

# Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

## Silent Savors is Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Support Group

by Joan Wood, Pekin Public Library

The Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (Silent Savors) support group meeting was held in December. It's nice to see how the sets of grandparents are coming together. And one grandpa who has never said much is beginning to open up and talk a lot more. There are some warm and some heart breaking stories. One set of grandparents was able to bring the grandson they are raising and his sister (who they hadn't seen for 6 years) to Share the Magic and brought the folders to show. The little girl's magic wish was that they could be together at Christmas-and it looks like they will be able-to do it.

## RESEARCH New Resource on Grandparenting

### *Building a Theory of Grandparent Development*

by Robert Strom and Shirley Strom

The International Journal of Aging and Human Development, Volume 45, Number 4, 1997, 255-286

A theory of grandparent development is described that includes the formulation of assumptions, goals for guiding instruction, curriculum design, and a measurement tool to assess learning needs and evaluate the effects of educational intervention. Cultural considerations are illustrated by a three-generational study of African-American, Hispanic, and Caucasian subjects.

## Local support groups are helping with this growing dilemma

In Illinois, an estimated 70,000 children live with a grandparent or other relative. Reasons why parents are no longer primary caregivers may relate to drug and alcohol problems, child abuse, mental illness, and divorce.

A symposium on Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, sponsored by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois and the Illinois Department on Aging, was held to develop an action plan that will make life easier for grandparents raising grandchildren. Topics discussed related to custody, adoption, guardianship, juvenile justice, welfare reform and benefit eligibility.

One of the most positive outcomes of the Symposium was heightened awareness about the contributions of local support groups. Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Support Groups are found in Bloomington, Champaign, Chicago, Chicago Heights, Galesburg, Highland Park, Moline, Oak Park, Oregon, Peoria, Rockford, Round Lake, Schaumburg, Springfield, Waukegan and Wheaton. For further information contact The Senior HelpLine at 1-800-252-8966.

## Benefits for Grandparents and Grandchildren Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

From "Let's RAPP," A newsletter from the Central Illinois Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, Central Illinois Area Agency on Aging

When the child's parents are not in the home, the grandparents may receive the following benefits:

- Cash and medical assistance for the child

- Medical assistance for the grandparent (and spouse)

- Food stamps as a family unit

- Childcare

### Grandparents Raising Grandchildren A Look at the Issue

Tuesday March 3, 1 to 3 p.m.  
James R. Thompson Center,  
100 W. Randolph, Room 9-040  
Chicago

**Presenters:**  
Molly Hafer, Kay Mayberry and  
Camy Seguin, Cooperative Extension Educators

**Sponsored by the Task Force on Grandparents Raising Grandchildren in Illinois, the Illinois Department on Aging, and the University of Illinois Cooperative Extension Service**

### New Resource



### COOPERATIVE PARTNERSHIP CURRICULUM OUTLINE

from Human Services Technologies

A new manual describes Building Social Skills including the following topics

Unit One: Relationship Building

Unit Two: Self Esteem

Unit Three: Expressing Yourself

Unit Four: Cooperation

Unit Five: Conflict Management

Unit Six: Changes and Separation  
cost \$75.

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