



July 2020

Dear {!Contact.FirstName},

### Addressing Inequities

The last few months have been difficult for our country as we recover and fight through a public health crisis and confront ongoing racism in our policies, systems and institutions. Disparities by race and ethnicity run deep and affect many areas of focus, including in child welfare and kinship families' access to the support and resources needed. As a community program within the School of Social Work at MSU, the Kinship Care Resource Center stands in solidarity for racial justice. [Read the statement from Dr. John Mooradian, Director of the School.](#)

Generations United, a leader of the National Center on Grandfamilies, has also [issued a statement](#) and has a number of resources available to address inequities in kinship care, including [Grand Voices Racial Equity Initiative](#), [fact sheets](#) and [resources](#) for caregivers.

### Exciting Summer Caregiver Training Series

The Kinship Care Resource Center is pleased to announce a series of webinar trainings for kinship caregivers. A virtual training with Chance at Childhood on July 15th will focus on understanding legal issues faced by kinship caregivers. The MSU Extension will offer two parenting trainings in July and August covering trauma and resiliency, and discipline.

We hope that you will consider joining one or more of these trainings:

- [July 15th at 6pm](#): Kinship Care Families: An Overview of Your Legal Rights, Responsibilities, and Options (Chance at Childhood at MSU)
- [July 29th at 6pm](#): The Resilience Toolbox (MSU Extension)

### Summer Activities: Assistance May Be Available to Help Cover the Cost

Full-time caregivers of relative children face many challenges. It is important for caregivers to focus on parenting, but also to remember to take care of their own needs. As summer activities, such as virtual camps, begin to open up, we may be able to cover some of the associated expenses for eligible families through the [Kinship Care Respite Program](#).

The program provides temporary rest and relief from everyday caregiving by assisting caregivers with payment for an activity for their child to attend. You may be eligible if you are a kinship caregiver age 55 and older who provides full-time care to a relative child and you reside in Clinton, Eaton, Ingham and Washtenaw counties. Activities may include:

- [August 12th at 6pm: Positive Discipline \(MSU Extension\)](#)

[Please register here](#). Once you register, you will receive the webinar link to join the training(s). If you have any difficulty registering, please contact the Kinship Care Resource Center at 800-535-1218 or [kinship@msu.edu](mailto:kinship@msu.edu).

Funding support for these trainings comes from the Area Agency on Aging 1-B and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

- Child care
- Summer camps, including virtual or online
- Sports camp
- Summer class
- Extra-curricular activities
- After-school care/activities

Please contact the Kinship Care Resource Center at 1-800-535-1218 or [kinship@msu.edu](mailto:kinship@msu.edu) to apply.

In Clinton, Eaton and Ingham counties, the program is funded by the Federal Older Americans Act grant provided to the Tri-County Office on Aging. The Area Agency on Aging Region 1-B provides funding support for Washtenaw County.

### **Caregiver Parenting Resource: Teaching Tolerance**

The act of racism can impact the health and development of children. With recent events and protests, you may be interested in tips for talking with your child about living in a diverse world. [Scholastic provides an overview and ideas for introducing items and games from different cultures into your child's play](#). Parent Magazine offers [a guide by age](#) to help teach tolerance to children and teens.

### **Updated Informational Resource**

Generations United has updated its popular fact sheet on Grandfamilies: [Fact Sheet Grandfamilies: Strengths and Challenges](#). This resource has the latest national data, along with an overview of the strengths and challenges of the families. The fact sheet can help increase awareness of kinship care for media, policymakers and other advocates and stakeholders.

### **Washtenaw County: Educational Technology Support**

With the support and partnership of the Area Agency on Aging Region 1-B, funds are available to provide the following educational supports for eligible kinship families, where caregivers are 55 or older and are residents of Washtenaw County:

- Online educational programming fees
- Workbooks or other supplies for schooling at home
- Chromebooks, tablets, or laptops

If you believe that you or a family you know might be eligible, contact us at 1-800-535-1218. Please share this information with kinship families in Washtenaw County.

### **Kinship Care in the News**

The current COVID-19 crisis has left many senior citizens feeling isolated. This [MLive article](#) captures those feelings and experiences and features a kinship caregiver raising her grandson, along with our partner, Lisa Grodsky from the [Oakland Livingston Human Services Agency](#).

1-800-535-1218  
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