



Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

- **Facts & Figures/Reasons Why**
- **The Issues & The Needs**
- **The Response**
- **Supports and Resources**
- **MSPCC KINnections
Grandparent/Kinship Family
Program**



Facts & Figures

- **Nationally, an estimated 7.6 million children live with a relative who is the head of the household ¹**
- **Of these children, almost 3 million are being raised by grandparents with no parent present ²**

1 U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 American Community Survey 1 Year Estimate

2 Annie E. Casey Foundation Kids Count Data Center. 2014-2016



Facts & Figures

- **58% of these grandparents are still in the workforce**
- **25% have a disability**
- **37% are age 60 or older** ³

³ Corporation for Enterprise Development/Generations United/Citi Community Development, "The Resounding Resiliency of Grandfamilies," September 2015.



Reasons Why?

- **Increasing numbers of single parent families**
- **Mental Illness**
- **Deportation of parents- immigration issues**
- **Incarceration of parents**
- **Substance use/current opioid crisis**
- **Illness, disability or death of parents**
- **Parental abuse or neglect**
- **Family & Community violence** ⁴

4 American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry's Facts for Families.
April 2016



Massachusetts Numbers

- **In 2014, over 36,000 Massachusetts grandparents had primary responsibility of caring for grandchildren**⁵

⁵ U. S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, 2016



Boston Numbers

- **In Boston approximately 11,000 grandparents live with grandchildren under age 18**
- **Of those grandparents, almost 40% are responsible for the children's physical care, emotional well-being, and financial needs ⁶**

⁶ U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011



The Issues & Needs of Grandparent Families

- **Legal Information, Representation**
- **Information and Referral Services**
- **Financial**
- **Housing**
- **Scarcity of Accessible and Affordable Child Care**
- **Education Services for Children with Disabilities**
- **Support Groups**
- **Psychosocial**
- **Mental Health, Trauma Informed Care & Providers**
- **Health Care**
- **Self-Care**
- **And many more....**



The National Response

Several state of the art centers have been established nationally to include:

- Generations United National Center for Grand families www.grandfamilies.org
- National Kinship Alliance for Children www.kinshipalliance.org
- The National Research Center on Grandparents Raising Grandchildren. Collaboration-Western Michigan University/Georgia State University www.wmich.edu/grandparenting



Massachusetts Response

- On July 8, 2008, the Child Advocate bill was signed into law which included the establishment of the Commission on the Status of Grandparents Raising Grandchildren
- This legislation calls for a permanent Commission on the status of grandparents raising grandchildren which consists of 15 individuals who have demonstrated a commitment to grandparents.
<http://www.massgrg.com/index.php>



MA Grandparent Commission

Commission Resources

- **Annual Conference**
- **Fall/Spring Workshops Series**
- **Statewide Listing of Support Groups**
- **Legal Resources**
- **Financial Information**
- **Topical Tip Sheets**
- **Newsletter**
- **Action Alerts**
- **Advocacy**



Boston Response

- **MSPCC in partnership with the City of Boston-Commission on the Affairs of the Elderly established the KINnections Grandparent/Kinship Family Program in 2000.**
- **MSPCC partnered with Raising Our Children's Children (ROC) to support families city-wide.**

CITY *of* BOSTON



Partnerships & Support

- **The City of Boston's Elderly Commission provides financial and programmatic support**
- **MSPCC provides administrative resources and supports to the program**
- **Charitable Foundations provide additional financial support to the program**

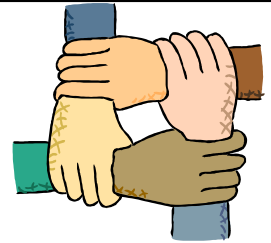




Connecting Families

- **The cornerstone of the KINnections Program is connecting families to each other, along with resources and supports that promote self-care and well-being**
- **Strong Adults, Strong Children & Youth Contributing to their Community**





Support Groups

- Exchange ideas and share wisdom
- Strengthen each family in a confidential, safe and supportive environment
- Become connected to others, expand your network of friends
- Have fun and laugh!
- Appreciate yourself!



Caregiver Education Programs

- Nutrition Education
- Educational Advocacy
- Child Development
- Health Care Eligibility
- Legal Issues
- Positive Parenting
- Self-Care
- Many, many more.....





We learn & grow together

- **Perfectly Balanced Life**
- **Multicultural Coalition on Aging**
- **MCPHS-Pharmacy Outreach Program**
- **Families First Parenting Program**
- **BPS Parent University**
- **TECH GOES HOME**





Information & Resources



- **A broad array of informational resources that address specific family concerns in a timely and respectful manner**
- **KINnections provides informational resources that strengthen families**
- **Families are a resource for each other**





Resources

- **Family Supports**
- **Housing Resources**
- **Educational Enrichment Programs for Children**
- **Health Care, Food Resources**
- **Transportation**
- **Legal Services**
- **Community Events**





Respite Care



- **Camperships**
- **Partnerships with organizations including the Boston Public Schools, Boston Center for Youth & Families, YMCA, Boys & Girls Clubs, Kroc Center, Boston Nature Center and many others**
- **Family Fun Activities**



Family Focused Activities

Opportunities to participate in various events in the community that are:

- FUN!**
- Educational and Enriching**
- Family Focused**
- Supportive to ourselves and our community!**





Signature Events

- **Annual Events to Celebrate Families, Highlight Individual Contributions and Accomplishments**
- **Grandparents Day Celebration**
- **Giving Thanks Luncheon**
- **Mother's Day Educational Forum/Luncheon**

