

December 2006

Kincare News

E-mail News from the New York State Kincare Coalition

Welcome to the second edition of *Kincare News*, a monthly e-newsletter produced by AARP New York on behalf of the New York State Kincare Coalition for professionals working in the kin caregiving field. *Kincare News* is designed to provide a forum for the exchange of information about kin caregiving, including the latest legal developments, funding and training opportunities, events and resources. Your submissions and feedback for future editions are welcome.

Get your event noticed! Submit your events for professionals and caregivers to promote in Kincare News and on the upcoming New York State Kinship Navigator web site, www.nysnavigator.org (see listing below). The opportunity to publicize your events through these venues will showcase your programs, help you to reach more caregivers, and assist our coalition's advocacy efforts. So, please take the time to tell us what you are doing!

Top Headlines

- **News:** New York State Kinship Navigator Program Launch
- **Funding Opportunities:** Brookdale Foundation seeking RFPs for RAPP
- **Resources:** Release of *Relatives Raising Children: A Guide to Finding Help and Hope*
- **Events:** Bi-Polar Disorder and the Effects on Adults Workshop

News

NY State Kinship Navigator Program Set to Launch January 2007

Beginning January 1, 2007, the New York State Kinship Navigator program will offer information and referrals to caregivers across New York State. Funded by the New York State Office of Children and Families Services the program will offer caregivers support and guidance through a toll-free phone line, 1-877-4KinInfo (1-877-454-6463), and the web site www.nysnavigator.org. The program is seeking to reach caregivers across the state, so organizations are encouraged to spread the word to caregivers and other professionals. Organizations also will have the opportunity to be listed as resources on the Navigator web site. If you would like your organization to be listed on the site or have suggestions for other resource listings, please contact Gerard Wallace at gwallace@cfcrochester.org. Flyers are attached that can be distributed or posted.

Kin Caregiver Support Project Brochure Available

A new brochure describing the Kinship Care Support Project is available for distribution among professionals. Directed by Gerard Wallace, the project offers educational assistance to attorneys, providers, and other professionals that serve kin caregivers. The project is a joint initiative of Albany Law School's Government Law Center and AARP New York. A pdf file of the brochure is attached. For more information about the project and to request copies of the brochure, contact Gerard Wallace at gwall@albanylaw.edu.

LIFT Expands its One-of-a-Kind Services into the Criminal Justice System

Celebrating its 10th year of service, [LIFT](#) (Legal Information for Families Today) is a unique non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing access justice on behalf of children and families by providing legal information, compassionate guidance, and community education. LIFT reaches those involved in the New York City Family and Criminal Courts by operating:

- Court-based Education & Information Sites;
- A Legal Information Hotline; and
- Legal education workshops

Building upon the success of its programs based in Family Court, LIFT has recently launched an Education & Information Site in the lobby of Brooklyn Criminal Court. At the Site, coordinators work with crime victims, those accused of crimes, and the families of both, to increase access to justice by demystifying the criminal justice system and giving people the tools they need to address the issues that arise as a result of criminal justice involvement. In tandem with this growth, the Legal Information Hotline has expanded its service to: (1) provide legal information about criminal law as well as family law; (2) provide referrals to organizations that address issues that might arise as a result of involvement in the criminal justice system; and (3) accept collect calls from those who are incarcerated. The Hotline operates Monday-Friday, from 9:00 am-5:00 pm, and can be reached at 212-343-1122.

Kinship Caregiver Summit Convenes in Buffalo

On Tuesday, October 31, the Kinship Caregiver Coalition of Erie County presented the *Kinship Caregiver Summit: Relatives Caring for Children* in Buffalo, New York. Nearly 70 participants, most of whom were kin caregivers, attended the event. The Summit provided information on legislation affecting kinship families and services available to kinship families through guest speakers and two discussion panels. Gerard Wallace, Esq. gave the keynote address entitled "Kinship Care: Laws and Policies." Other featured speakers included Teresa M. Bednarczyk and Mike and Rose Falsone, all relative caregivers.

The Summit was made possible by a generous grant from the AARP Foundation Grandparent Information Center and the New York Life Foundation, with support from Catholic Charities of Buffalo Kinship Caregiver Program and Every Person Influences Children.

For more information about the Summit, contact Kate Hacker, Preventative Services Coordinator, Catholic Charities of Buffalo, at (716) 856-4494 or kate.hacker@ccwny.org

NYS Kincare Coalition Reaches Out to Governor-Elect

The New York State Kincare Coalition sent a letter to Governor-Elect Eliot Spitzer requesting funding in his 2007-08 Executive Budget proposal for the existing fourteen kinship caregiver programs and funding for additional program services. The letter, which was sent on November 16, was signed in support by more than 25 executive directors of agencies that are members of the Coalition. For more information or to receive a copy of the letter, contact Gerard Wallace at 518-445-3266 or gwall@albanylaw.edu.

Funding Opportunities

The Brookdale Relatives As Parents Program 2007 Funding Alert

The Brookdale Foundation recently announced it is seeking Request for Proposals for the 2007 Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP) Local Seed Grant Initiative. RAPP is designed to encourage and promote the creation or expansion of services for grandparents and other relatives who have taken on the responsibility of surrogate parenting due to the absence of the parents. Up to fifteen local agencies will be chosen from throughout the United States. Each agency will receive a \$10,000 grant over a two-year period, as well as training and technical assistance. Matching support in cash or in-kind will be required of all selected agencies. The sponsoring agency must be a 501(c)(3) entity or have equivalent tax-exempt status.

The deadline for the submission of local proposals to the Brookdale Foundation is Thursday, January 11, 2007. Copies of the Local RFP guidelines and application form may be downloaded directly from the Foundation's website at www.brookdalefoundation.org. Public state agencies interested in the RAPP State Seed Grant Initiative should also visit the website.

Resources

Relatives Raising Children: A Guide to Finding Help and Hope

The Brookdale Foundation Group has a new book available entitled *Relatives Raising Children: A Guide to Finding Help and Hope* by Marianne Takas, J.D.

The book is based upon what long-term relative caregivers (and family services professionals who work with them) have learned about raising relative children. It provides useful information, strategies, and ideas to caregivers, and links caregivers with others who can help.

Each copy is \$6.00 to cover shipping and production costs. To order copies, visit the Brookdale Foundation website at: www.brookdalefoundation.org

If you have other questions, contact Melinda Perez-Porter, Director, RAPP, Brookdale Foundation Group at (212) 308-7355, x105 or Rolanda Pyle, Associate Director, RAPP, Brookdale Foundation Group at (212) 308-7355, x109.

Catholic Charities Caregivers Support Services New Website

(Please note that the last edition of *Kincare News* provided an inaccurate web link.)

Catholic Charities Caregivers Support Services recently launched its new web site, www.cccaregivers.org. The user friendly site informs visitors about services and resources for individuals or families that care for friends or relatives in need. The web site offers fact sheets, links, testimonies, and an overview of programs offered by the agency. Visit the site for information about legislation that impacts seniors in caregiving situations or find a listing of relevant events, newsletters and articles about caregiving.

Events Calendar

***The Family Enrichment Network, Inc.* is hosting a workshop on Bi-Polar Disorder:**

Bi-Polar Disorder and the Effects on Adults

January 10, 2007 6:00 pm-8:00 pm
24 Cherry Street
Johnson City, NY 13790

Pre-register by calling Diane LaTorrey at 1-800-281-8741, x831.

Online Trainings for Foster and Adoptive Parents

The Center for Development of Human Services Research Foundation of SUNY, Buffalo State College, is offering online training opportunities for New York State foster/adoptive parents.

Introduction to Kinship Foster Parent Support Group/CFOO

January 16, 2007, 7:00 pm-9:00 pm or
January 18, 2007, 10:00 am-12:00 pm

Assessing the Impact of the Children Living in My Home

January 30, 2007, 7:00 pm-9:00 pm or
February 1, 2007, 10:00 am-12:00 pm

For more information or to register for one or more courses, visit www.bsc-cdhs.org/fosterparenttraining

Child Welfare League Hosts National Conference in Washington, DC

The Child Welfare League of America is holding a national conference, which will offer several sessions focusing on kinship care, including a session entitled "Advocating for Kinship Care as a Valuable Resource for Families."

CWLA 2007 National Conference Children 2007: Raising Our Voices for Children

February 26-28, 2007
Marriott Wardman Park
Washington, DC

For more information, visit www.cwla.org/conferences/default.htm.

International Kin Caregiver Conference

The National Committee of Grandparents for Children's Rights, along with the Florida Kinship Center and Grand Magazine, is sponsoring an international conference for grandparents and other kin caregivers:

Caring for Children—A Global Challenge

May 6-8, 2007
Marriott on the Bridge
Brooklyn, NY

For more information, visit www.grandparentsforchildren.org or call 866-624-9900.

About Kincare News

Kincare News is produced by AARP New York on behalf of the New York State Kincare Coalition. The Coalition is dedicated to empowering the grandparents and other relatives who are raising nearly half a million children in New York State. The goals of the coalition are to remove barriers facing kin caregivers and engage policy makers in the areas of education, health, legal issues, temporary assistance and child welfare. The members of the coalition are a statewide network of organizations and agencies that serve kin caregivers by providing resources, legal and social services, support groups and advocacy.

To submit an item or for more information about *Kincare News* or the New York State Kincare Coalition, contact Gabrielle Wuolo at gwuolo@aarp.org or 212-407-3784.

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Kincare News is made possible by a grant from the AARP Foundation Grandparent Information Center with generous support from the New York Life Foundation.