

Grand Successes

Stories of lives well-raised



**generations
united**

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About Generations United

Generations United is the only national membership organization focused solely on improving the lives of children, youth, and older people through intergenerational strategies, programs, and public policies. Since 1986, Generations United has served as a resource for educating policymakers and the public about the economic, social, and personal imperatives of intergenerational cooperation. Generations United acts as a catalyst for stimulating collaboration between aging, children, and youth organizations, providing a forum to explore areas of common ground while celebrating the richness of each generation.

Generations United Mission:

To improve the lives of children, youth, and older people through intergenerational collaboration, public policies, and programs for the enduring benefit of all.

Vision:

A world that values and engages all generations.

Core Beliefs:

Generations United is the catalyst that brings single-age focused groups together to build and support a common agenda while providing a unique voice in public debate. Generations United honors, supports, and engages all ages. Further, we believe:

- Intergenerational collaboration will unite and improve our communities.
- Intergenerational approaches have a positive relationship to economic growth and value creation.
- Public policies should meet the needs of all generations.
- Resources are more wisely used when they connect the generations, rather than separate them.
- Discrimination in any form limits a person's potential to contribute to the development of his or her community.
- Grandparents and other adults who step forward to raise children are providing an economic service to families and the country.

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Foreward



Photo courtesy of Michael Morris

When I first learned that Generations United was compiling a tribute to grandparents by highlighting the grandchildren whose lives have been transformed because of them, I wanted to shout from the rooftop.

Grandparents who step in and fill in the gaps with raising grandchildren are unsung heroes. And a celebration of these extraordinary individuals is long over-due.

I know firsthand how important grandparents can be in the life of a child in crisis. My mom and I fled my abusive father and for a time I lived with my grandparents. While my mom attended secretarial school so that she could land a job, my grandparents went to work on me.

Every afternoon after lunch, my grandmother would have me list out all of the people in my life who loved me. My grandmother had an eighth grade education, but she was the wisest person I have known. I was damaged and hurting. She knew just what I needed to heal the wounds of my soul. My grandmother passed away when I was 19 and not a day goes by that I don't think of her. After all these years I can still see the expression in her eyes when she would tell me, "you'll never know just how much I love you." But now as an adult, I do know. She often told me that I was her investment and I can only hope that she would be proud of the dividends that her time, teaching and unconditional love have yielded.



Photo courtesy of Michael Morris

Like many of the grandparents celebrated in this publication, my grandparents were not wealthy people. They lived in a two bedroom cinderblock house and I am sure that there were sacrifices made when my mom and I came to live with them. Eventually they set us up in a trailer next to their home, but I was only steps away. The majority of my childhood was spent with them and to this day I can hear their words of wisdom and encouragement. Whenever I face an obstacle, I can hear my grandmother tell me, "You do your part and the Lord will do his." I can still hear my grandfather's stories that are interwoven in the novels that I write. His encouraging words built me up and reminded me that I could do anything that I set my mind to do.

While reading these moving accounts of the impact grandparents have had on the lives of those celebrated in our society and those unknown, I realized that whatever our station in life, our stories are the same. We were all blessed to have grandparents who saw our needs and stood up for us. Grandparents Day is a little known holiday that is all too often overlooked, but for those featured in this publication and for the millions being raised by their grandparents, every day is Grandparents Day.

Michael Morris

Michael Morris is the award winning author of Slow Way Home. The Washington Post has compared his work to that of Harper Lee and Flannery O'Connor.

Letter from the Executive Director

Grandfamilies, families in which grandparents and other relatives are raising children, face complex, multiple challenges. They come together suddenly, often without warning, such as the case of the grandmother I once met in Kansas City. With her last child grown and out of the house, she redecorated, turning her condo into the dream home she'd always wanted. White carpets and crystal figurines in the living room, it was a perfect place for a single woman. Then the knock came in the middle of the night. The authorities walked in with her two young grandchildren. The figurines were boxed up and put in the closet and white carpet didn't last long. Dreams deferred.

In spite of the sacrifices and struggles, I've never met a grandparent who said they wouldn't take their grandchild in when faced with raising the child or turning the child over to the state. As one grandparent said "Other people don't realize how hard it is, or how gratifying it is." Grandparents know a child ages out of a system but never ages out of a family.

In this profile publication, we pay tribute to the caregivers- grandparents and other relatives- by shining a light on the fruits of their labors. The successful adults we've chosen to elevate represent only a few of the inspirational stories unfolding in communities across the country. They offer wonderful insights into the vast array of individuals who credit their accomplishments to the relatives who stepped up to help raise them to adulthood.



Photo courtesy of Donna Butts

Adults and children in grandfamilies demonstrate incredible resiliency and resourcefulness. However the families are frequently identified by weaknesses, problems and needs. At Generations United we've been fortunate to work with and on behalf of grandfamilies for more than 15 years. We've seen triumphs and tragedies up close. One thing that always moves us is the tenacity grandfamilies exhibit when it would be so much easier to give up. In their new book, *Resilient Grandparent Caregivers A Strength-Based Perspective*, Bert Hayslip, Jr. and Gregory C. Smith offer persuasive arguments illustrating how grandfamilies use their unique strengths to overcome challenges and raise healthy, thriving children. Because the families don't give up, our country benefits the ordinary and extraordinary contributions of individuals like those you are about to meet on the pages of this publication.

The best tributes come from the families themselves such as the 14 year old girl who responded to a comment about how tough it must be not to have her mom around. She smiled and replied "It's not as hard as you'd think it may be, because I have my grandma." Read the profiles, celebrate their successes. Grandfamilies are resilient, resourceful, strong and indeed, grand.

Donna Butts

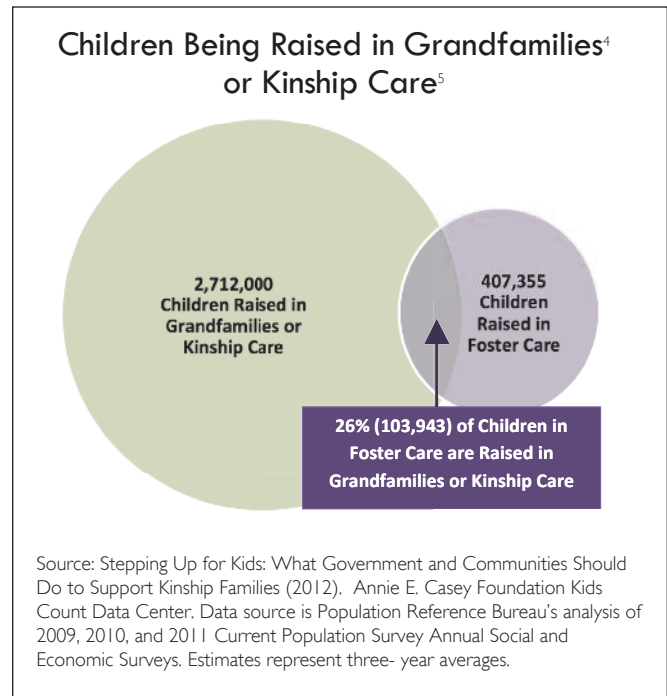
Introduction

“Everyone needs to have access both to grandparents and grandchildren in order to be a full human being”
-Margaret Mead

About 7.8 million children live in grandfamilies, families headed by grandparents and other relatives who are sharing their homes with their grandchildren, nieces,¹ nephews, and/or other related children. Some grandfamilies are multigenerational households where the parents work long hours and want the child close to family during work hours. In others, grandparents or other relatives have stepped in to keep children out of foster care when parents were unable to care for them. The term “kinship care” is often used to describe these family arrangements and may also include families where the caregivers are not related by blood or marriage but have a family-like relationship, such as godparents or close family friends.

Just as grandfamilies are diverse in their backgrounds, they come together for a variety of reasons—parental death, substance abuse, military deployment, incarceration, and mental illness. Grandfamilies live in every area in the country, and represent all income levels, all races, and all ethnicities. Currently, more than 2.7 million children are being raised in grandfamilies or kinship care situations, representing four percent of the United States’ child population.²

Grandfamilies are found inside and outside of the child welfare system. Children who are placed with relatives in foster care account for over a quarter (26 percent) of all children in the foster care system. For every child being raised by a relative in the foster care system, nearly 25 children are being raised by relatives outside of the system with no parent present in the home. Those grandfamilies that keep children out of foster care save taxpayers more than \$6.5 billion each year.³



Grandparents or other relatives often take on the care of children with little or no chance to plan in advance. Consequently, they frequently face unique challenges, including arranging legal custody, addressing the children’s education needs, accessing affordable housing, ensuring financial stability, and obtaining adequate health care for the children and themselves. More than 2.7 million grandparents report they are responsible for most of their



\$6.5 BIL

Amount grandparents and other relatives save taxpayers each year by raising children and keeping them out of foster care

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1 in 6

Americans live in a multigenerational household



7.8 MIL

Children live in grandfamilies, where grandparents or other relatives are the householders



2.7 MIL

Grandparents are responsible for most of the basic needs of children living with them

grandchildren's basic needs, and over one in five of these grandparents lives below the poverty line.⁶

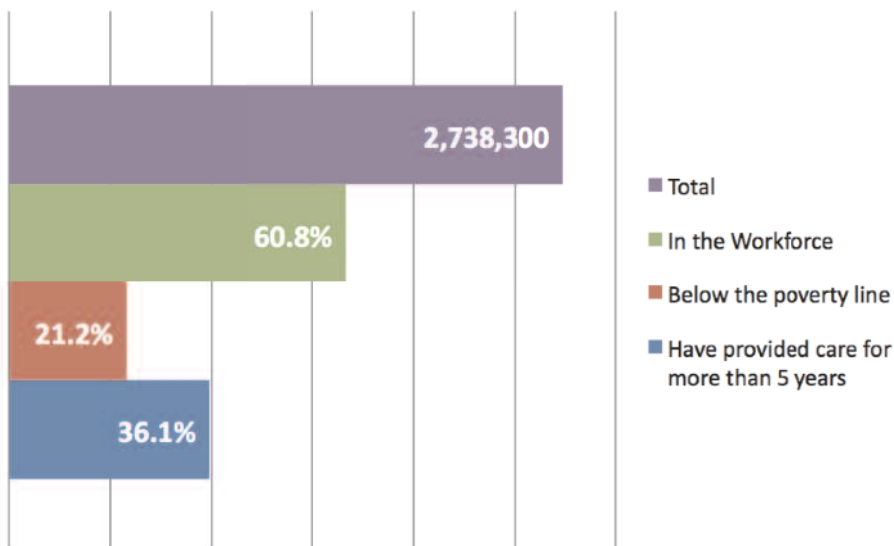
Approximately 60 percent are still in the workforce.⁷ Adding to the stress, grandparents often care for the children for extended periods of time; 36 percent report that they have been responsible for the children for more than five years.⁸

The National Center on Grandfamilies, a project of Generations United, works to enact policies and promote programs to help grandfamilies address these challenges. Despite facing many barriers, children in grandfamilies thrive, according to research. Further, caregivers report experiencing benefits, such as having an increased sense of purpose in life.

This publication examines the nature and prevalence of grandfamilies in the U.S. and profiles the success stories of several individuals who were raised in grandfamilies. Equally important, it provides specific recommendations for how policymakers, grandfamilies, and the community can support every member of a grandfamily.

Our nation has benefitted tremendously from the sacrifices grandfamilies have made to keep their families intact. From athletes and celebrities to business leaders, from recent college graduates to the President of the United States, individuals raised in grandfamilies have contributed immeasurably to the health and welfare of our nation. We hope you will join with us to recognize and support them.

Grandparents Responsible for Grandchildren



Source: The State of America's Children Handbook (2012). Children's Defense Fund. Data Source is U.S. Census Bureau. 2010 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Tables B10050, B10051, B10058, B10059. Additional calculations by Children's Defense Fund.

Grand Successes: Stories of lives well-raised

..... Jamie Foxx

Triple threat Jamie Foxx—singer, actor, and comedian—attributes his great accomplishments to the guidance of his grandparents, Mark and Estelle Talley. They played a big part in his upbringing, taking him in as an infant when his parents split.

Foxx said that living with his grandparents was very fulfilling. "Any gaps—emotional gaps, spiritual gaps—my adopted parents filled them. So I didn't skip a beat. I was never short on the love of a mother and father, though it came from an earlier generation of family."

At every step of the way, his grandparents' devotion was obvious. When Foxx was in school, they attended the budding athlete's sporting events religiously; his own father did not, despite living close by. "I was puzzled. Why couldn't he drive 28 miles to check on a son who passed a football more than 1,000 yards?" Foxx questioned. It was his grandparents who cheered him on every step of the way.



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"Any -- emotional gaps, spiritual gaps-- my [grandparents] filled them. So I didn't skip a beat. I was never short on the love of a mother and father though it came from an earlier generation of family."



Photo credit: Public Domain/Ed Edahl

From the beginning, Estelle Talley knew her grandson was meant for greatness. "She saw me reading early, saw I was smart and believed I was born to achieve truly special things. She was my first acting teacher," he recalled in his Oscar-acceptance speech. She also nurtured Foxx's musical talent, enrolling him in piano lessons at a young age. Undoubtedly these lessons helped Foxx earn his Oscar-winning performance as Ray Charles in the film *Ray*.

"My grandmother was a confident woman. I think about what she must've endured during the sixties, when she was starting her own day-care business. She could walk into a bank filled with white folks and say, 'Let me speak to so and so.' She knew who she was. And with the love she and my grandfather extended to me, she passed on that confidence."

Jamie Foxx

Occupation: Oscar Winning Actor, Singer and Comedian

Raised by: Grandparents Mark and Estelle Talley

Hometown: Terrell, Texas

..... JJ Hitch

JJ Hitch recalls that life had always been difficult in his childhood household. With a mother who suffered from mental illness and a father who abused alcohol, JJ, his two younger brothers, and his little sister, Toni, were used to chaos—and worse. But everyone has a breaking point and that day came early for Toni. She remembers the day when her father returned home from a business trip one day in 2001 and she witnessed her last violent outburst over not grabbing him another beer.

Rationally, the six year old girl walked into her room, packed two suitcases, road her bike two blocks to her grandparents' house and declared her intent to live there. Her grandmother knew the situation at Toni's home was bad and opened her home warmly. Shortly thereafter her three older brothers followed the brave little girl.

“You can imagine the impact this had on my grandparents. My grandfather was 72 at the time and just retired after 49 years with Chrysler. My grandmother was 62 and still working; in fact, she continues working to this day,” JJ Hitch recalls. “Suddenly my grandparents had complete responsibility for four kids. At 14, I was the oldest; Toni was the youngest. The expenses were incredible: my grandparents had to buy bedroom furniture, clothes, food for four growing kids. Their income was very limited so it was extremely difficult for them.”

For three years, JJ's grandparents received some benefits for caring for the children, but the benefits were far less than those of licensed foster parents. During that time, JJ read and learned everything he could about the foster care system. He became an advocate for himself, his siblings and his grandparents. “I realized early on that you need to become your own expert on these issues because there are too many cracks you can fall through,” he says. “I realized it was important that we stay with our grandparents because they would be a loving, positive presence.



Photo by Janet Hitch, courtesy of JJ Hitch

By 14, I was already very troubled and had internalized a lot of pain. I knew that I looked bad on paper and that a regular foster family wouldn't take me in. I figured I'd be heading for a group home where the living conditions would just have ignited the troubled behavior I was already hardwired for.”

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“I think of my grandparents as saints. I know they would do this all over again if they had to and wouldn't change a thing. Because of that, I intend to be there for them...”
.....

Part of JJ's self-advocacy included getting into counseling. “I really needed a lot of therapy to deal with all of the issues I had to confront. Emotionally, I'd put up walls long ago. I'd outgrown my parents and was no longer in touch with them.”

At age 17, looking to attend college, JJ asked his grandparents to adopt him and his siblings so that JJ could have health coverage while in school. “I suffered from depres-

JJ Hitch
Occupation: Student and Caregiver
Raised by: Grandparents Daniel and Margaret Hitch
Hometown: Almont, Michigan

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sion and really needed to continue therapy so I could move forward with my life," he explains. His grandparents eventually adopted all four children but the path was a long one that hurt them financially.

Today, JJ is 25 and his sister Toni is 17. JJ already has a bachelor's degree and was just awarded an assistantship to begin graduate school this Fall. He notes that none of this could have been possible without the support of his grandparents and their willingness to love and support him unconditionally. He's living back at home with his grandparents and sister and loving it. "It's a double blessing," JJ says. "I get to go to school and be with the people I

love. My grandparents have provided stability and structure accompanied by a positive place to grow." JJ's grandfather is now on dialysis three days a week and faces other health problems. Toni takes him to and from his appointments. They also look out for their grandmother who is still working the night shift and beginning to encounter health issues of her own.

"I think of my grandparents as saints. I know they would do this all over again if they had to and wouldn't change a thing. Because of that, I intend to be there for them; I will take care of my lineage."

..... Anika Rahman

"For many years I assumed that all women had been brought up with the same empowering mentality [that I had]. I later realized that my grandmother's vision was revolutionary not only for her time but also for ours."

As president and CEO for the Ms. Foundation for Women, Anika Rahman works for equality for genders. Rahman's interest in gender equality began in her childhood. Growing up in Bangladesh, Rahman found herself surrounded by strong and smart women who were treated unjustly.

Rahman experienced the inequities firsthand. After her mother divorced her father, an uncommon occurrence in Bangladesh, Rahman saw how society treated her mother as an outcast. Then, after she and her mother moved in with her grandmother and aunt, Rahman



Photo courtesy of Anika Rahman and the Ms. Foundation

observed how "my grandmother ran all the finances, she made the business decisions, and even helped build houses, yet she couldn't have a job."

Those experiences and others inspired Rahman to advocate for gender equality. "For many years, I assumed that all women had been brought up with the same, empowering mentality [that I had]. I later realized that my grandmother's vision was revolutionary not only for her time, but also for ours," she said.

Rahman has spent her adulthood fighting for the dignity of women. The strength her elder female family members provided her continues on through her legacy. "These three incredibly strong women taught me to be unbowed by injustice, to fight it and to be tenacious. I am who I am because of what they taught me. I fight for women's rights and for human dignity for them and for my daughter."

Anika Rahman

Occupation: President and CEO, Ms. Foundation
Raised by: Mother, Aunt and Grandmother, Anwara Islam

Home Country: Bangladesh

..... Naomi Porter

My grandmother was very important in creating the person I am today," Naomi Porter, 25, says during a break from her work as an Americorps employee. "Before moving in with my grandmother at the age of 12, my life had been a mess. She gave me the love, structure and support I needed to overcome any challenges I might face."

Naomi has had her share of challenges. From the time she was born, until she went to live with her grandmother, she had lived a chaotic life that included three different stays in foster homes. "My sister and I entered foster care when we were very young because our mother had substance abuse issues and couldn't find stable employment. Because of that, she basically neglected my sister and me," Naomi explains. "Neighbors saw what was going on and called 911."

"The blood connection shielded me from a lot of embarrassment during my teenage years. I didn't have to worry about the stigma of not having a mother care for me and it helped me gain a greater sense of self. The obligation my grandmother felt toward me gave me a concept of what family is about."

By the time she entered the foster system for the fourth time, Naomi was inured to the pain of being uprooted. While foster care had not exactly become routine, it had occurred enough times that she had no expectations except to be prepared for the worst.

"When my sister and I showed up on my grandmother's doorstep, she was somewhat a stranger to us," Naomi recalls. "Because of my mother's problems, we hadn't seen much of my grandmother. Even so, she never hesitated to take us in."

Life at her grandmother's was far different from anything Naomi or her sister had ever known. "Our biggest challenge was getting used to the amount of structure in our grandmother's home. We weren't used to rules and

Naomi Porter

Occupation: Americorps Volunteer, The Belle Center

Raised by: Grandmother

Hometown: Buffalo, New York

From Grandmother to Foster Mother

Naomi Porter's grandmother was 57 when she opened the door one day to find child care workers standing on her doorstep, her two estranged granddaughters in tow.

As a private-duty home-health aide, Naomi's grandmother often worked nights and received wages that were fine for one person living alone. But once the girls moved in, finances became a real concern. For the first few weeks her grandmother didn't want to leave the girls alone in a new home and environment. So, until the girls got acclimated, she paid \$400 a week for friends to provide care during her work hours. Along with those costs, Naomi's grandmother faced the added costs for food, clothing, and school supplies for Naomi and her sister. Her salary simply couldn't stretch that far, so she had to apply for government assistance.

"Back then, the only way my grandmother could get financial support was to officially apply to become our foster mother, Naomi says. "She had to take a series of classes and become certified, which took time and effort. But she was determined, and the support she eventually received was crucial to our family making it financially."

chores, and didn't even know about the basics, like making the bed and washing dishes. And we certainly weren't used to someone being involved in school."

"I rebelled some; didn't do homework, and talked back. But my grandmother has a very strong personality; she was not bending. And even though I didn't like it, I knew I needed it. My grandmother was very important in creating the person I am today. She gave me a safe place to hang out and put everything back together. She helped me become a balanced person and not engage in behavior that would affect me badly."

"The blood connection shielded me from a lot of embarrassment during my teenage years. I didn't have to worry about the stigma of not having a mother care for me and it helped me gain a greater sense of self. The obligation my grandmother felt toward me gave me a concept of what family is about."

Today, Naomi works at The Belle Center, a nonprofit modeled after the Harlem Children's Zone, which works

to help shape young people's lives. Her current job is in keeping with her future goals: she wants to be a college professor and would like to direct a nonprofit that serves young people. Naomi already holds an associate's degree and is working toward a bachelor's. Ultimately, she intends to get a master's in business administration and public administration.

The concept of family has come full circle for Naomi. In February 2012, she moved back in with her grandmother who was injured in a three-car accident. Now it's Naomi who serves as the nurturer and caregiver—a role she savors. "My grandmother is doing better now after a lot of physical therapy. She's walking again. I plan to stay with her until I get married or she moves into assisted living. I'll do whatever it takes."

..... Felix Sanchez

One of the many lessons we learned from the London Olympics: Never underestimate the power of a grandmother's love and devotion.

That power was on display in the Olympic men's 400-meter hurdles. It's what made Felix Sanchez overcome years of injuries and claim the gold medal just a few weeks shy of his 35th birthday.

As he ran the most important race of his life, he kept his grandmother's memory close to his heart. Pinned beneath his bib was a photo of his beloved "Abuela," Lilian Morcelo, the Dominican grandmother who had raised him. After crossing the finish line, he knelt down, placed the photo on the ground, knelt down and kissed it. "It was extra motivation," Sanchez told reporters. "It was a reminder of why I came here and what this year meant to me."

The gold medal he won that night in London wasn't his first, but it was his most memorable. Eight years earlier, at the 2004, Olympics in Athens, he' struck gold, and expected to do the same in Beijing in 2008. But it was not to be. On the first day of the qualifying heats, Sanchez learned the devastating news that his 72-year-old grandmother had died.

"I got [the] news on the morning of the first round in Beijing that she had died," he explained. "That affected me. I cried the whole day. I ran, but I ran badly, and I made a promise that day that I would win a medal for her. It took me four years."

Felix Sanchez

Occupation: Athlete, 2004 and 2012 Olympic Gold Medalist, men's 400 meter hurdles

Raised by: Grandmother, Lilian Morcelo

Hometown: San Diego, California



Felix Sanchez victory lap of honour, London 2012 Olympics
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As he ran the most important race of his life, he kept his grandmother's memory close to his heart. Pinned beneath his bib was a photo of his beloved "Abuela," Lilian Morcelo, the Dominican grandmother who had raised him.
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Those four years would be filled with hope and punctuated by injuries. But throughout it all, Sanchez kept thinking of that promise and all the sacrifices his grandmother had made for him. "She was everything," Sanchez said. "She was the center of our family and kept everyone together." She was his inspiration.

Along with pinning his grandmother's photo to his bib in London, Sanchez had printed the word "Abuela" on his spikes. Abuela—Spanish for grandmother and a loving nod to the woman who raised a champion.

..... Kelli Pickler

Her first album closes with a song called "My Angel" a heartfelt tribute to her grandmother.

When asked how she found the courage to audition for *American Idol*, Kelli Pickler has a ready answer: her grandparents, Faye and Clyde Pickler. The bubbly, energetic country singer says her grandparents' love and devotion gave her the confidence to forge ahead with a singing career.

Pickler's parents had had a tumultuous relationship, separating when she was just two years old. Her father struggled with addictions to drugs and alcohol and couldn't care for her properly. Consequently, Pickler's grandparents became her primary caregivers when she was very young. Their willingness to step up and provide the best for Pickler is undoubtedly a great factor in the singer's success.

Pickler's grandmother, Faye, piqued her interest in music. "[My grandmother] had a collection of children's books, and one of those was a songbook. We would sit on the swing on the front porch, and I would just sing my heart out," Pickler recalls.

But it was her grandfather, Clyde, who took Pickler to her *American Idol* audition and succeeded in calming her before her performance. "He said, 'Sit down Kelli, we're here now, what do you have to lose?'" The rest is history—Pickler had nothing to lose, and all to gain.



Kelli Pickler performs at the 2008 GrandRally
Photo courtesy of Generations United



Kelli Pickler and participants at the 2008 GrandRally
Photo courtesy of Generations United

Music saved Pickler when her grandmother passed away while Pickler was still in high school. Like any great artist, she eased her pain through a creative outlet. Her first album closes with a song called "My Angel," a heartfelt tribute to her grandmother.

Pickler has not shied away from opportunities to encourage those who find themselves in situations similar to hers growing up. Demonstrating her appreciation for the care and support of her grandparents and the millions of grandparents raising grandchildren across the U.S., Pickler sang "My Angel" and spoke words of encouragement to nearly 1000 grandparent raising grandchildren and their supporters at a national GrandRally in front of the U.S. Capitol in Washington D.C. in 2008.

And Pickler's tribute to her grandmother travels with her wherever she goes. Each time Pickler climbs into the RV that serves as her home away from home while on tour, she's reminded of her beloved "Grandma." The name she gave her RV? Faye.

Kelli Pickler

Occupation: Country Music Singer

Raised by: Grandparents Faye and Clyde Pickler

Hometown: Albemarle, North Carolina

..... Don Thompson

"My Grandmother gave me everything she had to get me into and through Purdue."

When you have the support of a grandmother like Rosa Martin, anything is possible—even rising to the top of the world's biggest foodservice company. Just ask Don Thompson.

Thompson, the President and CEO of McDonald's, credits his success to his grandmother's love and encouragement. Thompson spent his early childhood in a rough area of Chicago, where his grandmother raised him from the time he was two weeks old. When Thompson was ten, his grandmother decided she needed to raise her grandson in a safer environment, so the two moved to Indianapolis.

Thompson's entrepreneurial spirit began at a young age, and was directly affected by his grandmother and her friends. "When I was 11 years old, I printed up little business cards and distributed them in a nearby convalescent home," Thompson told the Franchise Times, "The residents hired me to do errands or clean their apartments."

That entrepreneurial spirit, coupled with Rosa Martin's emphasis on education, led Thompson to enroll at Purdue University's School of Engineering. "My grand-

mother gave everything she had to get me into and through Purdue," Thompson told Black Enterprise magazine in 2007. After earning his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering, Thompson worked in aeronautics until an executive recruiter came calling. The recruiter was pitching a job that involved working with robotics and control circuitry for one of the best-known corporations in the world: McDonalds. Thompson accepted the offer and began a 22-year ascent to the top.

Now that Thompson is leading an internationally popular fast-food chain, he still remembers where he came from and the important role his grandmother played in his success. According to the Chicago Sun-Times, when Rosa Martin was told that her grandson was McDonald's newest CEO, she began crying, saying, "I must have done something right."

Don Thompson

Occupation: President & CEO, McDonalds

Raised by: Grandmother Rosa Martin

Hometown: Chicago, Illinois



Photo by Allie Heeter

Stacey Walker

Stacey Walker was four; his little sister Cymone just one, when their mother was murdered in Buffalo, New York. With no father in the picture, the siblings were facing an uncertain life at the hands of child authorities until their grandmother, Shirley Martin, made the choice that she would take them in.

It was a tumultuous time for everyone. The children had lost their mother; Shirley had lost a daughter, and all were grieving. After bringing the children from Buffalo to her home in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Shirley had to confront a daunting reality: how to provide for two young children on a nurse's aide salary. Truth was, she was nearing the end of her career—she was well into her 50's—and she worked the night shift. Money had always been tight, but now she needed to hire a babysitter to look after her grandchildren while she toiled through the night tending to sick patients and filing medical records in the basement of one of two hospitals in the town.



Stacey Walker speaks at the 2008 Grand Rally
Photo courtesy of Generations United

"She made a lot of sacrifices for us, and ended up retiring early so she could raise us. She had to buy a car to get us from place to place, another added expense. Before we arrived, my grandmother would walk to and from work," Stacey recalls. "We barely made it financially." What saved them, he says, were the Social Security survivor benefits the children received because their mother had died.

"I bristle when people try to paint Social Security as merely a retirement plan for older folks who didn't work hard enough to save for themselves," Stacey says. "Many people have no idea how much survivor benefits mean to families whose head of household has died or is permanently disabled. I know for a fact that we could not have made it without those benefits."

But thanks to those benefits, and an incredible woman named Shirley Martin, Stacey today is a successful man. He is Program Coordinator for Social Innovation at the Case Foundation, a family foundation dedicated to finding innovative solutions to big problems by cultivating cross-sector partnerships. As program coordinator, Stacey liaises with grantee partners to help ensure they achieve their goals.

Stacey was a success long before he came to the Case Foundation. "I was always quite different from other kids in my neighborhood," Stacey notes. "I had several interests, including sports, music, and debate. Those things cost money; money we didn't have. But my grandmother always figured a way to make it work."

Stacey remembers one incident in particular. "As a sophomore in high school, I was selected to attend a leadership conference in Washington, DC. Needless to say, we didn't have the money for me to attend.

"At the time I had an internship with one of the most well-respected law firms in the state of Iowa. So, on her

"I was always quite different from other kids in my neighborhood," Stacey notes. "I had several interests, including sports, music, and debate. Those things cost money; money we didn't have. But my grandmother always figured a way to make it work."

"Things were tough psychologically for my grandmother," explains Stacey. "Here she was trying to come to grips with the murder of her daughter and adjusting to the fact that she would once again assume a parenting role for two very young kids."

"Things were tough financially, as well. My grandmother already lived in a government housing project, and although her salary had been enough to keep her afloat, she now had all sorts of new expenses: clothes, food, toys—all the basics any young child needs, multiplied by two."

Stacey remembers that his grandmother never complained and tackled her new situation the way she always had—with strength and determination.

Stacey Walker

Occupation: Program Coordinator for Social Innovation, Case Foundation

Raised by: Shirley Martin, grandmother

Hometown: Cedar Rapids, Iowa

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own—and without my knowledge—my grandmother approached each partner and asked for a donation to send me to the conference. They all contributed. Then, my grandmother persuaded our church to take up two offerings to support my trip.”

The leadership conference proved to be a critical juncture in Stacey’s life. From there, Stacey went on to earn a BA from the University of Iowa in 2010. But his college years were markedly different from those of his peers. In 2006, the Boys & Girls Clubs of America tapped Stacey to serve as their National Spokesperson. In that role, he travelled around the globe to address various groups and advance the organization’s mission. For his efforts, he was awarded the Presidential Service Award by President George W. Bush.

Through the Boys & Girls Club, Stacey learned about Generations United. In 2008, he attended the Third National GrandRally that brought together grandfamilies

from around the country to push for national policy initiatives surrounding fairness in federal benefits for inter-generational families.

“At the rally, Donna Butts [Executive Director of Generations United] approached me and said that there was an opportunity for me to meet with staff for Senator Charles Grassley of Iowa to talk about the need for supportive policies for grandfamilies,” Stacey explains. I did, and after our chat, the Senator introduced legislation that supported our policy goals and eventually became law.”

More recently, Stacey has had the honor to work closely with members of the President’s Council on Jobs and Competitiveness, which involved enacting parts of the President’s economic agenda, including the JOBS Act. Pretty impressive for a guy whose early life was so tumultuous. And, as he’ll tell you, he owes it all to his grandmother.

..... Shea McClellin

“They have been my foundation and walked with me every step of the way. It takes talent and speed to be a good defensive end, but it also takes heart—and for that I have my grandparents to thank.”

The up and coming football star, Shea McClellin, has his grandparents to thank for his hard work ethic and perseverance. McClellin, the first round draft pick for the Chicago Bears this year, was raised by his grandparents Terry and Jerry on a farm in Idaho.

McClellin moved in with his grandparents as a baby when his young mother found it challenging to provide for her son. He has maintained a relationship with his mother, who is very grateful for the support of her parents. “I’m glad they were able to help, and I’m glad he stayed in the family. I’m very proud of him. He deserves it all,” she said.

“It was a joy taking care of him,” explains McClellin’s grandmother; “He kept me young. He absolutely kept me young.” And he was not the only child to grow up in his grandparents household. Jerry and Terry McClellin also raised four children of their own and multiple foster children many of whom lived with them from when they were in diapers until all the way through high school.

Although McClellin’s passion is football, he played multiple sports throughout middle school and high school. And his grandmother was there cheering him on every step of the way. McClellin once told her, “I just look to see where



Photo courtesy of Shea McClellin

you’re sitting in the stands and when I see you, I know it’s okay and I can play.”

The values that Jerry and Terry instilled into their grandson are now being passed on to others. Recently, McClellin headed back to Marsing, Idaho to speak to students on the importance of setting goals and dreaming big.

Shea McClellin

Occupation: Athlete, Chicago Bears 2012 First Round Draft Pick

Raised by: Grandparents Terry and Jerry McClellin

Hometown: Marsing, Idaho

..... Ray Krise

A year before Ray Krise was born, a Skokomish spiritual leader cautioned his grandparents that they needed to change their ways because a future grandchild's life was at stake. Turned out that life was Ray's.

Although Steve and Naomi Johns long ago had strayed far from their tribal roots, they were swayed by the wise man's prophesy. Under his guidance, they gave up alcohol and began studying their ancestors' ancient ways so they could pass on their identity and culture. A year later, they felt blessed to be able to take in their newborn grandson, Ray, because his parents couldn't care for him. Eventually, young Ray's grandfather became a great spiritual and tribal leader and, from 1965 until his death in 1980, was an elder in the Native American Shaker Church. His grandmother became known as one of the best fishermen among the Skokomish—a great honor in tribal tradition.

"If not for being raised by my grandparents, I would not have a cultural identity," Krise explains. "I wouldn't know my family lineage and my son would not bear the name Tcha-LQad—a name that is 17 generations old.

"My grandparents raised me in old, traditional ways—no running the streets or going to dances like other kids my age. Instead, I was involved in the spiritual side of life. My passion was going to drum circles and listening to old people talk and perform ceremonies. That helped me develop a real sense of pride and belonging."

When asked about his grandparents, Krise had no difficulty finding words to describe them. "My grandfather was probably one of the kindest men I've ever known," Krise recalls of the man who taught him to carve totem poles. "He was also a leader; I was proud to accompany him when he stood beside Marlon Brando during the fishing wars in the 1970s. That's when the Skokomish and other coastal tribes were fighting for the right to fish in waterways off the reservation."

Ray Krise

Occupation: Community Spiritual Leader and Tribal Chief

Raised by: Grandparents: Steve and Naomi Johns

Hometown: Skokomish Reservation near Shelton, Washington



Ray Krise at the 2012 Paddle to Squaxin
Photo courtesy of Theresa Henderson

Although Krise lost his grandfather in 1980, his grandmother was in his life until 2005. "She was the most beautiful woman in the world, very caring and always giving of her own. My cousin and I took care of her until her last days. It was a privilege."

Today, Krise is a highly respected community spiritual leader, among other roles, having trained to be a speaker and hereditary chief since he was 11 years old.

Krise is also a father and grandfather. "It's pretty awesome having my children and grandchildren in my life. We live on the same property and sing the same songs my grandparents sang to me as a baby. I'm thankful every day for how I was brought up in life."

..... Barack Obama

The President of the United States had a very close relationship with his grandparents during his childhood in Hawaii. The values grandparents instill in their grandchildren have great implications, and this could not be more evident than for the grandparents of the commander in chief of the country.

"She is the one who put off buying a new car or a new dress for herself so that I could have a better life. She poured everything she had into me."

Obama's parents were married for only a short time after his birth. Obama Sr. was a native of Kenya, and returned to Africa while his son was still young. Obama's mother married a man from Indonesia shortly after her divorce from Obama Sr. and took her son with her to Indonesia. When Obama was ten years old, he returned to Hawaii and to his loving grandparents.

"Toot" (the affectionate nickname Obama had for his grandmother) and Stanley Dunham raised their grandson with love and sacrifice, even sending him to a prestigious school in Hawaii. Speaking about his grandmother, Obama said, "She's the one who put off buying a new car or a new dress for herself so that I could have a better life. She poured everything she had into me."

Obama also credits his determination to his grandmother: "She's where I get my practical streak. That part of me that's hardheaded, I get from her. She's tough as nails." His grandmother helped support her grandchildren by working at a bank, at a time when far fewer women were in the workforce.

Toot passed away just two days before Obama was elected as President in 2008. A month prior to her passing, Obama had taken a respite from campaigning to visit with his ailing grandmother. Although Toot was not able to see her grandson "Barry" become the commander in chief of



Official Portrait of President Barack Obama
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the United States, she undoubtedly was proud of all that he had achieved.

Perhaps this is why the First Lady's mother also lives in the White House. The President understands the importance of a relationship with a grandparent.

Barack Obama

Occupation: President of the United States
Raised by: Mother and Grandparents, Madelyn "Toot"
Payne Dunham and Stanley Dunham
Hometown: Honolulu, Hawaii

..... Recommendations

Based on the current circumstances for grandfamilies, Generations United offers the following recommendations, in no order of priority.

Ensure Grandfamilies Can Secure the Legal Arrangement that Is Best for the Children

Without legal guardianship or custody, grandparents and other relative caregivers often cannot obtain medical care for the children, enroll them in school, or perform many parental functions. Yet obtaining that legal status can be extremely difficult for two primary reasons: they may not have the money to pay legal costs associated with obtaining guardianship or custody, and they must prove that a parent is unfit to raise the children—a situation that can threaten family dynamics. Those who do try often end up depleting their retirement funds or savings, or having to declare bankruptcy. In some states, useful legal arrangements such as subsidized guardianship or open adoption may not even be available to them.

Recommendation: Ensure Grandfamilies Can Secure the Legal Arrangement that Is Best for the Children by:

- Advocating for state lawmakers to adopt innovative care and custody options, such as subsidized guardianship, stand-by guardianship, or open adoption.
- Encouraging lawmakers to provide adequate support to legal aid programs.
- Providing incentives for law firms to donate pro bono services to grandfamilies in need.

Improve Access to Health Care for Caregivers and Children

Caregivers and children in grandfamilies have greater levels of health problems and lower levels of health coverage than their peers. Frequently, the caregivers experience stress that results from caring for children at a time in their lives when they did not expect or from being socially isolated from their peers. Such stress can lead to or aggravate health problems including: depression, diabetes, hypertension, insomnia, and gastric distress.⁹ At the same time, the caregivers are often unable to attend to their own medical needs due to a lack of daycare, respite care or adequate health insurance.

Children in the care of relatives exhibit a variety of physical, behavioral, and emotional problems to a greater degree than the general population of children.¹¹ These problems often stem from the difficult situations that caused them to be placed in their grandparents' care. Getting help for such problems presents additional challenges. Many children are in grandfamilies in which the relative caregivers have no legal relationship – such as guardianship or adoption. That means the caregivers must get parental consent for the children's medical, dental or mental health care—a situation that may be difficult, if not impossible. Even when grandfamilies have the legal authority to obtain health care for the children, they may not have access to the necessary insurance to pay for it because of eligibility or access issues.

Recommendation: Improve Access to Health Care for Caregivers and Children by:

- Ensuring broader health care coverage for seniors and children, such as the policies included in the Affordable Care Act.
- Supporting respite care, such as those policies included in the Lifespan Respite Care Act and the National Family Caregiver Support Program.
- Encouraging states to find creative solutions to improved access to health care, such as medical consent laws.

Guarantee Access to Education

Across the nation, before allowing children to enroll in school, most school districts require documentation of legal custody or guardianship. Many also impose certain residency requirements to prevent residents from “shopping” for a particular school where their children can attend. These requirements, however, unjustly penalize children who are being raised informally by relative caregivers. In some cases, the requirements can prevent them from attending any school at all.

The policy recommendations included in this publication are exclusively those of Generations United. The inclusion of an individual in this publication does not constitute endorsement, support or favor of the policy recommendations.

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Some states have developed ways to balance the concerns of school systems and the needs of grandfamilies by enacting consent or power of attorney laws.

Recommendation: Guarantee Access to Education by:

- Requiring local education agencies have plans in place to prevent delays in educational enrollment for children in grandfamilies.
- Ensuring that grandparents and other relative caregivers are invited to participate in Individual Education Plan meetings and other school activities.
- Adopting educational consent and power of attorney laws that balance the concerns of school systems with the needs of grandfamilies.

Increase Financial Stability for Grandfamilies

Many grandparents and other relative caregivers face significant economic difficulties. Nearly one in five grandparents responsible for grandchildren lives in poverty.¹² For older caregivers, caring for a child on a limited fixed income can severely strain their finances. For younger caregivers, the demands of caring for a child may cause them to quit their jobs, cut back on work hours or make other job-related sacrifices that can negatively affect their future economic wellbeing. Whether younger or older, working or retired, relative caregivers often end up depleting their life savings, selling belongings, and spending their retirement income to care for the children.

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), foster care payments, adoption assistance, subsidized guardianship and Social Security are potential sources of financial assistance for relatives raising children. The majority of programs are funded through a combination of federal and state funds and often have varied and complex eligibility requirements. Most were not designed with relative caregiver families in mind.

Recommendation: Increase Financial Stability for Grandfamilies by:

- Ensuring that grandfamilies understand and have access to the full range of financial and other supports for which they are eligible.
- Providing guidance and technical assistance to all 50 states to design TANF-funded programs to meet the unique needs of grandfamilies.
- Encouraging states to offer subsidized guardianship programs.
- Protect and strengthen Social Security and address barriers to grandfamilies securing Social Security benefits.

Increase the Availability of Affordable Housing to Address Grandfamilies' Unique Needs

Although the lack of affordable housing is an issue for many Americans, grandfamilies can encounter several unique barriers. Grandparents and other relative caregivers often take on full-time care for children with little or no warning and no time to plan for appropriate housing. Some may live in small apartments that are unsuitable for children and that fail to meet occupancy requirements. Some may qualify for government-subsidized housing but cannot secure an appropriately sized apartment because they lack a legal relationship with the children. Those caregivers who live in senior housing may face eviction if they move the children in with them. In addition, many may no longer be able to afford their existing housing once they take on the extra expense of raising children. More than one-fourth of grandparent caregivers live in overcrowded conditions. More than one in six spend over half their income on rent. Sixty percent of qualifying renters do not receive housing subsidies.¹³

Recommendation: Increase the Availability of Affordable Housing to Address Grandfamilies' Unique Needs by:

- Identifying and publicizing exemplary housing initiatives that serve grandfamilies.
- Adapting or building new structures or conducting outreach and awareness on grandfamilies' housing rights and eligibility.
- Promoting additional affordable housing for grandfamilies by demonstrating to private developers the benefits of providing such housing.
- Providing demonstration funds and incentives on the state and local levels to stimulate such housing.

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Help Grandfamilies Get the Information They Need

Many relative caregivers lack awareness and knowledge about the array of benefits and services for which they are eligible. They and the children they are raising must be connected to appropriate services, benefits, and assistance through effective outreach and information. Kinship navigator programs provide the link. They offer information, referral, and follow-up services to grandparents and other relatives raising children. The programs' "navigators" help relative caregivers' access educational, financial, legal, and health services, along with respite care. New Jersey and Washington, have long-standing kinship navigator programs. Now, thanks to federal Family Connection Grants, awarded through the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act, at least 13 more states or localities have developed kinship navigator programs have been developed. Support for additional programs is underway.

Recommendation: Help Grandfamilies Get the Information They Need by:

- Providing ongoing support for sustainable Kinship Navigator Programs and National Family Caregiver Support Programs.
- Encouraging all states to develop navigator programs that ensure grandfamilies in have access to the information and navigation support they need.

Improve Child Welfare Practice Related to Grandfamilies

Circumstances for grandfamilies involved with the child welfare system have improved significantly over the past 25 years. Part of the credit goes to awareness-raising efforts and passage of federal child welfare legislation, such as the Adoption and Safe Families Act and the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act. . However, states and localities vary considerably in their approach to child welfare. Some demonstrate model approaches; others continue to lag behind. All states and all local child welfare agencies need to adopt best practices in regard to placing children with relatives. That means developing clear policies, guidance, and technical assistance for relative caregivers and involving them early on in planning for and supporting the children.

Recommendation: Improve Child Welfare Practice Related to Grandfamilies by:

- Providing technical assistance, guidance, and clear agency policy and protocol to ensure that agency and court practices align with the philosophy of placing children with relatives.
- Adopting best practices for licensing relatives.
- Involving relative caregivers early in the planning and support of children removed from their parents' care.

Ensure access to culturally competent services and compliance with relative placement provisions for American Indian/Alaska Native Children

American Indian and Alaskan Native (AI/AN) grandparents play a very important role in tribal communities. Grandparents are often at the center of AI/AN child rearing activities and responsibilities due to the extended family organizational structures and relational interdependence characteristic of AI/AN communities. AI/AN grandparents have a long history of providing care and helping to raise grandchildren, passing down important history, cultural teachings, and wisdom essential to the wellbeing of AI/AN peoples.

In addition to facing many of the challenges outlined in this document, AI/AN grandparents encounter challenges specific to their experience as AI/AN people. AI/AN grandfamilies live in a predominately non-Native world that often lacks knowledge of Indian history, culture, or policies that govern Indian child welfare matters. This includes the lack of compliance with the federal Indian Child Welfare Act, which stipulates that AI/AN children must be placed with an extended family member as the first option. In addition many agencies employ mainstream methods for addressing the needs of the Native population or pan-Indian approaches that minimize the differences between individual tribal cultures. The passage of the Fostering Connections Act of 2008 (PL 110-351), engenders hope for addressing continued challenges related to relative notification, engagement and caregiving arrangements, but work remains to ensure states enact helpful provisions.

Grand Successes: Stories of lives well-raised

Recommendation: Ensure American Indian/Alaskan Native Children Have Access to Culturally Competent Service and State Child Welfare Agencies and Courts Comply with Federal Relative Placement Provisions by:

- Ensuring state and local child welfare agencies provide equal access to supports and culturally competent services and placements that take unique needs of AI/AN grandfamilies into account.
- Providing support to state child welfare agencies and courts to increase adherence to the relative placement provisions under the Indian Child Welfare Act and the Fostering Connections Act.

Generations United referenced the following resources in creating these recommendations. We have offered additional information and recommendations including those related to research and data collection, outreach and communications. All can be found at www.gu.org

Generations United Public Policy Agenda for the 112th Congress (2011). Generations United

Stepping Up for Kids: What Government and Communities Should Do to Support Kinship Families (2012). Annie E. Casey Foundation Kids Count Data Center.

Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children: The Second Intergenerational Action Agenda (2005). Generations United.

Six Ways You Can Help Support Grandfamilies

1. Raise awareness about the successes of children who are raised by grandparents or other relatives by sharing this publication.
2. Sign up to receive alerts from Generations United about grandfamilies policies, resources, and news and use your knowledge to promote grandfamily issues.
3. Sign a petition in support of policies that help grandfamilies. Visit www.grandparentsday.org/grandfamilies.
4. Fax, email or send a letter to your elected officials. Tell them why they should support grandparents or other relatives raising grandchildren.
5. Monitor your local paper for articles about grandparents or children in foster care. Write letters to the editor about the importance of supporting children who are raised in grandfamilies.
6. Encourage community policies and business practices that give full family benefits and targeted support to grandfamilies. Some examples include:
 - Ensuring employee benefits extend to and include grandfamilies
 - Promoting other policies that extend the definition of 'family' to include grandfamilies and other 'non-traditional' families
 - Providing free or discounted admission for grandfamilies to camps, parks, and entertainment events
 - Offering free or low-cost space where grandfamily groups can hold support groups or informational meetings

For information on how to take these actions visit www.gu.org and click on "GRANDFAMILIES".

Appendix 1 - Grandparents Responsible for Their Grandchildren

Number Responsible for Grandchildren in the United States: 2,738,300

Alabama.....	68,404	Montana.....	6,589
Alaska.....	5,010	Nebraska.....	11,154
Arizona.....	67,117	Nevada.....	27,471
Arkansas.....	40,350	New Hampshire.....	8,090
California.....	300,859	New Jersey.....	51,189
Colorado.....	35,485	New Mexico.....	25,416
Connecticut.....	23,096	New York.....	129,036
Delaware.....	7,834	North Carolina.....	100,669
District of Columbia.....	4,692	North Dakota.....	3,530
Florida.....	171,222	Ohio.....	99,956
Georgia.....	115,629	Oklahoma.....	39,908
Hawaii.....	12,069	Oregon.....	24,379
Idaho.....	12,543	Pennsylvania.....	86,968
Illinois.....	101,951	Rhode Island.....	6,699
Indiana.....	58,959	South Carolina.....	56,729
Iowa.....	17,815	South Dakota.....	6,477
Kansas.....	20,250	Tennessee.....	73,758
Kentucky.....	50,551	Texas.....	311,052
Louisiana.....	71,754	Utah.....	19,854
Maine.....	7,972	Vermont.....	3,868
Maryland.....	50,854	Virginia.....	69,796
Massachusetts.....	31,124	Washington.....	41,203
Michigan.....	72,701	West Virginia.....	22,832
Minnesota.....	21,712	Wisconsin.....	29,296
Mississippi.....	55,503	Wyoming.....	6,056
Missouri.....	50,869		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. 2011. 2010 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Tables B10050

Appendix 2 - Children in Grandfamilies¹ or Kinship Care² with No Parents Present

State	Number	% of all Children	State	Number	% of all Children
United States.....	2,712,000	4%	Missouri.....	56,000	4%
Alabama.....	50,000	4%	Montana.....	8,000	3%
Alaska.....	7,000	4%	Nebraska.....	14,000	3%
Arizona.....	60,000	3%	Nevada.....	19,000	3%
Arkansas.....	34,000	5%	New Hampshire.....	5,000	2%
California.....	333,000	4%	New Jersey.....	58,000	3%
Colorado.....	32,000	3%	New Mexico.....	24,000	5%
Connecticut.....	24,000	3%	New York.....	153,000	3%
Delaware.....	8,000	4%	North Carolina.....	101,000	4%
District of Columbia.....	5,000	5%	North Dakota.....	4,000	3%
Florida.....	164,000	4%	Ohio.....	100,000	4%
Georgia.....	103,000	4%	Oklahoma.....	56,000	6%
Hawaii.....	12,000	4%	Oregon.....	22,000	3%
Idaho.....	7,000	2%	Pennsylvania.....	101,000	4%
Illinois.....	105,000	3%	Rhode Island.....	6,000	2%
Indiana.....	59,000	4%	South Carolina.....	54,000	5%
Iowa.....	18,000	3%	South Dakota.....	7,000	3%
Kansas.....	27,000	4%	Tennessee.....	67,000	5%
Kentucky.....	63,000	6%	Texas.....	276,000	4%
Louisiana.....	65,000	6%	Utah.....	15,000	2%
Maine.....	8,000	3%	Vermont.....	4,000	3%
Maryland.....	48,000	4%	Virginia.....	69,000	4%
Massachusetts.....	31,000	2%	Washington.....	53,000	3%
Michigan.....	59,000	2%	West Virginia.....	19,000	5%
Minnesota.....	21,000	2%	Wisconsin.....	20,000	2%
Mississippi.....	53,000	7%			

Source: Stepping Up for Kids: What Government and Communities Should Do to Support Kinship Families (2012). Annie E. Casey Foundation Kids Count Data Center. Data source is Population Reference Bureau's analysis of 2009, 2010, 2011 Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Surveys. Estimates represent 3 year averages.

(1) Grandfamilies are defined as families headed by grandparents and other relatives who share their home with their grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and/or other relatives children. The children represented in this diagram are limited to those who had no parents present in the home.

(2) Kinship Care refers to situations in children are cared for full time by blood relatives or other adults with whom they have a family-like relationship, such as godparents or close family friends. The children represented in the diagram are limited to those who had no parents present in the home.

Endnotes

- 1 U.S. Census Bureau. "Households and Families 2010: U.S. (April 2012)." Accessed 20 August 2012 at <<http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/briefs/c2010br-14.pdf>>
- 2 Annie E. Casey Foundation Kids Count Data Center. "Stepping Up for Kids: What Government and Communities Should Do to Support Kinship Families (2012)." Accessed 20 August 2012 at <<http://www.aecf.org/KnowledgeCenter/Publications.aspx?pubguid={642BF3F2-9A85-4C6B-83C8-A30F5D928E4D}>>
- 3 Generations United calculated this figure based on the federal share of the 2000 average monthly foster care maintenance payment for 1 million children. The Green Book of the Committee on Ways and Means, U.S. House of Representatives estimates the cost at \$545 per child. This is approximately half of the children being raised in grandfamilies outside of the formal foster care system. Half the children are used for our calculation, due to a conservative estimate that the other half already receive some type of governmental financial assistance, such as a Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) child-only grant. Consequently, the cost of one million children entering the system would represent all new financial outlays for taxpayers
- 4 Grandfamilies are defined as families headed by grandparents and other relatives who share their home with their grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and/or other relatives' children. The children represented in this diagram are limited to those who had no parents present in the home.
- 5 Kinship Care refers to situations in which children are cared for full-time by blood relatives or other adults with whom they have a family-like relationship, such as godparents or close family friends. The children represented in the diagram are limited to those who had no parents present in the home.
- 6 Children's Defense Fund. "The State of America's Children Handbook (2012)." Accessed 20 August 2012 at <<http://www.childrensdefense.org/child-research-data-publications/data/soac-2012-handbook.pdf>>
- 7 ibid
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- 12 Children's Defense Fund. "The State of America's Children Handbook (2012)." Accessed 20 August 2012 at <<http://www.childrensdefense.org/child-research-data-publications/data/soac-2012-handbook.pdf>>
- 13 Fuller-Thomson, E. and Minkler, M. "Housing issues and realities facing grandparent caregivers who are renters." *The Gerontologist* 43 (2003): 92-98. "Subsidized housing" includes both public housing

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