

KINCARE

Grandparents and other relatives raising "kin" need the chance to meet others in the same situation. The children need to know there are lots of others just like them. Support groups provide a place to belong and a network of support, advice and education.

To join, or to get help with resources, referrals for legal help, or other pertinent information contact Linda at the KinCare division of CCOA

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YOU DON'T NEED TO FEEL ALONE.

SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE WITH

OTHERS

MISSION STATEMENT

Provide advocacy, support and resources for grandparents and other relatives raising "kins" children.

SERVING THE

FOLLOWING COUNTIES:

ADA

ADAMS

BOISE

CANYON

GEM

ELMORE

OWYHEE

PAYETTE

WASHINGTON

VALLEY

KINCARE

A SERVICE OF

CCOA

AGING, WEATHERIZATION AND HUMAN SERVICES, INC.

AND

SOUTHWEST IDAHO

AREA AGENCY ON AGING

KINCARE

PROVIDES SUPPORT FOR GRANDPARENTS OR RELATIVES RAISING "KIN".



KINCARE IN IDAHO

Nationwide more than 6 million children-about 1 in 12 -children are living in grandparent or other relative headed households BECAUSE of the growing numbers of these kincare families state legislatures, public and private agencies, and grassroots Coalitions in Idaho and nationwide have begun to expand services and supports for children living with kin and outside the foster care system.

CHALLENGES FACES BY KINSHIP

CAREGIVERS

- 1) Legal
- 2) Financial
- 3) Health and medical
- 4) Childcare
- 5) Education
- 6) Emotional and psychological
- 7) Housing

Value and Benefits of a Support Group

- 1) A feeling of safety and support while discussing concerns
- 2) Share knowledge and Strengths
- 3) Knowing other have walked in your shoes and survived
- 4) The social life helps lessen feelings of isolation
- 5) Parenting is a challenge at any age, setting time aside for emotional support yields positive results
- 6) Develop skills and methods for solving problems together.
- 7) Sharing success strengthens self esteem.

You are Not Alone

A lot of grandparents are raising their children's children, for a lot of different reasons.

Here are some tips to help you

Cope.

Trust Yourself. You have done this before and probably have a lot more common sense now than you did the first time around.

Talk to Other Parents, no matter what their age, especially those who have kids the same age as those you are raising.

You're Certainly Not Alone. According to the U.S Census Bureau, at least 6 million children live with their grandparents.

Social Service Agencies can often clarify whether or not you may receive some financial aid to raise a grandchild.

Join and Support a group in your area. Together we can help each other make a positive difference in the lives of our children's children.

Reasons this issue is growing

so rapidly

- 1) Substance Abuse
- 2) Death
- 3) Child Abuse and Neglect
- 4) Teen Pregnancy
- 5) HIV/AIDS
- 6) Unemployment
- 7) Incarceration
- 8) Divorce
- 9) Mental Illness
- 10) Family Violence
- 11) Poverty

Benefits to Children and Community

- 1) You will be better equipped to help the children in your care towards healthy development.
- 2) Healthy families, no matter what the biological ties are, depend on good parenting and well cared for children. In turn, healthy communities contribute to healthy families. Active support groups provide a means for improving these important relationships through working with community groups.