



The Family Friends Program of
Children's Mercy Hospital and Clinics
Support for Relative Caregivers

JANUARY, 2007

Kinship Times

Happy New Year

Family Friends Upcoming Announcements

NEWSFLASH!!!

Strengthening Families Program is here and it is for grandparents and relative caregivers raising children by courtesy of Jackson County COMBAT (Community Backed Anti-Drug Tax) Organization. COMBAT is one of our funders and its mission is to prevent drug abuse throughout the Jackson County area.

Strengthening Families Program is three life skill courses for grandparents, grandchildren and families individually and collectively. This program makes no assumptions that families are deficient but only that families wish to improve. The goals are to increase knowledge of parenting skills for grandparents, increase social skills for grandchildren and improve family relations. These are protective factors that reduce the likelihood that your child will use drugs. It is a 14 session program that will be made a part of the support group meetings that are held twice a month. Perfect attendance at these meeting will put you in a drawing for a prize. Our Grandparent Mobilizers have been trained to implement this model program beginning January, 2007. We hope to see you there!

Clothes Closet

The Family Friends Program is proud to announce the opening of the Grandparent Clothes Closet. You may contact LeAnn Hochstetler, Grandparent Mobilizer at 913-362-1899 or Beatrice Mack, Grandparent Mobilizer at 816-861-5718, to make arrangements to visit the closet at Swope Ridge Geriatric Center located 5900 Swope Parkway, KCMO. The items are FREE and will be available for you and your grandchildren. You may also call the Family Friends office at 816-234-3676.

Family Friends Notes



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Helping grandchildren learn about Kindness

Learning to help is important for building strong friendships. Children who have strong friendships with other children care about how they feel. Helping others is a key to good friendship. It is also an important social skill that will help children in all types of relationships. Even at a very early age, children can tell when others are in distress, but they still must learn how to help others. Grandparents can help children learn these skills. The most common kind of help takes place everyday. Children can learn to give praise when others do well, give thanks when they receive help, encourage others and take an interest in what others are doing, and to use kind words. Grandparents must remember to encourage and build up your grandchild. Kind words bring happy results! They give the child more self-confidence and help him/her to behave better, to try harder and to achieve more. It will help them to communicate love and respect and create an atmosphere in which problems can be discussed openly and understandings reached.

Example given: Suppose a child has spilled his milk on the floor. You can say, "don't be so clumsy! Just look at the mess you made" -which leads to unhappy results.

Or you can say, "Here is a sponge, Please wipe the milk up" -with happy results.

Example of kind words are: Thank you for helping me. You did a good job. That really makes me feel good. I love you. I like the way you remembered to do your chores.

HAPPY KWAANZA!

Making a New Year Resolution

It is hard not to get the resolution urge on New Year's Eve. There is that sense of renewal, rebirth, and the guilty awareness that you ate your own weight in chocolate during the holidays. Sure, last years resolutions did not make it past the fifth of January, but this years is going to be different. Here are a few tips for making resolutions: make a plan, write It down, word it carefully, don't try everything at once, and always keep a positive attitude.



Martin Luther King
2007 Celebration!



This holiday will be observed on
January 15th. Be sure to check
your local newspaper for upcoming
celebrations.

**FROM YOUR FRIENDS AT
FAMILY FRIENDS PROGRAM**

JOANN ESTELLE

BEATRICE

MARIA MARY

LEANN

RITA DEBRA

**Best wishes for the Holiday and Coming
Year!**

**During this Holiday Season, Family
Friends would like to extend their best
wishes to all of the grandparents and
their families and to say thank you for
your support during the past year.**

RECIPE

Chicken with Dumplings

A hen or 5-6 pounds of chicken

1 quart of water

1 cup of milk

1 teaspoon of salt

1 egg

1 egg yolk

1 tablespoon of shortening

3 cups of flour

Season salt (season to suit taste)

Put water into a large pot and bring to a boil.

Cut the hen/chicken into pieces.

Place the pieces into the pot of boiling water.

Reduce heat and simmer for about 2 ½ hours or until tender.

While the hen/chicken is cooking, make the dumplings:

- Combine the milk, salt, eggs, shortening, and flour in a bowl.
- Stir ingredients until a ball forms (add more flour if needed)
- Use a rolling pin and roll out the dough into a very thin sheet.
 - Cut the dough into 1- inch strips.
 - Then cut the dough into ½ inch squares.

Once the meat has completely cooked, separate the meat from the bone.

Drop the bones back into the pot and lay the meat aside.

Then add the dumpling squares into the pot a few squares at a time until all the dumpling squares have been added.

Cook the dumplings until they are completely done. (*They should float when they are completely cooked.*)

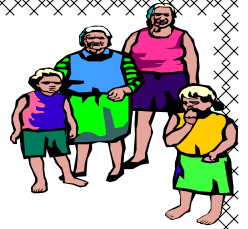
Then add the meat back into the pot with the dumplings.

Add season salt.

Serve and enjoy.

Grandparents as Caregivers Assistance Program

(for Kansas Only)



The Grandparents as Caregivers Assistance program will provide monthly financial assistance to grandparents or other relatives raising children. **This program will be available January 1, 2007.** To qualify for this program you must:

- . Be a grandparent or other qualifying relative (aunt, cousin, great-grandparent, etc) . Have legal custody of the child or children
- . Be 50 years of age or older
- . Live with the child or children for whom you are requiring assistance
- . Have a household income of less than 130% of the federal poverty level
- . Maximum 2006 income levels listed below.

Maximum 2006 Income Levels

Family Size	Maximum Yearly Income	Maximum Monthly Income
	based on 2006	
Family of 2	\$17,148	\$1,429
Family of 3	\$21,576	\$1,798
Family of 4	\$25,992	\$2,166
Family of 5	\$35,408	\$2,534

In addition:

- . The child must not be in state custody
- . The parent of the child must not live with you

The monthly benefit is \$200 for one child, \$400 for two children, and \$600 for three or more children. Funding for this program is limited and benefits will not be paid if funding expires.

The application period for this program began December 15, 2006.

Please visit your nearest SRS Office to apply for the program.



FAMILY FRIENDS NEWS

The Angel Food Ministry Program

The program provides a way for everyone to buy groceries at a discounted price. These groceries are not off-brand, day-old or unwanted food items. They are simply groceries shipped from the manufacture on refrigerated trucks in mass quantities for a discounted price. There is no limit on your order, there are no qualifications that you have to meet; just a simple way to save some money and time from the normal grocery store. Listed below are the Sites.

KANSAS SITES

Glad Tidings Assembly of God
1315 N. 64th, KCKS
913-908-3195

Risen Lamb International Church of the Nazarene
5301 Metropolitan Ave, KCKS
913-287-9418

Parkway Baptist Church
12320 Parallell Pkwy, KCKS
913-721-1546

Cross Roads Christian Cathedral
2500 S. 44th St., KCKS
913-262-8200

Southwoods Christian Church
16110 Metcalf Ave. Stillwell, KS
913-681-5105

BreakPointe Community Church
10001 West 88th St., OPKS
913-541-0151

Overland Park Christian Church
7600 W. 75th St., OPKS
913-677-4646

Olathe House Church & Christ Family Church
905 South Chestnut, Olathe, KS
913-829-9047 or 913-709-9590

Westside Church of the Nazarene
1700 West Sante Fe, Olathe, KS
913-764-1445 or 913-393-2911

MISSOURI SITES

New Salem Baptist Church
1805 N. Blue Mills Road
Independence, MO 64058
816-796-4174

Coventry Estates Baptist Church
17133 E. 39th St., Independence, MO
816-373-3707

Christian Assembly of God
17310 E. 40 Hwy, Independence, MO
816-373-2698

Maywood Baptist Church
10505 E. Winner Rd., Independence, MO
816-254-3344 or 816-254-3345

Trinity Christian Center
5005 N. Brighton, KCMO
816-453-5970

Tower View Baptist Church
7301 NE 50th, KCMO
816-453-3334

Harmony Vineyard Baptist Church
600 NE 46th St., KCMO
816-587-8898

Highlands Community of Christ
7615 N. Platte Purchase Drive, KCMO
816-468-7878

Solid Rock Church
5801 Truman Road, KCMO
816-483-4139

Sheffield Family Life Episcopal Church
5700 Winner Road, KCMO
816-241-4831

JANUARY, 2007
FAMILY FRIENDS SUPPORT GROUP SCHEDULE

**You are invited to attend the
support group meetings.**

St. James United Methodist Church
5540 Wayne, KCMO
1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month
1:00-2:30 pm
January 2nd & 16th
Contact: Mary Campbell (816) 921-4299

Christian Fellowship Baptist Church
4509 Troost Avenue, KCMO
2nd & 4th Thursday of each month
11:00-12:30 pm
January 11th & 25th
Contact: Debra Watson (816) 358-4142

Palestine Neighborhood Dev. Corp.
3445 Indiana, KCMO
1st & 3rd Thursday of each month
11:00 - 12:30 pm
January 4th & 18th
Contact: Mary (921-4299) or Debra (358-4142)

Community Assistance Council
10901 Blue Ridge, KCMO 64134
1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month
12:00 am - 1:30 pm
January 3rd & 17th
Contact : Beatrice Mack (816) 861-5718

Kansas Groups

Johnson County
Roeland Park Community Center
4850 Rosewood, Roeland Park, KS
2nd & 4th Wednesday of each month
January 10th & 24th
Contact : Leann Hochstetler (913) 362-1899
12:30 pm-2:00 pm

Wyandotte County
6813 Garfield Dr., Kansas City, KS
1st & 3rd Thursday of each month
6:00 pm -7:30 pm
January 4th & 18th
Contact: Rita Walker (913) 299-4304

PLEASE COME!

We would love to see you there.

Grandparent/Relative Caregiver Resource Page

Utility Assistance:

- ◆ United Services Community Action Agency: 816-358-6868, federal assistance for residents of Clay, Jackson & Platte counties.
- ◆ Kansas Low Income Energy Assistance Information Line: 1-800-432-0043, federal assistance for Kansas residents.
- ◆ Mid America Assistance Coalition Information & referral line: 816-561-3339, 8:30a-1:00p, Mon-Fri. Referrals to agencies providing utility aid in KS and MO.
- ◆ Grandview Assistance Program: 816-761-1919
- ◆ Independence Services League: 816-254-0446
- ◆ Metropolitan Lutheran Ministry: 816-931-0027
- ◆ Raytown Emergency Assistance Program: 816-356-0054

Housing Assistance:

- ◆ Housing Authority KCMO: 816-968-4100
- ◆ Housing Authority of Independence: 816-836-9200
- ◆ United Services Housing: 816-358-6868
- ◆ Homeless Hotline: 816-474-4599
- ◆ Swope Parkway Housing: 816-923-5800
- ◆ Housing Authority KCK: 913-281-3300

WIC: Food vouchers to assist with nutrition of babies and toddlers. 1-800-392-8209

Child Support: 816-889-3767

Child Abuse/Neglect Hotline MO: 1-800-392-3738

Child Abuse/Neglect Hotline KS: 1-800-922-5330

Big Brothers/Big Sisters of America, 230 N. 13th St., Philadelphia, PA 19107
(215) 567-7000. The volunteers support families under stress and single parents by working with children in need of additional attention and friendship.

We welcome any feedback you may have to offer. If you know of a resource that you think should be included please call the office at (816) 234-3676.

If you would no longer like to receive our monthly newsletter, please contact the Family Friends Program at 816-234-3676.

In Missouri:

Family Support and Children's Division – Relatives Raising Children

As most of you know by now, Governor Matt Blunt completely eliminated the Grandparents As Foster Parents Program along with major cuts in the Medicaid services that many people relied on. However, the Income Maintenance Division which is through the Children's Division has another program many grandparents may qualify for. It is called the Non-Parental Custodian. In some cases, you may receive the same amount or more that TANF pays. To apply, check with your case manager. If she doesn't know about it, ask to speak to her supervisor. Remember, you may qualify for TANF for the grandchildren. Ask your caseworker to help you figure out which is best for you. Downtown Office 889-2000, Midtown 929-7100, South town 325-1012.

In Kansas:

Social Rehabilitation Services (SRS)

Currently assistance for grandparents and other relatives raising children is available by applying for TAF (Temporary Assistance for Families). The average monthly stipend is \$175.00 per child. Other assistance available may include: medical assistance, food assistance and child care assistance. Contact your nearest SRS office for specific details at (Wyandotte Co. (913)279-7000 and Johnson Co. (913) 826-7300). The toll free state wide number is 1-888-369-4777.



Children's Mercy HOSPITAL

www.childrensmercy.org

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Program**
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