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### OBJECTIVES

1. Identify unique challenges faced by grandparents raising grandchildren, other kinship caregivers, and the children in their care.
2. Examine specific kinship support strategies including enhanced outreach, family enrichment opportunities, peer networks, and emergency crisis funds.
3. Identify opportunities and potential partnerships within individual communities to support and provide services to kinship families.

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### KINSHIP FAMILIES

#### ▪ United States

- Approximately 2.6 million children (3.5% of U.S. children)
- Proportion has doubled since the 1970s

#### ▪ San Diego County

- Over 21,000 grandparents = living with / responsible for
- Approximately 5,000 grandparents = fully responsible for

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## KINSHIP FAMILIES

**Often, the situations that led to grandparents taking  
primary responsibility are not happy ones**

- Poverty
- Abuse
- Parental incarceration
- Drug addiction
- Illness and death



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## KINSHIP FAMILIES

**WHO ARE THESE RELATIVES?**

**Many are:**

- Older Adults over the age of 60
- On a Limited income
- Disabled
- African American or Hispanic



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## KINSHIP FAMILIES

**POTENTIAL CHALLENGES FOR KINSHIP FAMILIES**

- Financial stress
- Legal/Systems issues
- Insufficient or unaffordable respite
- Role changes
- Previous lives turned upside down
- Physical and mental health issues



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**KINSHIP FAMILIES**

**BENEFITS ASSOCIATED WITH FAMILY-BASED CARE**

- More frequent contact with parents
- Fewer negative emotions associated with removal from their homes
- Not moved as frequently
- Surrounded by people who love them

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**KINSHIP FAMILIES**

**KINSHIP SUPPORT SERVICES IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY**  
Identifying needs, resources, and solutions for  
**grandparents raising grandchildren**  
and other kinship caregivers



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**KINSHIP FAMILIES**

**PARTNERS**

▪ 2-1-1 San Diego	▪ Housing & Community Development
▪ Assertive Family Solutions	▪ Rose House Kinship Center
▪ Child Abuse Prevention Coordinating Council (CAPCC)	▪ San Diego County Office of Education
▪ Grandparent's Connection	▪ SAY San Diego
▪ Health & Human Services Agency	▪ YMCA Kinship Program

*And many more community organizations!*

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## KINSHIP FAMILIES

### STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- Partnership with 211

[www.211sandiego.org/grandparents](http://www.211sandiego.org/grandparents)

- Resource Handbook



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## KINSHIP FAMILIES

### OTHER STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- Outreach
- Service Provider Training
- Symposiums
- Respite Opportunities
- Family Enrichment Activities



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## KINSHIP FAMILIES

### YMCA KINSHIP SUPPORT PROGRAM

Funded by the Child Welfare Services and Aging & Independence Services departments of the County Health and Human Services Agency; Serve kinship caregivers throughout San Diego County

Services include:

- Navigation and Case Management
- Support Groups
- Respite Care
- Emergency Funding
- Family Activities



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**KINSHIP FAMILIES**

**NAVIGATION AND CASE MANAGEMENT**

- 7 Full-time Kinship Navigators and 3-6 part-time MSW Interns
- Home visiting and telephone support
- Assessment of needs and Case Plan development
- Information and referral
  - Guardianship and adoption
  - Public benefits
  - Childcare resources
  - Mental health services
  - School resources



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**KINSHIP FAMILIES**

**SUPPORT GROUPS**

- Weekly groups facilitated by a Kinship Navigator
- Provide peer support, mentoring, education, and resources
- Formal training (via partnership with Grossmont College Foster Adoptive & Kinship Care Education Program)
- Childcare
- Light meal



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**KINSHIP FAMILIES**

**RESPITE CARE**

Temporary break or rest for kinship caregivers (age 55 and over) via payment for:

- Childcare
- AM/PM care
- Day camps
- Overnight camps
- Special needs camps



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### KINSHIP FAMILIES

#### EMERGENCY FUNDS

One-time funding to purchase items or services that remove barriers to making or maintaining stable kinship placements.

Emergency funds are often used for:

- Cribs/Beds
- Dressers
- Pool Fences
- Security Deposits
- Rental Payments
- Childcare
- Utility Bills
- Baby supplies/clothing



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### KINSHIP FAMILIES

#### FAMILY ACTIVITIES

- Fun, free events for kinship caregivers and children
- Caregivers can bond with their own children and network with other caregivers in their community
- One per quarter in a different region of the county
- Examples include:
  - Horse of the Sun Ranch
  - Mission Trails Regional Park
  - Mission Bay Park BBQ
  - Chula Vista Nature Center



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### KINSHIP FAMILIES

#### ACCESSING KINSHIP SUPPORT SERVICES

You can help clients access Kinship Support Services by:

- Completing and submitting a referral form
- Giving out our flyer



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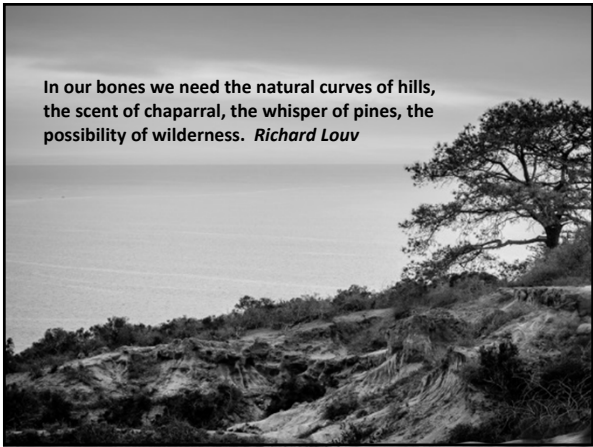
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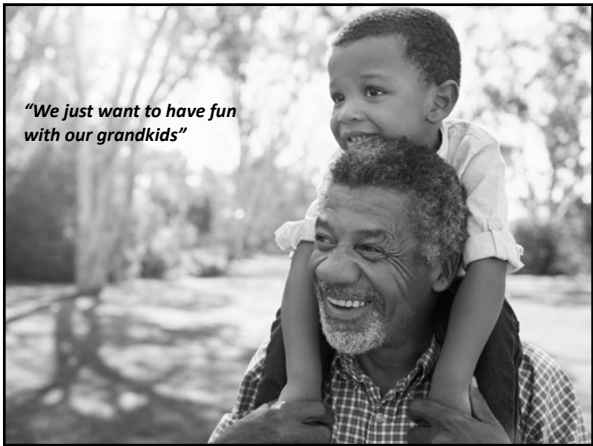
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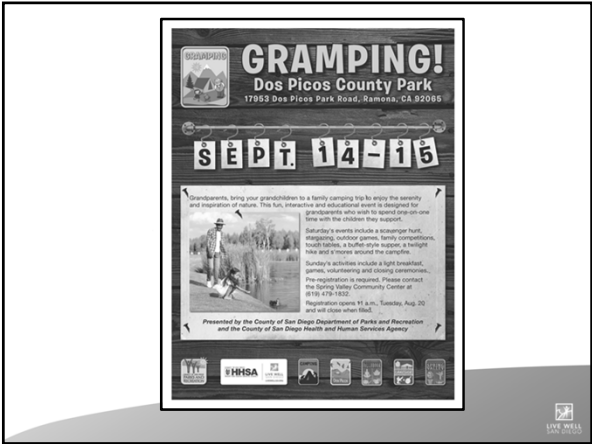
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**GRAMPERING ACTIVITY SCHEDULE  
FOR CHILDREN**

2:00-2:45 PM	Check In
2:45-3:00	Welcome
3:00-3:30	Arts and Crafts
3:30-4:30	Tie Die/Game Room
4:30-5:00	Nature Walk
5:00-6:00	Dinner
6:00-8:00	Pre-Game Activities for Movies in the Park
8:00-10:00	Movies in the Park showing <i>Coco</i>

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**GRAMPERING ACTIVITY SCHEDULE  
FOR KINSHIP CAREGIVERS**

2:00-2:45 PM

Check In

2:45-3:00

Welcome

3:00-3:30

Art Therapy

3:30-4:30

Yoga (and optional hair make-overs)

4:30-5:00

Nature Walk

5:00-6:00

Dinner

6:00-8:00

Pre- Game Activities for Movies in the Park

8:00-10:00

Movies in the Park showing *Coco*

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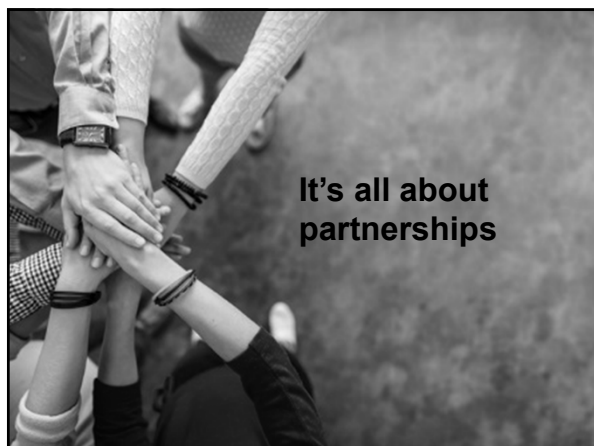
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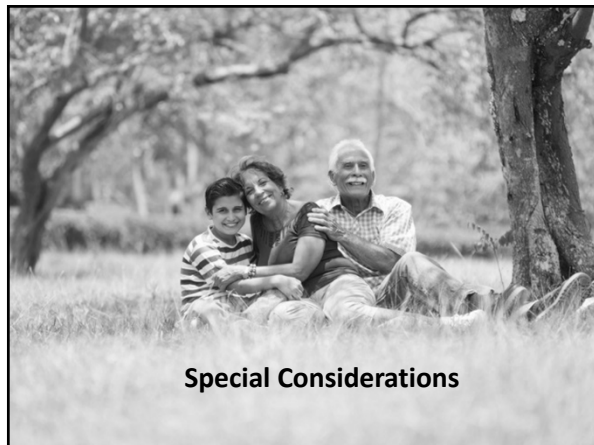
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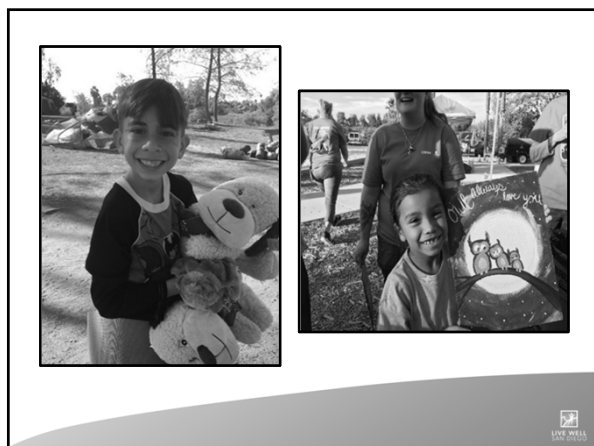
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**KINSHIP FAMILIES**

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

- **California**  
Kinship Support Services Program  
<http://www.edgewood.org/kssp/>  
1-800-KIN-0047
- **National**
  - Generations United  
[www.gu.org](http://www.gu.org)
  - Grandfamilies.org  
[www.grandfamilies.org](http://www.grandfamilies.org) (see State Fact Sheets under Resources)

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**KINSHIP FAMILIES**

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Health and Human Services Agency  
County of San Diego  
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