



Riverside County Office on Aging



**Grandparents Raising Grandchildren  
Task Force Annual Report  
Fiscal Year 2006-2007**



**A Message from the  
Director  
Riverside County Office on Aging**

With the ongoing population growth in Riverside County we can expect to see an increase in the number of grandparents raising grandchildren. Fortunately, we are well positioned with our seasoned Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Task Force to address this.

The Task Force was convened almost ten years ago by the Advisory Council on Aging and the Office on Aging to address the Board of Supervisors directive that county programs address the needs of grandparent in a more coordinated manner. I would like to thank all of the Task Force chairs for their leadership and an extended thanks to our current and outgoing chair, Betty Rogers for her dedication and support to the program.

This is now a model statewide “best practice” with a track record of grandparent outreach and education, information and assistance, and case management. It has also become very effective at resolving more complex grandparent situations by using a multidisciplinary approach.

From the Office on Aging perspective, grandparents raising their grandchildren are a treasured resource deserving respect, support and assistance. They are dedicated to guiding their grandchildren into a future filled with opportunity and hope.

It has been my privilege and pleasure to initiate the program and to serve with our many partners who make it an ongoing success. I know that the Office on Aging will continue its leadership and dedication to this cause into the future for as long as the need exists.

*Lu Molberg*  
*Director*

## Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Statistics



- ✧ In 2000, according to the most recent US Census a grandparent was responsible for raising grandchildren in nearly 40 percent of the 45,000 Riverside County households which are composed of grandparents living with one or more grandchild under 18.
- ✧ In Riverside County it is estimated that one child in five is living with grandparents.
- ✧ The National Center on Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, cites the US Census report that of the 294,969 grandparents in California who are responsible for their grandchildren, 21.7 percent live in poverty.
- ✧ AARP found that 11 percent of grandparents over 50 are caregivers, specifically, 8 percent are providing day care and 3 percent are raising a grandchild.

## Grandparents Raising Grandchildren: Community Concerns and Priority Needs

In many grandparents raising grandchildren households the parents cannot or will not care for the children due to substance abuse, illness and death, emotional/physical abuse and neglect, economic hardship, incarceration, divorce, domestic violence, and other family and community crises.

The following priority needs were identified by the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Task Force and continue to be top priority needs of grandparents raising grandchildren.



## Background and Purpose

The **Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Task Force** (aka Task Force), created by the Riverside County Board of Supervisors, was first convened by the Office on Aging and the Advisory Council on Aging in October 1998. The Task Force was directed by the Board of Supervisors to identify a central point of access for grandparents into the county service system, and to address and resolve problems and issues being experienced by grandparents raising children. The Task Force has been active since inception and continues to report back to the Board on an annual basis.



### Task Force Subcommittees

The purpose of the **Legislative/Systems Change Committee** is to identify legislative, regulatory, and general barriers, along with existing program gaps that impact direct services for grandparents raising their grandchildren, and propose changes to reduce the various barriers and close the gaps.

The purpose of the **Program and Public Relations Committee** is to develop a work plan to assess the needs of grandparents raising grandchildren, and provide information, education, and leveraging of resources to meet their on-going family needs.

## Key Activity Highlights of the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Task Force and Subcommittees Fiscal Year 2006-2007

- **The** Legislative Systems Change Committee is dedicated to finding a solution to grandparents' problems so that future grandparents will not face the same barriers over and over again. During this past fiscal year of 06/07, the committee was successful in addressing cross reporting and guardianship issues.
- **Outreach efforts** with local law enforcement and (CPS) Child Protective Services have resulted in an increase in the number of cases being cross reported to CPS by local law enforcement. It has also **increased law enforcement's knowledge and awareness of grandparents raising grandchildren issues.**
- Committee Members **advocated** on behalf of grandparents in the local Hemet courts which resulted in **guardianship fees** for grandparents with grandchildren ages 14 and older being **waived in the Hemet court system.**



- **Legislative Systems Change Committee members participated in legislation meetings in Sacramento** and were able to speak on behalf of grandparents raising grandchildren. They attended senate select hearings for 07/08 and were on hand to watch Governor Shwarzenegger sign bills associated with grandparents raising grandchildren and related caregivers.
- The **Legislative Systems Change Committee** was also responsible for **producing the new Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Resource and Information Guide** which was released in May 2006. Committee members researched, collected and assembled information, resources, charts and phone numbers to make this a navigation tool through complex and often fragmented services to better assist this growing population.
- The **Program and Public Relations Committee** **developed and distributed a quarterly newsletter focusing on key issues and priorities** facing grandparents raising their grandchildren. The newsletters also included information on health and nutrition tips, upcoming Task Force meetings, and support group meetings, as well as providing local resources for grandparents raising grandchildren. An average of 1,400 newsletters were distributed quarterly.



- ◆ Outreach strategies were developed and implemented by the **Program & Public Relations Committee**. The Committee planned and organized the biannual **September 2006 Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Forum**. The purpose of these biannual forums is to provide an opportunity to **inform, acknowledge, and commend** grandparents for their commitment in raising their grandchildren. A **blue ribbon report was generated** after the forum compiling existing barriers/gaps and issues identified through a survey that was distributed to those in attendance. This report will be a useful tool to educate key community stakeholders regarding the special needs/issues of grandparents raising their grandchildren, along with providing recommendations for future advocacy, coordination, and education.
  
- ◆ The **Program and Public Relations Committee** organized a **Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Desert Resource Fair in May 2007** which launched the **Resource & Information Guide**. This was well received in the desert area by grandparents raising grandchildren as well as county and community agencies. The fair was held in Indio and there was a grandparent who took the Greyhound bus from Blythe round trip to be on hand for these valuable resources. Some of the agencies in attendance were: Community Action, Older Adults Mental Health, Riverside County Office on Education, Office on Aging, Inland Counties Legal Services.



## Highlights of the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program Fiscal Year 2006-2007

The Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Task Force would like to recognize some of the highlights of the Office on Aging' Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program:

In January 2007, the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program **received an eighteen month contract for child care/respice from First 5 Riverside.** This funding is so crucial for working grandparents who find themselves forced back into the working arena to provide for themselves and their grandchildren. This funding also provides respice for non-working grandparents. The program is grateful to have received this funding again to provide this much needed service for grandparents.



The Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program was **awarded funding for after school care** for grandchildren **ages 6-12** by the **Morongo Band of Mission Indians** for the fiscal year beginning July 2006 through June 2007. Grandparents were overjoyed for this funding, because for the first time, the program was able to help with child care for an entire family as opposed to just children ages 0 through 5.

# A Tree of Support



- ◆ The **Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Forum** in September was a very special and informative event. This is an occasion the grandparents always look forward to and make special effort to be in attendance. The **theme** of last year's forum was "**A Tree of Support**" which **showcased available resources for grandparents raising grandchildren in Riverside County**. The Forum was presented in a panel format with several county agencies giving an overview of services offered. Following each of the presentations, the audience was given a chance to ask questions of the panel. Grandparents in attendance appeared to have gained a better understanding of the resources available in Riverside County and were commended for their commitment to their grandchildren.

- ♦ The **Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program** in partnership with Kin Care planned, organized, and held a **Christmas Party** at the San Jacinto Community Center for grandparents and their grandchildren. Supervisor Jeff Stone acknowledged and commended all the grandparents in attendance for their hard work and commitment. The event, which was well attended, included mariachi dancers, a magician, and of course Santa Claus. The grandchildren received gifts that were graciously donated by Supervisor Stone's office, the Elks Lodge, and local merchants.

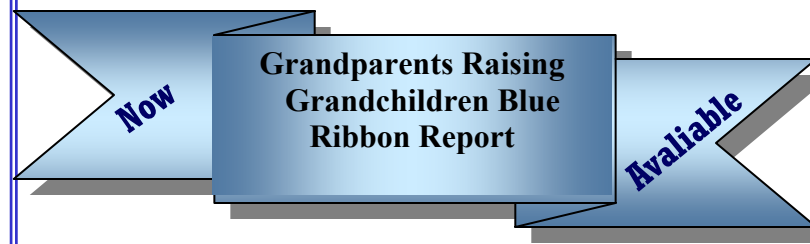
### **Future Activities**

The **Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Task Force** will continue its commitment to address issues facing grandparents, and to find additional resources and funding to assist grandparents raising grandchildren in Riverside County.

The Riverside County Office on Aging's **2005-2009 Strategic Plan, "Strength in Aging,"** identifies **Caregivers, which includes grandparents raising their grandchildren, as a priority issue.** The goal of the Caregiver priority is to sustain / improve support systems for all caregivers who are assisting seniors, adults with disabilities, or their grandchildren, so that family stability is enhanced and community resources are maximized.

Key activities planned for Fiscal Year 2006-2007 include, but are not limited to:

- \* Develop and implement a campaign to distribute the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Resource and Information Guide.
- \* Expand Outreach to include grandparents raising grandchildren in undeserved areas of Riverside County.
- \* Continue to coordinate and to address changing/emerging needs and make appropriate influences on the service delivery system, including educating public social workers and mental health workers countywide on issues of ageism related to grandparents raising grandchildren.
- \* The continued development and distribution of the quarterly Grandparents Raising Grandchildren newsletter.
- \* Continued collaboration with key County stakeholders to address emerging needs and make appropriate influences on the County's service delivery system.





## Warmline Statistics Fiscal Year 2006—2007 \*

### Total Calls

<b>July</b>	109	<b>January</b>	90
<b>August</b>	128	<b>February</b>	82
<b>September</b>	105	<b>March</b>	90
<b>October</b>	117	<b>April</b>	92
<b>November</b>	109	<b>May</b>	82
<b>December</b>	105	<b>June</b>	67

**Total: 1176**

**Average Monthly Calls: 98**

### Percentage of Calls by City/Area:

Month	Riverside	Hemet	Moreno Valley	Desert	Southwest	Other
Jul	26 %	17 %	14 %	11 %	20 %	12 %
Aug	26 %	17 %	17 %	21 %	14 %	5 %
Sept	20 %	16 %	22 %	16 %	14 %	12 %
Oct	32 %	13 %	9 %	17 %	15 %	14 %
Nov	32 %	24 %	8 %	8 %	23 %	5 %
Dec	18 %	9 %	30 %	14 %	13 %	16 %
Jan	14 %	18 %	14 %	14 %	18 %	8 %
Feb	21 %	14 %	12 %	7 %	24 %	11 %
Mar	24 %	11 %	13 %	10 %	22 %	10 %
Apr	16 %	16 %	8 %	10 %	17 %	11 %
May	12 %	15 %	9 %	10 %	21 %	20 %
June	20 %	16 %	10 %	11 %	15 %	12 %
<b>Averages</b>	<b>22 %</b>	<b>16 %</b>	<b>14 %</b>	<b>12 %</b>	<b>18 %</b>	<b>11 %</b>

## Calls by Topic

**2006**

<u>Topic:</u>	<u>Jul</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Sep</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Nov</u>	<u>Dec</u>
WarmLine	52	67	52	69	51	53
Foster Care	9	10	6	7	10	7
Kinship	3	3	4	1	11	5
Other	35	37	22	28	31	34

**2007**

<u>Topic:</u>	<u>Jan</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Mar</u>	<u>Apr</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Jun</u>	<u>Averages</u>
WarmLine	50	47	53	47	50	38	48
Foster Care	9	13	6	11	10	6	9
Kinship	15	5	8	7	2	3	7
Other	7	9	9	10	7	6	8



\* Warmline Statistics were furnished by Department of Public Social Services, Warmline Program.

## Task Force Members

**Chair:** Betty Rogers, Advisory Council on Aging

**Past Chair:** Mary Blankenship, Advisory Council on Aging

**Board of Supervisor Grandparent Representatives:**

District I – Betty Rogers

District II – Billie DeVol

District III – Fran Vigil

District IV – Phyllis M. McGraw, Ph.D.

District V – Carolyn Bradford

**Elected Officials:**

Senator Hollingsworth Staff

Supervisor Buster, District I

Supervisor Tavaglione, District II

Supervisor Stone, District III

Supervisor Wilson, District IV

Supervisor Ashley, District V

Tom Rogers

Wendy Kolk

Anne Stephens

Robin Reid

Elizabeth Romero

Brenda Salas

**Riverside County Departments:**

Adult Protective Services

Adult Protective Services

Child Support Services

Court, Family

Court, Juvenile Probation

Court, Superior Court Probate

District Attorney, Family Support

DPSS/CalWorks/Medi-Cal

DPSS/Child Protective Services

DPSS/Child Protective Services

DPSS/Child Protective Services

DPSS/Foster Care

DPSS/Warmline

Head Start

Mental Health

Mental Health Substance Abuse

Office on Aging/FCSP

Office of Education

Public Health Nurse

Sheriff's Department

Mark Sellers

Mary Lou Parker

Joan Del Villar

Vacant

Rosa Strang

Arlene Degen

Bonita Garba

Virginia Irvin

Susan Mahoney

Allison Donahoe-Beggs

Cynthia Marez

Teresa Hendricks

Courtney Barzandeh

Vacant

Debbie LeFevre

Idonia Davis

Mary Hrinko

Patti Hafner

Nicole Boyd

Captain Darryl Birney



**Community Agencies/Organizations:**

Community Action Agency	Mary Price
First 5 Riverside	Vacant
Kin Care	Trish Lande
Renu Hope Foundation	Pam Wright
Riverside County	
Foundation On Aging	Vacant
Valley Wide Park & Recreation	Gayle Hepner

**Education:**

Hemet Unified School District – Sylvia Ortiz  
Hemet Unified School District—Nellie Romero  
UC Riverside, Moreno Valley – Chutima Ganthavorn, Ph.D.

**Grandparent Support Group Leaders:**

Hemet – Linda Grant & Fran Vigil  
Idyllwild – Jane & Sid Acton  
Mead Valley – John Clark  
Moreno Valley – Josie LaFata  
Perris – Lorena Melendez

**Office on Aging Staff:**

Director	Lu Molberg
Deputy Director, Senior Programs	Ed Walsh
GRG* Program Manager	Valerie Wheat
GRG* Social Worker	Chalon Perrell



\* Grandparents Raising Grandchildren



## **Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program**

### **Riverside County Office on Aging**

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### **Hemet Senior Service Center**

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Hemet, CA 92543

(951) 791-3573

[www.rcaging.org](http://www.rcaging.org)

[www.riverside.networkofcare.org](http://www.riverside.networkofcare.org)

Funding for this report was provided by the Office on  
Aging through the Older Americans Act/Family  
Caregiver Program