

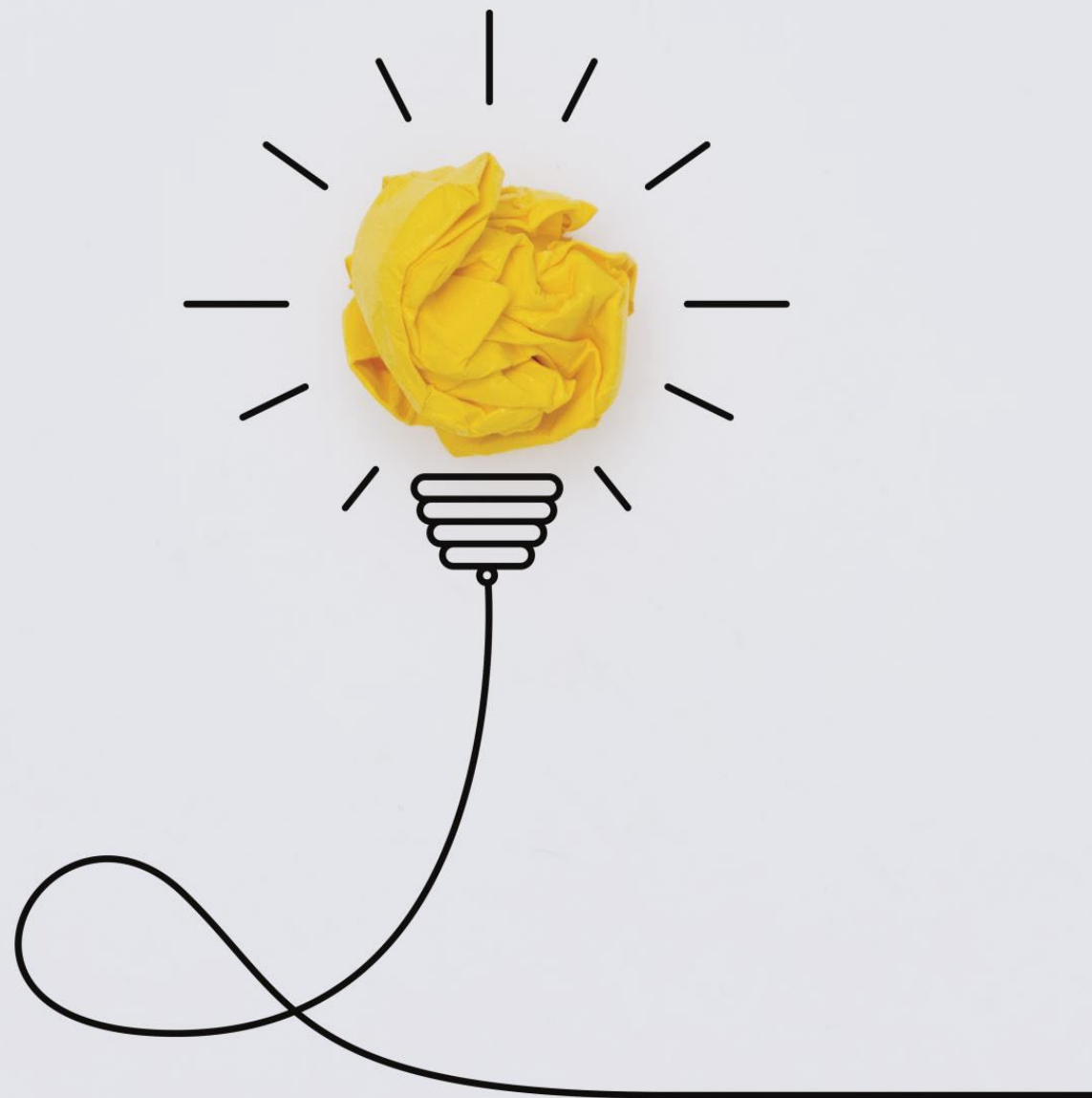
*When your passion and  
purpose align, energy  
and creativity flow.*

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Fostering Collaboration:

Area Agencies on Aging &  
the Kinship Navigator Network

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## *Let's talk about:*

Older caregivers of children and how we can serve them

Why and how we should collaborate to better serve this population

The Kinship Navigator Network as a partner to expand supports and services

GRANDPass, an example of creative collaboration

How you can collaborate at your own organizations to serve older caregivers of children

# *Focus Population*

Caregivers of  
older adults 60+

Caregivers of  
adults any age  
with dementia

Caregivers age  
55+ of adults  
with disabilities  
age 18-59

\*Caregivers  
age 55+ of  
children under  
the age of 18

## *\*Other Eligibility Criteria*

- Does not include biological parents, and bio parents cannot live in the same home
- Includes grandparents raising grandchildren or “grand families”
- Includes caregivers related by blood, marriage or legal agreement (adoption)
- Caregivers and children must live in the same home

## *What about kinship caregivers?*



- The term kinship refers to grandparents and other relatives, neighbors and friends who care for children when their parents can not.
- Sometimes these families are licensed through the child welfare or foster care system. Other times, they have stepped into the role on a more temporary or informal basis.
- Common reasons include parental substance abuse, death, incarceration, mental illness, severe disability, poverty or deployment.

## Children in Grandfamilies and Kinship Families

For every **1 child** being raised by kin in foster care, there are **18 children** being raised by kin outside foster care.



## Statewide

33,000 children are being raised by a relative or kinship caregiver without a parent in the home.

29,452 grandparents are raising grandchildren.

Source: Grand families & Kinship Support Network Fact Sheet

Source: Grandfamilies.org, Missouri Fact Sheet 2023

## *Unique Needs & Challenges*



Financial assistance



Legal advice or assistance



Technology access or training



Housing help



Practical resources-furniture, food, clothes



Emotional and social support



Healthcare



Respite



*How can  
we help?*



*Quality programming  
is based on gratitude.*

# *Why collaborate?*

- 
- Meet caregivers where they're at.
  - Expand or extend services to reach more people.
  - Save \$\$ through cost or supplies sharing.
  - Tap complimentary skill sets.
  - Incorporate culturally relevant models of care.
  - Explore new service models.
  - Improve efficiency.
  - Strengthen value proposition to community stakeholders.



A Venn diagram with two overlapping circles. The left circle is labeled 'Area Agencies on Aging' and contains the MARC logo. The right circle is labeled 'Kinship Navigator Networks'. The intersection of the two circles is labeled 'Services & support for caregivers age 55+ of children under the age of 18'. The background features decorative red and beige shapes in the corners.

Area  
Agencies  
on Aging



Services &  
support for  
caregivers  
age 55+  
of children  
under the  
age of 18

Kinship  
Navigator  
Networks





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Caregivers choose from a list of approved YMCA Day Camps throughout the region, and the base fees are waived for children ages 5-12.

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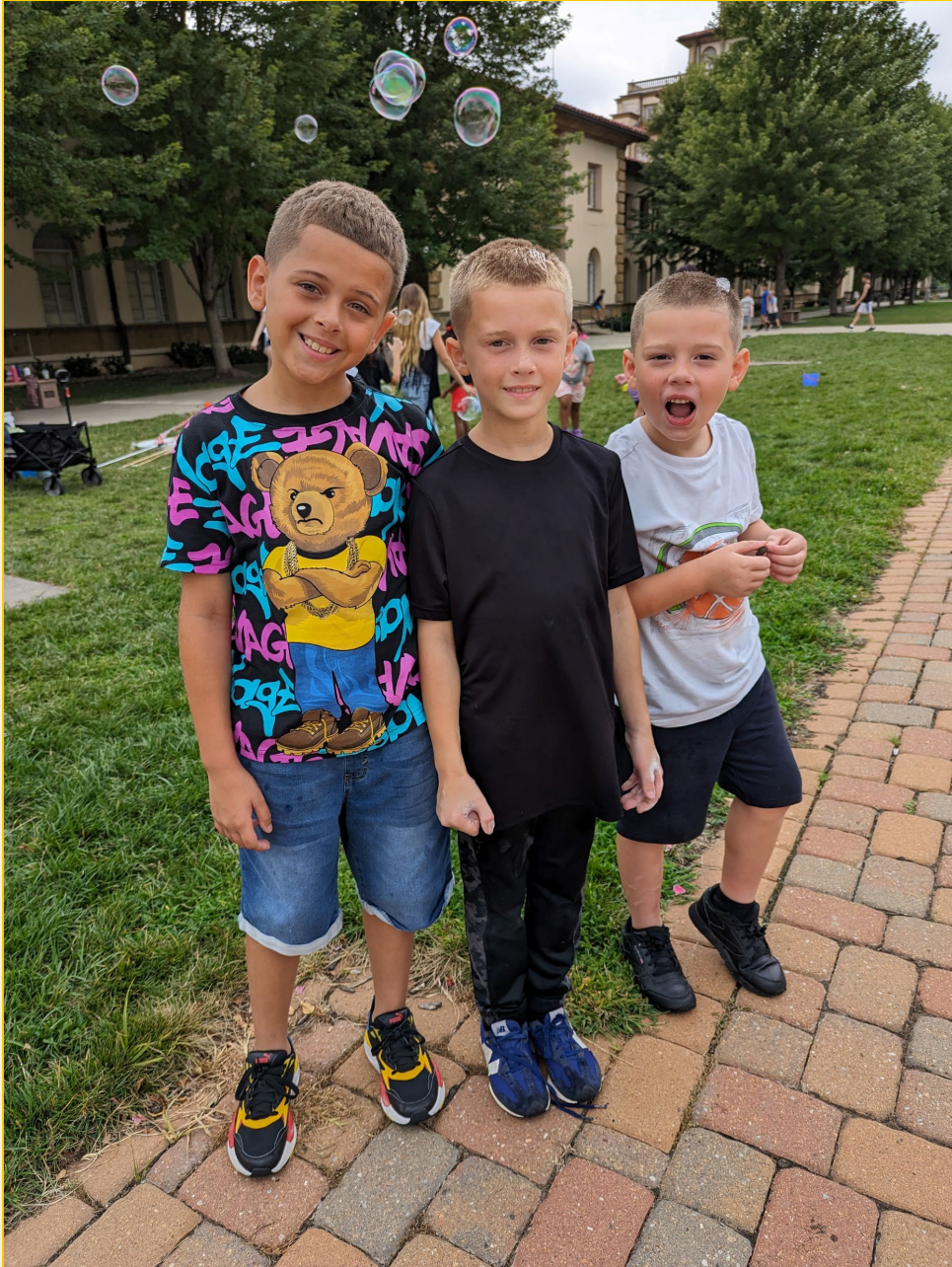
GRANDPass gives older caregivers:

- Needed relief from caregiving tasks and expenses
- Peace of mind knowing that their children are being cared for in a safe and structured environment

GRANDPass gives children:

- Freedom to learn and grow
- Access to the outdoors
- Exposure to new activities and experiences
- Opportunities for socialization





# *First Year Facts*

Total applications: 37 (60 children)

Approved applications: 18 (24 children)

Incomplete/ineligible applications: 19

Biggest reasons for denial: Age of children (10)

Cost: \$150-175/week







*“We just feel like it’s no man’s land because we can’t relate to the younger parents, but we’re not on the same page as the older folks either.”*

GRANDPass Caregiver: Steve (Age 70)  
Sean and Dillon (Age 9)





“I liked that it was  
inclusive.”

Chase (Age 11)

“My favorite part was  
making new friends.”

Roman (Age 11)



*“To be able to have a free week of  
camp is a blessing. It’s a gift.”*

GRANDPass Caregiver: Sandra (Age 70)





## *Program Strengths*

Grandparent  
Gratitude

Cooperative  
Camp

Regional  
Reach

Successfully  
Served  
at-risk youth



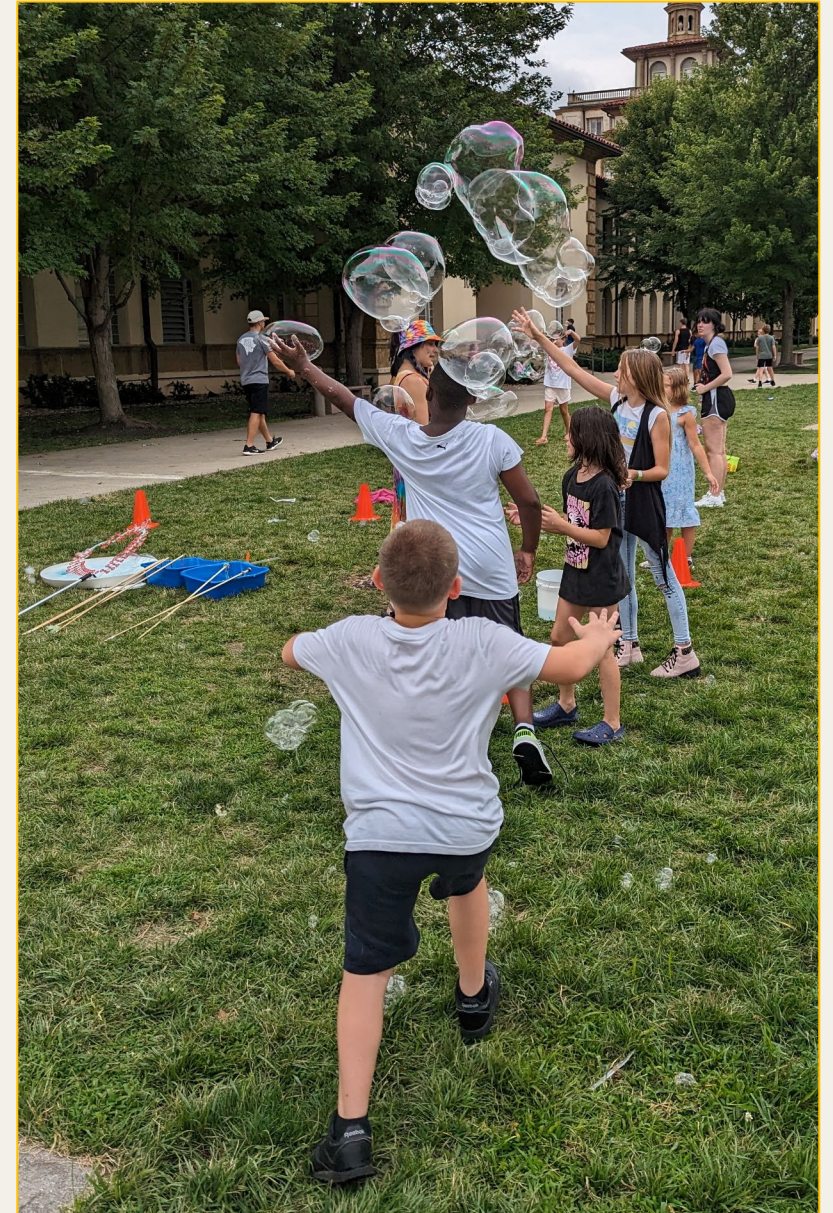
# *Obstacles & Opportunities*

Care giver Eligibility

Legal Terms & Agreement

Age of Children

Limited Camp Partners







**GrandPass>>**

## *What's Next?*

- Increase number and variety of camps.
- Ensure coverage in rural areas and for special populations.
- Offer an overnight option.
- Provide respite during winter and spring breaks.
- Expand to include tutoring or after school-care programming.

## *Tips for Tapping in*

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1

Brainstorm  
locations  
where kids &  
caregivers  
gather.

2

Think about  
personal  
connections.

3

Identify the key  
contact person.

4

Focus on the  
“mission  
crossover.”

# *Brainstorming & Questions*

