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

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 “grandfamilies”
- 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.
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: Grandfamilies & 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.

→ Thank you! ←
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.

Source: Kinship & Grandfamily Support Network
Area Agencies on Aging

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

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

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

- Caregiver Eligibility
- Legal Terms & Agreement
- Age of Children
- Limited Camp Partners
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

1. Brainstorm locations where kids & caregivers gather.
2. Think about personal connections.
3. Identify the key contact person.
4. Focus on the “mission crossover.”

Source: Andrew Russo, National Family Support Network
Brainstorming & Questions