

Relatively Speaking

Winter 2008

Grandparents Parenting . . . Again
1014 Hopper Avenue; Suite 221; Santa Rosa, CA 95403
707-566-8676

Volume 1, Issue 2

Santa Rosa Support

1st & 3rd
Tuesday

7-9 pm

3725 Westwind
Blvd.

Santa Rosa, CA

Petaluma Support

2nd & 4th
Monday

7-9 pm

Call Ahead

707-566-8676

Valley Orchards
Retirement Home

2100

E. Washington St.

Petaluma, CA

Self-Help

Guardianship Clinics

1st & 3rd
Monday Evenings

&

Most Thursday
Mornings

Appointments
required call:

707-566-8676

From our Board President

To the Families of Grandparents Parenting . . . Again

As president of the Board of Directors for Grandparents Parenting . . . Again, I felt that an explanation is needed to answer questions that keep arising. Almost all of us were introduced to GPA in the beginning through the self-help guardianship clinics. We are the only non-profit organization in Sonoma County to offer this type of clinic. Since our beginning some 13 years ago, GPA has given support to our families in the form of support groups, family events for our caregivers and children, and referrals to Sonoma County services.

We want to clarify that Grandparents

Parenting...Again is not affiliated with the Kinship Center and has it's own board of directors, most of whom are relative caregivers themselves.

Grandparents Parenting . . . Again and the Kinship Center are 2 separate agencies working cooperatively together.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact the GPA office either by phone 707-566-8676 or e-mail:

grands@sonic.net.

Kathy Bimrose
President; Board of Directors

GRANNY ANNIE ON TV

Our Director and CEO, Anne Pierce was interviewed by Jack Hansen of CNN News in February at the Buck Institute on Aging. The 5 minute segment aired the last half of March. We hope you caught it.

Hansen was interested in what we do and how raising grandchildren affects us in our elder years.

www.grandparentsparentingagain.org

SAVE THE DATE

We have scheduled our annual picnic for July 13, 2008 at the Gazebo in Howarth Park in Santa Rosa.

Watch for more information coming in the mail in early June.

Information will also be posted on our web page.



Grandparents & Relative Caregivers

Grandparents and relative caregivers raising children come in all shapes, sizes, colors, and ages. We may be young grandparents in our 40's, retired grandparents living on social security, or anywhere in-between. Whatever our differences may be we all have one commonality. We are raising children that we had most likely not expected to be raising.



“Grandparents and other relatives, may be raising children because of the death of a parent or because a parent is in the military and unable to have their children with them.”

Our feelings and reactions to the situation will vary widely, depending on our health, our financial situation, and what other plans we had for our lives. It can be very difficult when our own feelings clash with each other. While we love these children and would never want for them what the alternative might be, we may also feel that if we had done a better job as parents raising the first batch, we wouldn't be doing this all over again. So as grandparents, our feelings might feel like a pot of goulash, everything mixed in together.

Other relative caregivers, such as aunts and uncles, may experience it

differently. Though they may be willing and even happy to step in and raise someone else's children, they know they didn't contribute to the parents' problems, so why are they picking up the pieces? Non grandparent caregivers do not usually deal with the guilt (warranted or not) of "what did *we* do wrong?"

Some situations might be very different than those described above. Grandparents and other relatives, may be raising children because of the death of a parent or because a parent is in the military and unable to have their children with them. This is becoming more common every day with devastating results.

Whatever our situation, one thing is clear; our lives have changed with the addition of someone else's children. The change may bring happiness or sad-

Great fun at Jingle Bell Holiday Party!

Thank you to all of our caregivers, volunteer's and Board member's for a wonderful children's party! It was great fun watching the kids make holiday ornaments, decorate cookies an sit on Santa's lap.

The Junior League of Napa/Sonoma, as usual brought wonderful volunteers to help set up and run the cookie decorating table (always a big hit at our parties.)

The league was also responsible for the terrific food prepared by the Pasta King, Art Ibletto. I don't know about you, but I LOVE his food!



The Volunteers from the Redwood Covenant Church were also a big hit with their ornament making table and we certainly appreciated their sticking around and helping with the take down and clean up of the room.

The party seemed so much more "friendly" and "homey" this year that we may just have it at the First United Methodist Church again next year. It seems to fit our group very well and gave us more room to spread out and have fun.