



ENRICHING THE COMMUNITY

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FOR FRIENDS OF
FAMILY ENRICHMENT NETWORK

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Kinship Care Program

The Kinship Care Program works with and supports adults who are raising someone else's children. Raising a child means taking on all the responsibilities for caring for a child, which includes feeding, clothing, education, health and well-being. Kinship caregivers can range from 19-year-old siblings to 80-year-old great-grandparents, with every sort of family member in between. Kinship caregivers can also be friends of the family, neighbors, coaches or teachers. In fact, any person known to the parent who steps up to take on the responsibilities of child rearing can be a kinship caregiver! Kinship Care is a family and friends network of care that exists outside of the formal foster care system.

The Kinship Care Program provides kinship caregivers with guidance and support as they address the challenges that come from taking on extra, and often unexpected, child rearing duties. The program staff assist families with applying for cash assistance from the Department of Social Services through a special grant specifically designed for kinship caregivers. The Kinship Care staff provide guidance with Family Court and up-to-date information on the legal rights of kinship caregivers and school enrollments, an informational help line and a friendly ear, as well as referrals to community resources and support groups. Services are provided for families in both Broome and Tioga Counties.

Family Enrichment Network has offered the Kinship Care Program to our community for the past 15 years, since November 2005. On average the Kinship Care Program has worked with 150 new families each year. Over the years the funding sources have changed but the mission has always remain the same - to help support and nurture kinship families who are raising some else's children.

To learn more about the Kinship Care Program, visit our website at www.familyenrichment.org or contact Deb Faulks, Family Support Services Director at 607-723-8313 x 821