

CARE CONNECTION FOR AGING SERVICES

Caring

Connecting

Making a Difference

VISION

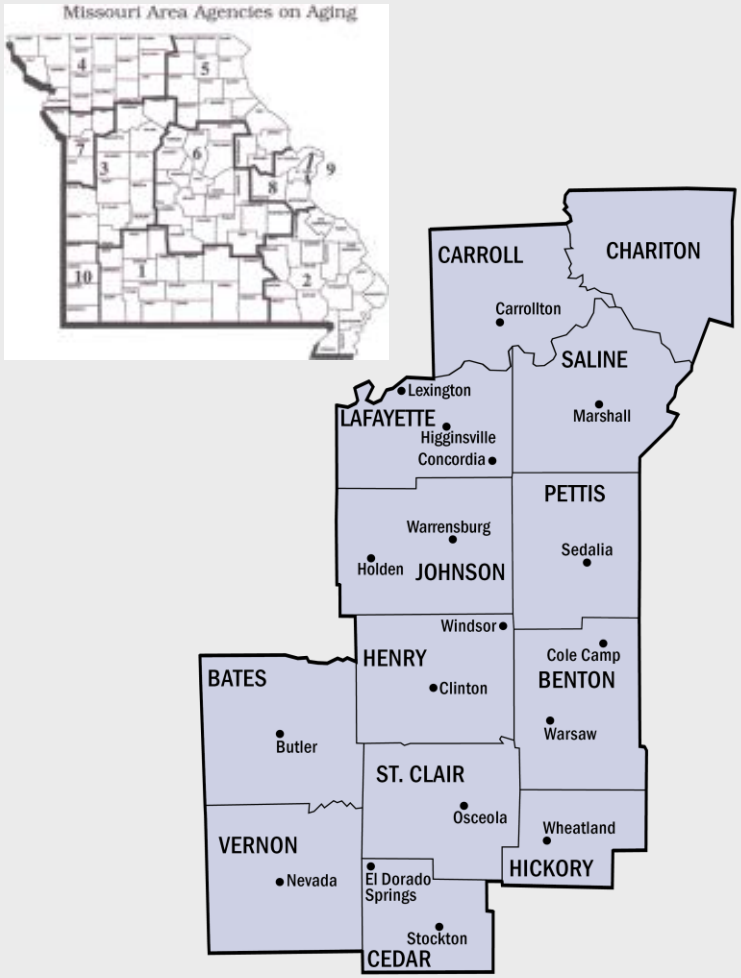
The people we serve will live with maximum independence, respect and dignity.

MISSION

Care Connection provides opportunities to create positive aging experiences.

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AAA CHARTER



- **Plan, develop, coordinate**
  - comprehensive network of home and community-based services
  - resources, partnerships and coalitions
  - local services--needs, gaps
- **Provide - information & services**
- **Promote - health and independence**
- **Advocate - for all older individuals**

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RAPID GROWING OLDER POPULATION

- ❑ People are living longer.
- ❑ Care Connection's service region includes 5 of the top 10 counties in Missouri with the greatest percentage of people 60 and over.
- ❑ More people are caregivers.
- ❑ 10,000 people are aging into Medicare every day.

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PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

- Information and Assistance
- Benefits Counseling
- Medicare Assistance & Missouri SMP
- Missouri SHIP
- Case Management
- Family Caregiver/Kinship Services
- Tax Assistance
- Nutritious Meals
- Health, Wellness, Recreation, & Education
- Transportation Services
- Advocacy
- Legal Assistance
- In-Home Services
- Telephone Reassurance/Friendly Visiting
- Long Term Care Ombudsman
- Volunteer Opportunities – AmeriCorps Seniors

AmeriCorps

SMP
Senior Medicare Patrol
Preventing Medicare Fraud

SilverSneakers

ENHANCE® FITNESS

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KINSHIP CONNECTION:
TRAUMA-INFORMED SUPPORT FOR GRANDPARENTS & KIN CAREGIVERS



Providing compassionate care for family caregivers' unique challenges.

MY KINSHIP STORY

How it Began

- October 2018:
  - I received custody of my two grandsons (ages 2 and 1)
- April 2019:
  - I welcomed my 1-week-old granddaughter
- Overnight, I became responsible for three babies
- My life changed completely

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MY KINSHIP STORY

The System & Challenges

- CPS made regular home visits
- I was fingerprinted and went through licensing requirements
- Attended court frequently
- Navigating systems, I didn't understand

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MY KINSHIP STORY

Financial Struggles

- Limited income and resources
- Struggled to provide basic needs
- Felt overwhelmed trying to make ends meet

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MY KINSHIP STORY

Feeling Alone

- I believed I was the only grandparent raising grandchildren
- No support system
- No guidance
- Carrying the responsibility alone

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MY KINSHIP STORY

Daily Life Challenges

- Caring for three young children alone
- Constant stress and exhaustion
- Limited ability to leave the house
- Life revolved around survival

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MY KINSHIP STORY

Emotional & Behavioral Needs

Social Anxiety
Separation Anxiety
ODD
ADD / ADHD
Autism
Bipolar Disorder
Learning Disability

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MY KINSHIP STORY

Personal Growth

- My granddaughter was 3 when I started my position with Care Connection
- Began turning my struggle into purpose
- Wanted to help others like me

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THE BEGINNING OF KINSHIP CONNECTION

- Started in 2022
- Began with just ONE grandparent: me
- Determined to build a support system

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BUILDING COMMUNITY

- Networking and outreach
- Connecting with other grandparents
- Group continued to grow
- No one had to feel alone anymore

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IMPACT ON THE FAMILY

- Time to relax
- Opportunity to connect with others
- Emotional support
- A sense of belonging

- Kids played games together
- Learned to socialize
- Built friendships
- Gained confidence

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THE NEED

- Children in kinship care often experience trauma
- Caregivers step in suddenly
- Limited resources and high stress
- Emotional and financial challenges

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PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- Trauma-informed support model
- Designed for caregivers age 55+
- Strengthens families
- Caregiver education
- Peer support circles
- Family navigation
- Resilience workshops

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KEY COMPONENTS

- Caregiver education
- Peer support circles
- Family navigation
- Resilience workshops

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OUTCOMES & BENEFITS

- Trauma-responsive strategies
- • Reduced isolation
- • Access to resources
- • Stronger families

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SCALABLE & ADAPTABLE

- Statewide replication
  - Consistent model
    - Flexible locally
- Sustainable impact

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CORE MODEL AND REPLICATION FRAMEWORK

Program Overview and Purpose

- **Family-Centered Support**
  - Kinship Connection focuses on empowering family caregivers with peer support, education, and resources to foster resilience.
- **Core Model Consistency**
  - The core model ensures consistent implementation of values across communities.
- **Flexible Replication Framework**
  - Allows communities to tailor the program to local needs and resources.
- **Pathway to Long-Term Resilience**
  - Supporting caregivers and strengthening family ties reduces isolation and promotes safety and well-being.

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WHY THE MODEL IS EFFECTIVE

Consistent Support

The Model provides consistent, high-quality support for families while allowing communities to tailor services to meet local needs.

Building Resilience

The program offers long-term stability by promoting social connections, caregiver confidence and resource access.

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WHY THE MODEL IS EFFECTIVE

Family-Centered Support

Kinship Connection respects family strengths and prioritizes safety and well-being.

Social Support

Regular group meetings enable caregivers to share experiences and reduce isolation.

Education and Skill Building

Evidence-informed lessons on trauma care, child development, stress management, and communication.

Resource Navigation

Connecting families to benefits, legal help, healthcare, education, and community services.

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REPLICATION FRAMEWORK FOR STATEWIDE AND COMMUNITY EXPANSION

Establishing a Strong Foundation

A standardized toolkit ensures consistent understanding of mission, philosophy, session formats, and evaluation methods across sites.

Identifying Local Champions

Trusted community members, caregivers, and volunteers are engaged to lead and support program growth locally.

Comprehensive Facilitator Training

Training covers kinship dynamics, trauma-informed care, facilitation skills, and data collection to prepare facilitators.

Ongoing Monitoring

Continuous feedback, outcome tracking, peer mentors, and diverse funding ensure quality and long-term program success.

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REPLICATION FRAMEWORK FOR STATEWIDE AND COMMUNITY EXPANSION

Non-Negotiable Core Elements	Flexible Delivery Elements
Family-centered support	Meeting times and locations
Peer support and connection	Community activities
Education and skill building	Local partnerships
Resource navigation	Cultural adaptations
Outcome measurement	Special topic sessions

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LONG-TERM IMPACT AND VISION

Support Network

Kinship Connection aims to build a lasting statewide support network that strengthens families and communities over generations.

Empowered Caregivers

The program fosters caregiver confidence, connection, and peer leadership to reduce isolation and enhance support systems.

Stable and Healing Environments

Kinship Connection promotes stable caregiving environments where families can heal, thrive, and maintain a strong family bond.

Community Transformation

Through partnerships, the program drives positive change extending beyond participants to future generations.

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CLOSING STATEMENT

Grandparents and kinship caregiver's step into one of the most important roles a person can have. You provide stability when life feels uncertain, love when children need it most, and strength when they cannot find it themselves. While the journey is not always easy, the impact you make will last for generations.

My hope is that more communities will create kinship support groups and that every grandparent or relative raising a child will know there is a place where they belong, where their voice is heard, and where help is available.

Kinship Connection is more than a support group—it is a family.
Together, we build resilience, restore hope, and ensure that no grandparent, no caregiver, and no child has to walk this journey alone.

Thank you. ❤️

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THANK YOU

Q&A

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THANK YOU

Kinship Connection

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