



Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program



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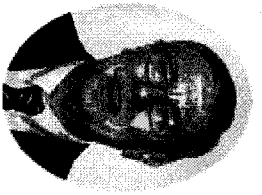


Riverside County Office on Aging



Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Task Force Annual Report Fiscal Year 2008-2009





**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. Based on U.S. Census 2005-2007 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates, 17,604 grandchildren under the age of 18 in Riverside County are living in grandparent-headed households where the grandparent is responsible for the grandchild's care. The priority needs of grandparents raising grandchildren were identified through public forums, surveys, focus groups, and other activities of the Office on Aging Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Task Force during the Office on Aging's 2009-2012 Strategic Plan Development. Some of the top priorities identified include: education, respite care, affordable and available child care, special needs resources and financial assistance. Fortunately, we are well positioned with our seasoned Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Task Force to address these priorities.

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. The Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Task Force is committed to resolving the issues grandparents face and finding new resources to assist them in their care giving duties.

Community Agencies/Organizations:

First 5 Riverside	Carol Abella
Kin Care	Mary Snow
Renu Hope Foundation	Pam Wright
Riverside County	
Foundation On Aging	Vacant

Education:

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

Grandparent Support Group Leaders:

Hemet— Mary Snow
Moreno Valley— Josie LaFata
Perris— Lorena Melendez
Riverside— Cindy Claffin

Office on Aging Staff:

Director	Ed Walsh
Deputy Director, Senior Programs	Michele Haddock
Coordinated Care Programs Manager	Vikki Neugebauer
GRG* Program Manager	Valerie Wheat
GRG* Social Worker	Chalon Perrell
GRG* Child Care Coordinator	Dorothy Hogans-Murphy
GRG* Office Assistant	Carmen M. Cornejo



* Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

Task Force Members

Chair: Phyllis M. McGraw, Ph.D., Advisory Council on Aging

Board of Supervisor Grandparent Representatives:

- District I – Pending
- District II – Donna Johnston
- 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 Stone, District III.
- Supervisor Wilson, District IV
- Supervisor Ashley, District V
- Tom Rogers
- Debbie Walsh
- Karen Christensen
- Robin Reid
- Opal Hellweg
- Elizabeth Romero
- Barry Busch

Riverside County Departments:

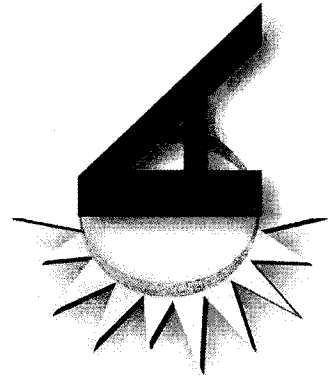
- Adult Protective Services
- Child Support Services
- Court, Family
- Court, Juvenile Probation
- Court, Superior Court Probate
- District Attorney, Family Support
- DPSS/CalWorks/Medi-Cal
- DPSS/Child Protective Services
- DPSS/Child Protective Services
- DPSS/Child Protective Services
- DPSS/Foster Care
- DPSS/Warmline
- Head Start
- Mental Health
- Mental Health Substance Abuse
- Office on Aging/FCSP
- Office of Education
- Public Health Nurse
- Sheriff's Department
- Lue Thao
- Joan Del Villar
- Vacant
- Rosa Strang
- Arlene Degen
- Bonita Garba
- Marcetta Brewster
- Allison Donahoe-Beggs
- Susan Mahoney
- Renita Lewis
- Teresa Hendricks
- Earl Jones
- Vacant
- Debbie LeFevre
- Idonia Davis
- Mary Hrinko
- Jill Johnson
- Stephanie Bryant
- Gerardo Barba



Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Task Force has had a very successful and productive year, and is proud of its progress and accomplishments. Effective coordination across departments and with community agencies is the key to the success of the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program. The Task Force is responsive to the increasing demand for supportive services for the rapidly expanding number of grandparents raising grandchildren in Riverside County.

It has been my privilege and pleasure 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.

Ed Walsh
Director



Quick Facts on Grandparents Raising Grandchildren



❖ There are 625,934 children living in grandparent-headed households (6.8% of all children in the state). There are another 327,623 children living in households headed by other relatives (3.5% of all the children in the state). Of the children living in households headed by grandparents or other relatives in CA, 389,631 are living there without either parent present.
(Source: GrandFacts— California, October 2007).

❖ Thirty-nine percent of grandparent caregivers have been responsible for most of the basic needs of their grandchildren for five years or more; 15% for three to four years; and 23% for one to two years.
(Source: Generations United, Fact Sheet, "Grandfamilies: Challenges of Care for the Second Family" - July 2007.)

❖ According to the National Center on Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, 21.7 percent of the 294,969 grandparents in California who are responsible for their grandchildren, live in poverty.

Calls by Topic

2008	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
Topic:							
WarmLine	24	28	16	21	15	14	
Foster Care	7	3	1	5	4	4	
Kinship	3	3	13	17	5	8	
Other	8	15	7	7	3	6	
2009							
Topic:							
WarmLine	Jan 11	Feb 11	Mar 16	Apr 17	May 11	Jun 11	Averages 16
Foster Care	5	4	2	2	6	0	4
Kinship	6	1	2	1	6	4	6
Other	8	6	7	3	7	9	7



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

Warmline Statistics Fiscal Year 2008 — 2009*

Total Calls	
July	47
August	61
September	42
October	58
November	27
December	32
January	34
February	24
March	28
April	23
May	30
June	24

Total: 430

Average Monthly Calls: 36

Percentage of Calls by City/Area:

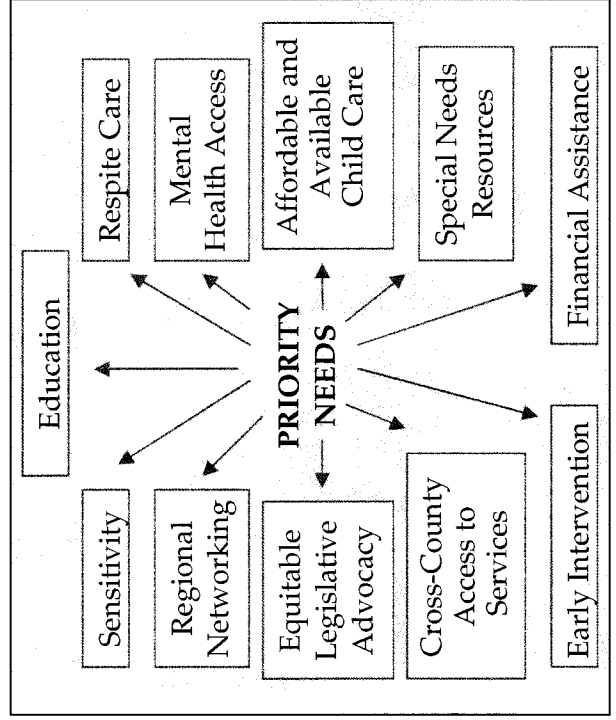
Month	Moreno Valley					Desert Southwest	+ Other
	Riverside	Hemet	Valley	Southwest	Other		
Jul	21%	15%	6%	12%	2%	13%	
Aug	25%	8%	11%	4%	0%	7%	
Sept	24%	6%	14%	11%	0%	5%	
Oct	16%	9%	17%	12%	2%	7%	
Nov	15%	15%	18%	3%	7%	0%	
Dec	15%	9%	6%	15%	0%	6%	
Jan	12%	6%	9%	22%	6%	15%	
Feb	16%	8%	12%	12%	16%	8%	
Mar	19%	18%	14%	17%	0%	0%	
Apr	22%	9%	9%	16%	4%	17%	
May	20%	10%	23%	3%	6%	7%	
June	12%	12%	33%	0%	4%	4%	
Averages	18%	10%	14%	10%	4%	7%	

+ Outside County

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren: Community Concerns and Priority Needs

In many grandparent 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 priority needs of grandparents raising grandchildren were identified through public forums, surveys, focus groups, and other activities of the Office on Aging's 2009-2012 Strategic Plan Development. Some of the top priorities identified include:



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 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 to 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.

- ❖ Expand support groups for the **Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program** countywide.
- ❖ Expand **outreach** to underserved grandparents raising grandchildren in **Riverside County**, such as: the limited English speaking; residents of rural areas; and disabled who are currently underserved.
- ❖ Organize and coordinate a countywide series of **regionalized training seminars** and/or collaborative expert **resource fairs** related to issues facing grandparents raising grandchildren.



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.

Key activities planned for Fiscal Year 2009-2010 include, but are not limited to:

- ❖ Advocate, with federal, state, and local officials and key community stakeholders to **expand** information and assistance and care management services for elders, **grandparents raising grandchildren** and other relative caregivers, and individuals with disabilities.
- ❖ Continue coordination efforts with Board of Supervisor representatives, local officials, County departments, Riverside County Youth Commission, Child Protective Services, Adult Protective Services, and other key community networks, such as California Family Life Center—Kin Care to address changing/emerging needs and make appropriate influences on the service delivery.



Key Activity Highlights of the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

Task Force and Subcommittees

Legislative Systems Change Committee

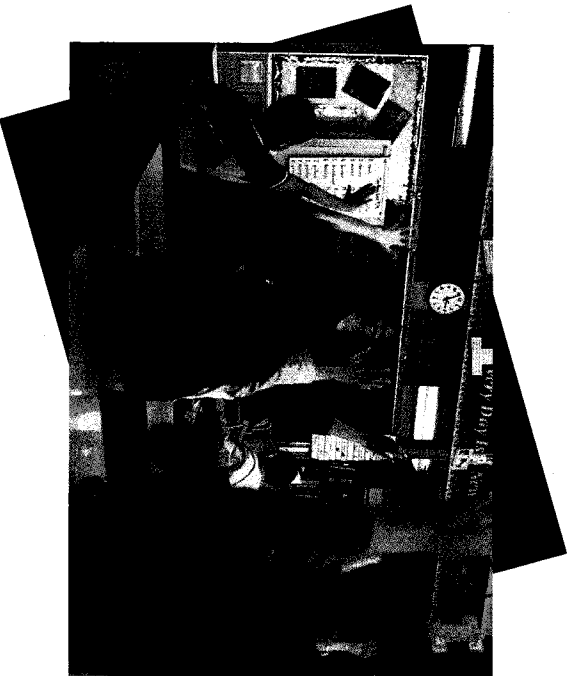
❖ The Legislative Systems Change Committee at the beginning of the fiscal year 2008-2009 realized that in order for the committee to continue its mission to identify and address legislative barriers that grandparents raising grandchildren encounter, more legislative representation would be needed on the committee. The Legislative Systems Change Committee now has representatives from Congresswoman Bono Mack's office, Congressman Calvert, Assemblyman Jeffries, and State Assemblyman Nestande offices. This was legislative triumph for the committee, and the support from these offices is invaluable in resolving grandparent issues.

❖ Committee members were able to inform grandparents that on **October 7, 2008** the president signed into law the **Fostering Connections to**

Success and Increasing Adoptions Act (HR 6893). HR 6893 is the biggest foster care reform there has been in a very long time. For the first time federal foster care assistance will be available for kinship and relative caregivers.



❖ The Legislative Systems Change Committee has been working diligently with **Riverside County Office of Education** to resolve the issue of some schools refusing to acknowledge the **caregiver affidavit**. A caregiver affidavit is a legal document that allows a caregiver to enroll the child in school. The caregiver can also make decisions about the child's medical, dental or mental health care. The issue in Riverside County is the fact that there are so many different versions of the caregiver affidavit in circulation. The Committee now has a representative from Riverside County Office of Education (RCOE) on board that has helped immensely to deal with this matter.



Program Holiday Highlights

During the month of December 2008, the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program received generous donations from Riverside County Information Technology (IT) Department, United States Marine Corps and Toys for Tots, the Assistance League of Hemacinto, and Home Instead Senior Care. The donations of money and toys made it possible for grandparent families in Riverside County to enjoy a festive holiday season.



Thanks to these wonderful donations, the program handed out toys, gifts, and food cards to grandparents at the **James O. Jessie Desert Unity Highland Center in Palm Springs** for families living in the surrounding desert areas. The program also did the same at the **Office on Aging** for grandparents living in the **Moreno Valley** and **Perris** areas. Grandparents came and picked up bags of toys and goodies for their families and were so appreciative of this **much needed assistance** at this time of the year.

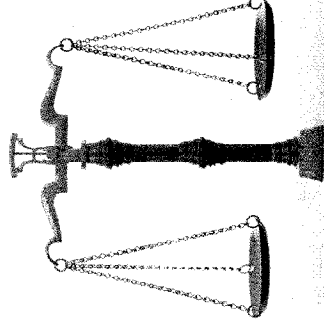


In **May 2009**, the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program was invited to hold a workshop at the **36th Annual Mental Health Conference** sponsored by Family Service Association. The **Office on Aging** video was presented which gives an **overview of services** and programs including the **Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program**. The mental health professionals in attendance received valuable knowledge and resources to help them with the grandparents they deal with in their programs.

Support groups play an invaluable role in **empowering** grandparents to deal with the challenges of raising their grandchildren. The Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program offers support groups throughout Riverside County to fulfill this need for grandparents. Due to a very successful partnership with **Riverside County Mental Health Department**, in **April 2009** the program established an **evening support group** in the city of **Riverside** which has been a long range goal of the program.

There are support groups that meet at various locations throughout the County. For information on support groups, interested parties are urged to contact the GRG Program at (951) 791-3573. The support groups are facilitated by a variety of individuals who volunteer their time. Their experience ranges from being a Peer Support Counselor with Riverside County Mental Health to individuals who are raising their own grandchildren with special needs. Each facilitator brings their own expertise and wealth of knowledge to the table to benefit the grandparents.

The issue was added to the **Welfare and Attendance (CWA) Task Force** meeting agenda for review, which the committee was very pleased at this outcome, because at this meeting there are school officials along with Riverside County Office of Education (RCOE) personnel in attendance. After lengthy discussions, the Legislative Systems Change Committee was **successful in securing a contact within Riverside County Office of Education (RCOE)** for the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program staff to refer all caregiver affidavit issues and concerns. This contact will be able to deal directly with the specific school involved and **resolve the issue**.



- ❖ Committee members are working on **addressing the inequities between foster care and non-need relative assistance**. Legislation is the key in dealing with such a big issue. The committee outlined steps that would be needed to implement changes in the system.

The Program and Public Relations Committee

❖ 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, and local resources for grandparents raising grandchildren. An average of 1,600 newsletters were distributed quarterly during this fiscal year, a significant increase from last year.

❖ The Program & Public Relations Committee held two "Make Food Safe for Seniors" workshops located in Palm Springs and Temecula. The main teaching components covered included what is food-borne illness, the four basic rules of food safety and the proper use of thermometers to cook and chill foods. All those in attendance received a notebook with food safety materials and references on how to store, cook, and serve food safely. Based on the results from the "Health Program Survey"



taken in April 2008, resources on nutrition were one of the topics grandparents wanted to see the program address, so the committee was quick to respond to this request.

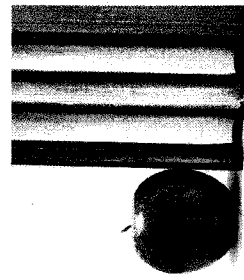


In April 2009, the program staff made a presentation to (30) middle and high school counselors at Desert Sands Unified School District. The counselors received resources to assist them in dealing with grandchildren being raised by their grandparents, and they now have the information on a program for grandparents that they could refer them to for support. Among the resources given to the counselors was the book entitled "How to Raise Emotionally Healthy Children" by Gerald Newmark, Ph.D. This book discusses the five critical needs of children and provides parenting tools to help create a positive family atmosphere where children and parents thrive. This resource was enthusiastically welcomed by all in attendance.



Community education and outreach continue to play a valuable part in getting the word out about the program to grandparents and agencies.

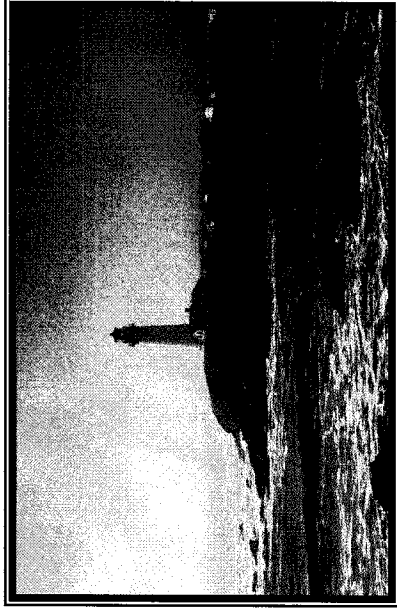
In November 2008, the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program was a presenter at the California Association of Area Agencies on Aging (C4A) conference in Los Angeles. It was a wonderful opportunity to showcase this valuable program to area agencies interested in starting a program for grandparents raising grandchildren.



School teachers and counselors are always in contact with grandparents and their grandchildren, therefore making them aware of program services is so vital in connecting with grandparent families.

The Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program makes sure that their program literature is always on hand at all of the school districts in Riverside County, and outreach to teachers and counselors is an invaluable tool in linking grandparents to available resources.

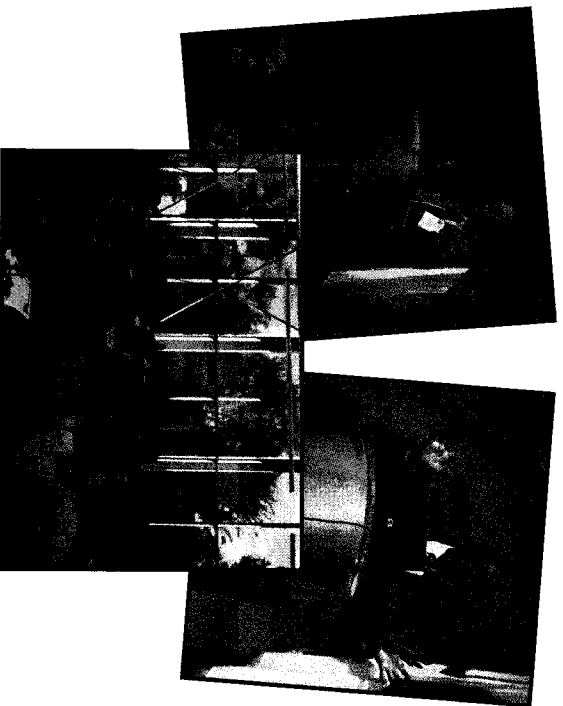
In March 2009, the Grandparents Raising Children Program staff attended the Educational Parent Summit at Boulder Ridge Middle School in Homeland. That area of the county has a large number of grandparent families and the teachers and counselors were thrilled to receive brochures and flyers that they could give to grandparents in need of services.



- ❖ Outreach strategies were developed and implemented by the Program & Public Relations Committee. The Committee planned and organized the biannual **October 2008 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



The theme of the forum was "Lighting the Way through the Sea of Special Education". The majority of grandparents raising grandchildren deal with special education issues, therefore the forum's focus was on special education and the challenges grandparents face when dealing with the educational needs of their grandchildren with special needs. The keynote address, "How to Navigate through the Special Education System" was delivered by Dr. Arthur Murray, a retired Director of Special Education and a volunteer advocate for children with special needs. Dr. Murray is also raising a grandchild with special needs. He was able to impart valuable information on navigating the special education system because of his professional and personal background in dealing with children with special needs.



During the 2008-2009 fiscal year some of the cases that were reviewed at the **Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT)** includes issues such as grandparents dealing with severe health problems with no permanency plan for their grandchildren, children with severe mental health problems where action was needed to protect the client, assistance in obtaining services and legal documents for children, and assistance in obtaining medical care including referrals to medical specialists such as a neurologist. Services also include connecting the GRG social worker with services for severely abused children who had never received treatment or therapy in dealing with their issues. Some of the cases involve children that have moved from other counties and other states, in which obtaining records is extremely difficult, but team members work together with their partners in other counties and states to obtain the assistance needed. In one such case the biological parent involved called from out of state to thank the **GRG social worker** for all of the hard work being done to assist his mother in raising his child. Without the intervention of the GRG program and the **Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT)** he and his family would still be looking for assistance. The input and assistance from the **Multi-Disciplinary (MDT)** members has generated positive changes in the lives of the grandparent families served, further reaffirming the value of the **Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT)** in the **Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program**.

Grandparents often find themselves in complex situations with a number of concerns to address. The Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program has a **Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT)** to assist the program social worker with the more complex grandparent raising grandchildren cases.



The **Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT)** assists and intervenes as necessary in order to resolve situations as they arise. The members of this team serve from a variety of county agencies; Riverside County Adult Protective Services (APS), Riverside County Child Protective Services (CPS), Riverside County Mental Health, Riverside County Department of Public Health, and Riverside County Probation Department. This work would not be possible without the assistance of our community partners.

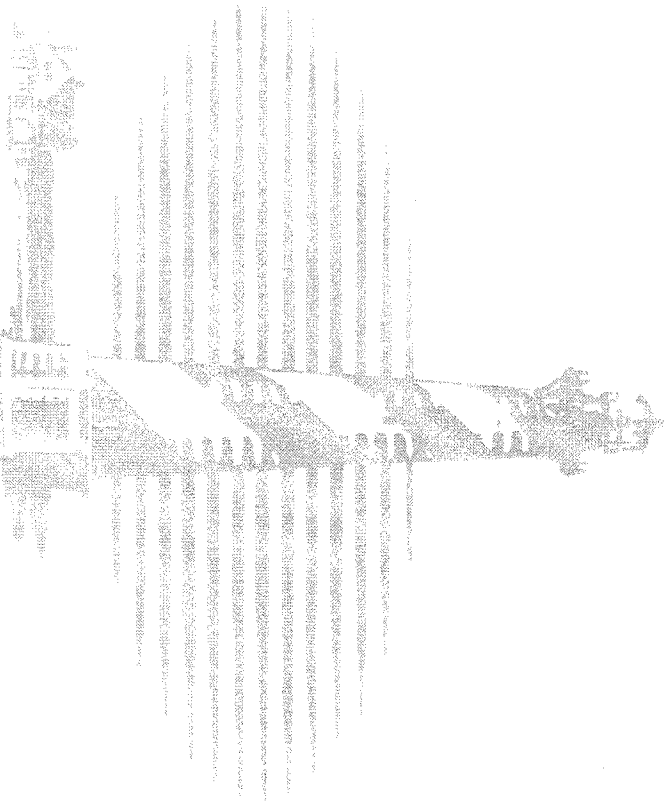


One of the highlights of the Forum was the celebration of the **10th anniversary** of the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Task Force and Program. Past and present Task Force Chairs, Advisory Council members and the Board of Supervisors were recognized and honored for their dedication and support of the program. The Task Force and Program are now recognized as **statewide "best practice" models**, with a consistent track record of providing **outreach and education, information and assistance, and care management** to grandparents raising grandchildren.



Forum Outcomes

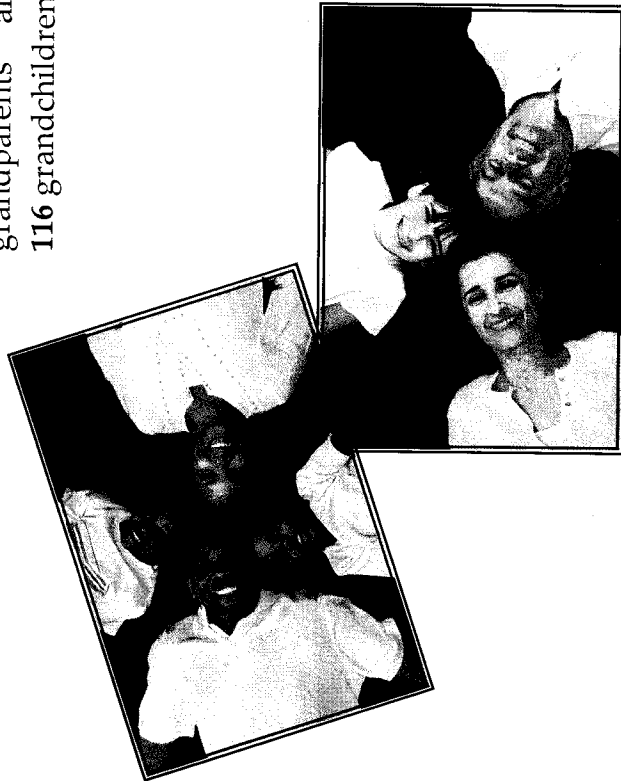
Grandparents raising grandchildren that attended the Forum had the opportunity to gain a better understanding of the special education resources available in **Riverside County** and learn ways to more effectively navigate through the education system. Grandparents in attendance received a booklet entitled, "Special Education Advocacy for Caregivers," a book entitled, "How to Raise Emotionally Healthy Children;" and the **Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Resource Guide**.



As a result of **care management**, many grandparents have **successfully filed for legal guardianship** and are able to provide a safe, nurturing and stable environment for their grandchildren. A majority of the grandchildren being raised by grandparents have been victims of severe abuse and neglect and as a result of the abuse were in great need of mental health services. Through the process of care management, these **children were evaluated, diagnosed** and given the proper, **mental health treatment** needed to address their issues. Clients have been assisted in obtaining the special education services needed for their grandchildren to progress successfully in school, reducing the risk of retention in the school system. The **GRG social worker** has been able to **help grandparents obtain financial assistance** through the Department of Social Services (DPSS) Cal-Works. The **support and advocacy** given to clients through the GRG care management services address an array of issues and the result is grandparents are linked to applicable resources and services as well as **gaining empowerment** to deal with their challenges.



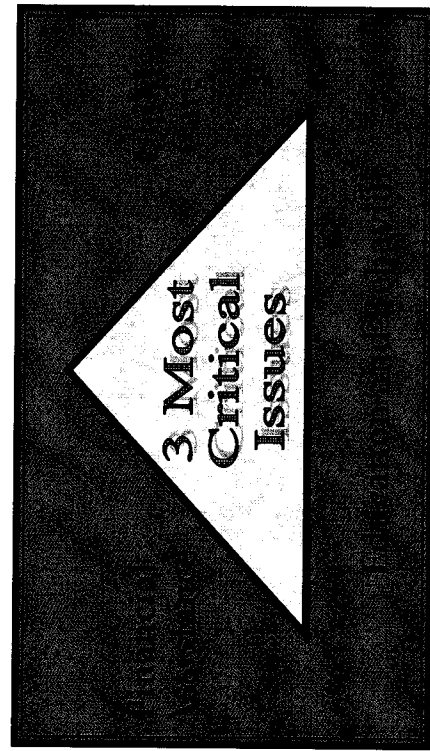
Another valuable service offered by the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (GRG) Program is **care management handled by a social worker**. During this fiscal year, the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program received over **330** telephone calls requesting assistance. Common concerns addressed were: housing issues due to foreclosures, rental, utility and financial assistance, child care for grandchildren, legal guardianship, and assistance with special needs children and children with severe mental health needs. The Grandparents Raising Grandchildren social worker is able to provide care management through an in-depth assessment of each grandparent to determine their needs and develop a care plan to resolve their issues. During the fiscal year **2008-2009**, **GRG care management services** served more than **53** grandparents and **116** grandchildren.

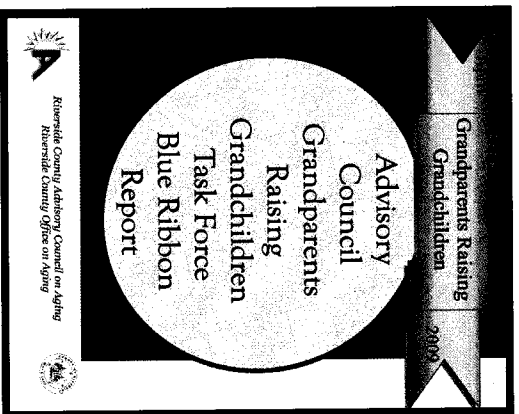


Survey

At the forum, each attendee was asked to complete a confidential survey to help identify issues they are dealing with on a daily basis. Out of **154** surveys distributed, **95** were returned and data compiled.

Grandparents raising grandchildren respondents were asked to identify the **3 most critical issues** they have been faced with during the past year, and which they feel need the most improvement. A review of the **135** critical issues provided showed that there were a great number of similarities in the responses; therefore, similar issues were tallied, combined and placed under major categories. The **major categories** used included: **Child Care; Education and Behavior; Financial Assistance; Housing; Legal; and Miscellaneous Assistance**. Based on the totals for each of the major categories, the **top 3 most critical issues** grandparents raising grandchildren respondents have been faced with during the past year are: **1) financial assistance; 2) child care; and 3) education and behavior**.





❖ **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. Also included in the blue ribbon report were updated demographic data and priority needs related to grandparents raising grandchildren, results of a "Health Program Survey for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren", which includes **vital statistics** and information on the **health and nutrition** of grandparents raising grandchildren families. This blue ribbon report is now available on the Office on Aging website, www.rcaging.org. 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.

However after receiving counseling on her situation, she decided that the best route for her children and grandchild was to **continue her education**. She reapplied for child care and was reinstated in the program.

Thanks to **assistance** from the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program, and the child care services provided through the funding from First 5 Riverside, this grandmother will **complete her nurse's training** and internship in July and has been offered employment at one of the notable hospitals in the Inland Empire earning \$37.00 per hour. Her income will enable her to **take care of her family and pay her child care expenses** for her grandchild without further assistance.



The Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program is so grateful for this continued source of funding and has been awarded a **new contract for child care and respite services** for the new fiscal year **2009-2010** to serve the grandparents of Riverside County.



During this fiscal year of July 2007 through June 2008, the program provided services for 95 children. Out of this number, 29 were children with special needs some having been diagnosed with autism and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. The majority of grandchildren being raised by grandparents have special needs; therefore these grandparents are in need of extra assistance.

The following vignette is one of the many examples of how vital and life changing this program has been in this fiscal year to grandparents:

A grandmother in a family of six, who had been attending nursing school for three years, was suddenly called upon to accept the responsibility of raising her two month old granddaughter who had been abandoned. She was referred to our program and was approved for child care assistance, because her husband's income was the only income of the household and could barely support the family. They were definitely unable to afford the cost of child care. The financial stress and the issues of raising a grandchild soon proved to be too much for the grandfather and he left the home, which left the grandmother in a difficult situation where she thought her only recourse was to quit school. She called the program staff and stated that she was ready to give up her life long dream of becoming a nurse and she was at the point of placing her grandchild in foster care, and no longer needed child care assistance.

“Health Program Survey for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren”

Background

In April 2008, the University of California Cooperative Extension in collaboration with Riverside County Office on Aging's Grandparents Raising



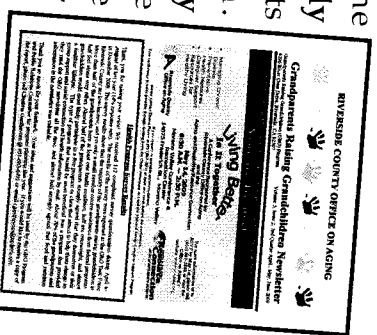
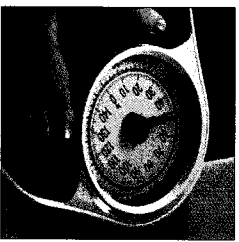
Grandchildren Program and Public Relations Committee, sent a questionnaire with a cover letter and a stamped return envelope to 800 grandparents raising grandchildren in Riverside County. The questionnaire was sent in English and Spanish to the grandparents in Coachella Valley. A total of 112 responses were received during the period of April-August 2008, representing a 14% response rate.

The purpose of the survey was to provide grandparents raising grandchildren with an opportunity to have a voice in the selection of program activities for the families. The survey was designed to determine the grandparents' needs, and the types of program delivery program assistance that would do the most to help improve the health status of families of grandparents raising grandchildren.

The questionnaire explores the following areas: the state of health of the grandparents, their interest and delivery desired, and their income level to determine eligibility for federally funded programs. The survey data was gathered and analyzed by the University of California Cooperative Extension.

Summary

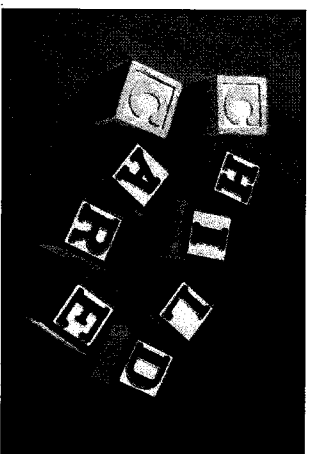
The results of the survey indicated that the majority of grandparents raising grandchildren surveyed are low-income, and yet only a small number receive assistance from federal programs. More than half of the grandparents have at least one health condition, half are overweight, and almost half feel stress very often. A program to assist the grandparents in **improving their diet and physical activity level**, and especially to reduce stress, would be beneficial and may delay onset of chronic disease associated with aging. Almost two-thirds of the grandparents in this survey have access to computers and the internet, and one third would be interested in on-line educational programs. In addition, about two-thirds of the grandparents read the **quarterly newsletter** for grandparents raising grandchildren. Therefore, **program delivery by mail and by internet** are other approaches that can be used to design programs for this audience.



Highlights of the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program Fiscal Year 2009-2010

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

One of the many services offered through the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program is **child care and respite** assistance for grandparents raising grandchildren ages 0-5.



Funding for this valuable service is provided by **First 5 Riverside** and is so crucial for the grandparents of Riverside County.

Grandparents usually have no warning or time to prepare when suddenly taking on the responsibility of raising their grandchildren. Many grandparents are **still working** or find themselves having to reenter the working arena and are in need of **affordable childcare**. Some elderly grandparents are in need of **respite** services in order to take care of their own medical and personal needs.