

# Kinship

## REPORTER

Volume 1, Number 1

Child Welfare League of America

Spring 2007

## Welcome to the *Kinship Reporter*

**T**he CWLA National Kinship Care Advisory Committee welcomes readers to this first and future editions of our new quarterly newsletter, the *Kinship Reporter*. One of the committee's goals is to create mechanisms through which information and knowledge can be shared among kinship caregivers, policymakers, practitioners, and others who follow the trends and developments in kinship care services.

The CWLA National Kinship Care Advisory Committee comprises 25 representatives from public and private child welfare agencies, several universities, advocacy groups, grassroots and community-based organizations, and kinship caregivers. The committee is enriched by its diversity and the extensive knowledge of its members.

The committee is chaired by Carolyn Eberwein, Brent Elrod, and Douglas Brooks, representing the private child welfare sector, the advocacy community, and the public child welfare sector, respectively. The committee holds quarterly teleconferences and meets in person annually following the CWLA National Conference in Washington, DC.

In 2006, the committee committed itself to three initiatives in 2006 and 2007:

- We are publishing this newsletter, offering updates on public policy, new publications related to kinship care issues, member agency kinship care activities and programs, scheduled kinship care conferences, and articles and contributions by professionals and caregivers.

- The committee is revising and updating CWLA's *Standards of Excellence in Kinship Care Services*, last published in 2000, to ensure guidance consistent with the most current literature and research.
- The committee is coordinating with the CWLA Research to Practice unit to update the annotated kinship care bibliography on the CWLA website at [www.cwla.org/programs/r2p/biblio.htm](http://www.cwla.org/programs/r2p/biblio.htm).

These goals are possible through the dedication of time and commitment of committee members.

The advisory committee planned several kinship care-focused activities for the 2007 CWLA National Conference, which was held February 26–28. On the closing day of the conference, we held a full-day super session focusing on kinship care policy

and legislative issues. During the morning session, Dana Wilson made opening remarks and Joseph Crumbley made closing remarks. A panel presentation included Linda James, Gerard Wallace, Wallace Seay, and Brenda Rich. That afternoon, Crumbley discussed working with kinship families in which children have incarcerated parents, and James Gleeson presented the latest kinship care research and literature. A kinship family and a service provider received special recognition during the closing reception that evening.

Watch the kinship care page of CWLA's website ([www.cwla.org/programs/kinship](http://www.cwla.org/programs/kinship)) for more about the CWLA National Kinship Care Advisory Committee, kinship care issues, and future issues of the *Kinship Reporter*. ■

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## The Kinship Reporter

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The Child Welfare League of America is the nation's oldest and largest membership-based child welfare organization. Our highest mission is to ensure the safety and well-being of children and families. We advocate for the advancement of public policy, we set and promote the standards for best practice, and we deliver superior membership services.

Our vision is that every child will grow up in a safe, loving, and stable family. CWLA will lead the nation in building public will to realize this vision. We are committed to excellence in all we undertake, with an emphasis on providing services that are highly valued and that enhance the capacity and promote the success of all those we serve.

## *Stay connected to all the latest kinship news!*

**Have the Kinship Reporter delivered directly to your e-mail inbox.**

The *Kinship Reporter* is published only online. Sign up today, and we'll e-mail you when each new issue is posted on CWLA's website. Simply click on the link provided in the e-mail, and you can download the latest issue as a PDF directly to your computer. (Adobe Reader is required to view PDFs.)

Sign up today! Go to [www.cwla.org/pubs/epublications.htm](http://www.cwla.org/pubs/epublications.htm), click on the *Kinship Reporter*, and follow the instructions to complete the simple online form.

## **Open Submissions for the *Kinship Reporter***

*The Kinship Reporter is your perfect forum to network and share with the kinship community. You are invited to share your knowledge and thoughts with your peers by submitting commentaries, trend analysis, case reviews, and articles for our next issue. All submissions are welcome!*

*Send to*

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## Update from Capitol Hill



**T**he Kinship Caregiver Support Act, sponsored by Senator Hillary Clinton (D-NY), would establish kinship navigator programs and kinship guardianship assistance payments for children. The legislation gained 10 cosponsors in the 109th Congress: Senators Thad Cochran (R-MS), Norm Coleman (R-MN), James Jeffords (I-VT), Tim Johnson (D-SD), John Kerry (D-MA), Mary Landrieu (D-LA), Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ), Barack Obama (D-IL), Charles Schumer (D-NY), and Olympia Snowe (R-ME).

The House version, the Guardianship Assistance Promotion and Kinship Support Act, sponsored by Representative Danny Davis (D-IL), would expand Title IV-E funding by providing assistance to children living with guardians and kinship caregivers. Before the 109th Congress adjourned in December, the House bill had 16 cosponsors, including Representatives Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Rosa Delauro (D-CT), Rahm Emanuel (D-IL), Bob Filner (D-CA), Patrick Kennedy (D-RI), Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-TX), Zoe Lofgren (D-CA), Nita Lowey (D-NY), Alan Mollohan (D-WV), Dennis Moore (D-KS), James Oberstar (D-MN), Ed Pastor (D-

AZ), Steven Rothman (D-NJ), Bernard Sanders (I-VT), and Janice Schakowsky (D-IL).

Although Congress took no action on these bills before adjourning, Senators Clinton, Snowe, and Cochran reintroduced the Kinship Caregiver Support Act (S. 661) on February 16. Davis, who is expected to reintroduce the House version later this year, has indicated the legislation could take several years to pass. Last year, we were able to get a House version introduced, and we increased sponsorship of both bills. Passage of final legislation is our goal in the 110th Congress.

Congress did reauthorize the Older Americans Act for fiscal years 2007–2011. The final version, which the President signed into law in October, authorizes demonstration, support, and research projects for multigenerational and civic engagement activities such as kinship navigator programs, which support grandparents and other older individuals who are relative caregivers.

Additionally, it amends the National Family Caregiver Support Act to provide services to relative caregivers who care for children with severe disabilities, and it lowers the age limit, from 60 to 55, for grand-

## News from the Kinship Community

### *GIC Has New Home, New Film*

**T**he Grandparent Information Center (GIC) is now part of the AARP Foundation, which delivers direct community services, education, and information to improve the experience of aging in America. Through various programs, the foundation works to bring about positive social change and deliver value to people age 50 and older. The AARP Foundation also strives to build a society in which everyone ages with dignity and purpose.

GIC will continue to position grandparents as a valued resource to society and an important safety net for millions of families. With the support of the AARP Foundation, GIC will continue to help grandparents who are caring for their grandchildren and strive to have an even greater impact on the lives of grandparents and their families.

GIC also has a new film, *Lean on Me: A Film About Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children*. To order this free resource, write to AARP Fulfillment, 601 E Street NW, Washington DC 20049; e-mail [fulfillment@aarp.org](mailto:fulfillment@aarp.org); or call, toll-free, 888-OUR-AARP (687-2277). Provide your name, address, telephone number, the stock number of the film (C2212 for DVD, or C2213 for VHS tape), and the total number of DVDs or tapes you would like to receive (maximum of 10 unless approved by GIC staff).

Visit the AARP Grandparent Information Center online at [www.aarp.org/grandparents](http://www.aarp.org/grandparents) for more information, articles, publications, and other resources for grandparents and other relatives raising children. ■

see *Update*, page 5

# Kinship Resources

Available from CWLA:

***Relatives Raising Children: An Overview of Kinship Care* by Joseph Crumbley and Robert L. Little** The rapid growth of kinship care has caught many child welfare agencies off guard. *Relatives Raising Children* gives professionals, agencies, institutions, communities, and organizations the information they need to develop and provide service to kinship caregivers, kinship families, children, and parents. The authors discuss common clinical issues, suggest intervention strategies, examine kinship care's legal implications, and offer policy and program recommendations. \$16.95. ISBN-10: 0-87868-684-3. ISBN-13: 9780878686841.

***Supporting the Kinship Triad: A Training Curriculum* by Sondra Jackson, Joanne Mathews, and Ronald Zuskin** This five-day curriculum gives public and private agency workers an understanding and appreciation of kinship care and a professional foundation for working with the kinship triad: the child, parent, and caregiver. *Supporting the Kinship Triad* offers participants a clear and concrete service-delivery model that is time-limited, culturally sensitive, strengths-based, and rooted in family preservation. \$395.00. ISBN-10: 0-87868-733-5. ISBN-13: 9780878687336.

***A Tradition of Caring: Information, Resources, and Support for Kinship Families*** A comprehensive six-module, nine-session curriculum, providing kinship caregivers with 27 hours of valuable information and support related to kinship care. Sessions are designed to facilitate interaction and the sharing of experiences and support among participants. Modules focus on key concerns: general kinship care issues, supporting healthy child growth and development, accessing needed resources, addressing changes in family dynamics, promoting children's needs for lifelong connections, understanding and navigating the

formal child welfare system.

The complete set includes the *Assessment Guide*, *Carebook*, and *Facilitator's Guide*, or purchase each piece separately. \$395.00 for the complete set. ISBN-10: 0-87868-848-X. ISBN-13: 9780878688487. ***Assessment Guide (purchased separately)*** \$49.95. ISBN-10: 0-87868-855-2. ISBN-13: 9780878688555. ***Carebook (purchased separately)*** \$199.95. ISBN-10: 0-87868-891-9. ISBN-13: 9780878688913. ***Facilitator's Guide (purchased separately)*** \$199.95. ISBN-10: 0-87868-881-1. ISBN-13: 9780878688814.

To purchase CWLA titles, call toll-free 800/407-6273, or visit our

webstore at [www.cwla.org/pubs](http://www.cwla.org/pubs) and search by title, author, or ISBN.

Available from the Brookdale Foundation:

***Relatives Raising Children: A Guide to Finding Help and Hope* by Marianne Takas JD** This book is based on what long-term relative caregivers (and family service professionals who work with them) have learned about raising relative children. It provides useful information, strategies, and ideas to caregivers, and it links caregivers with others who can help. \$6.00 to cover production and shipping cost. To order, visit [www.brookdalefoundation.org/publications.htm](http://www.brookdalefoundation.org/publications.htm). ■

## Conference Calendar

May 6–8

Caring for Children—A Global Challenge

The First International Summit for Grandparent and Kinship Caregivers

*Marriott on the Bridge, Brooklyn, New York*

Sponsored by the National Committee of Grandparents for Children's Rights, the Florida Kinship Center University of South Florida, and GRAND Magazine. E-mail [abcast@optonline.net](mailto:abcast@optonline.net), or visit online at [www.grandparentsforchildren.org](http://www.grandparentsforchildren.org).

July 24–27

Intergenerational: IT'S MONUMENTAL

Generations United's 14th International Conference

*Holiday Inn on the Hill, Washington, DC*

The conference will encourage, enhance, and establish creative programming and public policy initiatives globally that respect, value, involve, and improve the lives of people of all ages. Sessions will focus on the areas of grandfamilies (grandparents and other relatives raising children), intergenerational programming, public policy and advocacy, and research and evaluation. Visit [www.gu.org](http://www.gu.org) for more information, or contact Brent Elrod, Program Director at Generations United, at 202/289-3979 or [belrod@gu.org](mailto:belrod@gu.org).

December 10–12

Shared Beliefs, Shared Values: Achieving Excellence in Adoption and Foster Care

*New Orleans Marriott, New Orleans, Louisiana*

*Cosponsored by the CWLA National Advisory Committee on Adoption and the CWLA National Foster Care Committee*

*Call for Papers and Save the Dates online at [www.cwla.org/conferences](http://www.cwla.org/conferences)*

This conference, celebrating the continued increase in adoptions of waiting children, primarily by their foster parents, will feature workshops and information on all facets of adoption: special needs, placement of older children, kinship adoptions, domestic (private infant agency) adoption, and intercountry adoption. It will also focus on foster care, including placement stability, education, mental health, medical issues, youth permanency, overrepresentation of children of color in foster care, and innovative foster care programs that address some of these issues.

parents and other relatives raising grandchildren to qualify for services through the National Family Caregiver Support Program.

The new federal fiscal year began October 1, but because the 109th Congress was able to pass only two appropriations bills for FY 2007—for the Homeland Security and Defense Departments—the 110th Congress agreed to fund all other federal programs through a continuing resolu-

tion (CR) for the rest of the 2007 fiscal year. The CR sets funding levels for all departments other than Defense and Homeland Security at the lower of the House- or Senate-passed version of each department's appropriation, except for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services (HHS), and Education. Those funding levels are set at last year's levels. ■

## A Tribute to Grandparents Raising Their Grandchildren

Thank You

We celebrate you for all you've done  
For caring for your granddaughter and your grandson  
You took on this awesome task that no one else could do,  
Because no one loves and cares for your grandchild quite like you.

You had the courage to start all over again  
Raising your grandchildren at an age when  
You thought you might retire, travel, and rest  
But the children needed caregivers, and they needed the best.

Some came to you in Pampers, and most in tears  
Needing nurturing and someone who cares.  
Others came as toddlers, exploring the world on the run  
You couldn't believe this happened—after you thought that you were done.

Still others came at school age, when they needed guidance and direction  
Science may have you baffled, but you are great at giving affection.  
And some of you have teenagers, oh my, what can I say?  
Just keep reminding yourself that they won't stay this way.

We know it has not been easy—often quite a heavy load  
And there have been many bumps along the road  
You've been misunderstood, labeled, and denied the services you need  
Often criticized and not recognized for your labor or your good deed.

But we honor you who have done so much  
To change the lives of children with your special touch  
We thank you grandparents: we thank you once, we thank you twice  
And know you are appreciated for the rest of your life.

Thank you, grandparents.

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## Tomorrow, the Sun Will Shine!

*By Louise Eagle (Grandma Eagle)*

*Life is not easy, my little girl  
The rain has come your way  
You've lost a love you barely knew  
Your future was taken away  
Your bumps and bruises are all too  
new  
But soon the scars will fade  
And your world will be bright and  
smiles will replace  
The tears you shed today  
So bow your head and say your  
prayers  
I promise that things will be fine  
For the Lord looks down on lost  
little girls  
And tomorrow, the sun will shine!*



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