning difficulties.
- You and/or the children you care for have physical limitations.
- You sometimes struggle to make ends meet.
- You never expected to be in this situation.
- You sometimes wonder if it's all worth it.

You have stepped in to nurture, guide and provide care for a child or children, a daunting responsibility even in the best of circumstances. What you are doing is a wonderful thing and while it may not always feel this way, you are appreciated!

Your Council team would like to share our appreciation by adding a special twist to the April 12th Kinship support group. We will meet at the Xenia Community Center (next to the Council's office) for our 10:00-11:30 support session which will be followed by a special boxed lunch.

Please let Susan know (937-376-5486 x119 or susan.finster@gccoa.org) by April 8th if you are able to attend, and if you have any dietary restrictions.

We hope to see you there!



Drive-By Shredding Event

The Council is holding its Spring Drive-By Shredding Event on **Saturday, April 30th, 9am to Noon** at the Xenia Community Center (1265 W Second St, next to the Council office). 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.



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.

Save the Date ~ Making an Impression SeniorPalooza 2022

SeniorPalooza 2022 is coming and we hope to make an impression on you! Once again we have a hybrid of at-home, online, and in-person events.

The **SeniorPalooza Drive-By** event is Wednesday, May 4th, 1:30 - 3:00pm in the parking lot of the Xenia Community Center (XCC). Council team members will be handing out an *Impressive Takeaway Bag* with the Palooza materials and a number of surprises.

SeniorPalooza will run through Thursday, May 19th, closing out with the **Senior Field and Impression Day** from 11am to 2:30pm at the XCC. Registration is required for this event. Contact us for more information.

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

Parenting Resources

Parenting a Kinship child can be more challenging than parenting the first time around, due to many factors.

Family and Children First's **Active Parenting Now** class teaches parenting skills to caregivers of children of all ages.



For more information or to enroll contact Melodee Bass at Greene County Family and Children First at 937-562-5606 or 937-562-5600.



Greene County ESC offers zoom meetings monthly. Their **Positive Parenting** sessions center around social and emotional skills for children from 0-10. There are several opportunities to attend a session each month.

For more information, email ECMHTeam@greeneESC.org.

Online Support Group

The Ohio Kinship Caregivers Connect Support Group offers twice-weekly virtual support groups. Guest speakers cover a variety of topics most weeks, with some caregiver-only discussion on the other weeks. No computer? Join by phone instead. Meetings are held Tuesdays from 11:30am-12:30pm (focused on the Greater Cincinnati area) and Thursdays from 6:30-7:30pm (Statewide). To learn more, including a list of topics, visit <https://kinshipcaregiversconnect.com/> or contact Angela at angela@kinshipcaregiversconnect.com or 203-466-9821

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 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, contact: Greene County Job and Family Services, 541 Ledbetter Road, Xenia, OH 45385 or call 937-562-6600

Senior Artisan Show

Our Senior Artisan Show is returning! View art created by Greene County Seniors on:

Sundays, March 13th & 20th from 1:00-3:30 pm

Wednesday, March 23rd from 11am-2 pm

The show is held at The Fairborn Art Association, 221 N. Central Avenue. (The entrance is at the back of the building - follow the signs.)

This is a fun, informal way to teach children about art appreciation. Visitors may vote on their favorites from oils, pastels, watercolors, photos, and more. The winning artists receive bragging rights for a year. (If you have visited the Council office, you may be aware that the artwork on our walls came from previous shows.)



OhioKAN is a program that helps kinship and adoptive families navigate and connect with local and statewide resources. OhioKAN is part of Job and Family Services. The program is fairly new, and is expanding. Recently an OhioKAN Navigator joined the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Community Support Center. Visit ohiokan.jfs.ohio.gov or call 1-888-644-6526 for more information.

Clothing Assistance

There are several clothing pantries in Greene County. Some are free, and some charge only a small amount. For fast-growing children and a limited budget, this can be a great resource. For more information about a clothing pantry in your area, contact your Kinship Liaison at 937-376-5486 or susan.finster@gccoa.org



Kinship

1195 W Second St
Xenia, OH 45385



Upcoming Programs & Events

- ◆ **RAP Group ("Relatives As Parents" Support Group)**
2nd Tuesday of each month (March 8th, April 12th, May 10th, Jun 14th), 10:00-11:30 am
Contact Susan Finster for details at 937-376-5486 x119 or susan.finster@gccoa.org
- ◆ **Senior Artisan Show**
Sundays, March 13th & 20th from 1:00-3:30 pm
Wednesday, March 23rd from 11am-2 pm
Fairborn Art Association, 221 N. Central Avenue (rear of the building)
- ◆ **Drive-By Shredding Event**
Saturday, April 30th, 9am-Noon, Xenia Community Center
- ◆ **SeniorPalooza 2022 - Making an Impression**
Pick up supplies May 4th, 1:30-3:00pm
Activities and Field Day May 19th, 11:00am-2:30pm
Xenia Community Center (next to the Council office)



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@gccoa.org**.