



Kinship Care Support Programs

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Family Tree

- Empowering Change, Transforming Lives in Denver Metro close to 40 years . . .
- **Family Tree's Mission:** To help people overcome child abuse, domestic violence and homelessness to become safe, strong and self-reliant.

Family Tree Service Areas

- Housing and Family Stabilization
 - Homelessness Programs
 - Kinship Programs
 - Military and Veteran Programs
- Domestic Violence Services
- Children and Youth Services

Family Tree has been providing kinship contract services since 1999.

- **Adams County TANF Stable Families Program** serving Child – Only TANF for 15 years – 1,930 families total, of which 1,326 are kinship families.
- **Arapahoe County Kinship Programs** served 659 kinship families through TANF and Child Welfare over a 7 year period.
- **Douglas County Kinship Navigator Program** has served 114 kinship families.

Kinship Services

- Initial Home Visit to assess the family's needs and current situation
- Case Management – time varies by county
- Resources and Referrals
- Financial Assistance based on needs
- Support and Acknowledgement
- Linkages to services and/or benefits
- Legal Assistance

Financial Assistance through TANF funds

- Each county sets their own limit per family
- Average spent per family is about \$1 600
- Items most needed
 - Rent, mortgage and utilities
 - Clothing for children
 - Transportation
 - Extracurricular activities, school fees, camp
 - Beds and bedding
 - Custody fees



Additional Family Tree Services

- Monthly Free Kinship Legal Clinic
 - Paralegals to help with court forms
 - Lawyers to provide legal education and guidance
- Annual Relatives Raising Children Conference in collaboration with other community providers
- Vouchers for our thrift store

Benefits of contracting out

- Collaboration with a community partner who has specialized knowledge – use experts
- Gives clients access to other geographical locations
- Clients feel more relaxed and welcome contact from the community
- Families are more likely to tell us what they really need – fear is significantly reduced
- Another set of eyes on the family
- We tell clients this is a service provided by their County that they choose to do – “Your County wants you to succeed!” We get to brag about you.

Question ?

How would your life change if you were suddenly given your grandkids or nieces and nephews to raise?

What if your income was $\frac{2}{3}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ less of what it currently is?

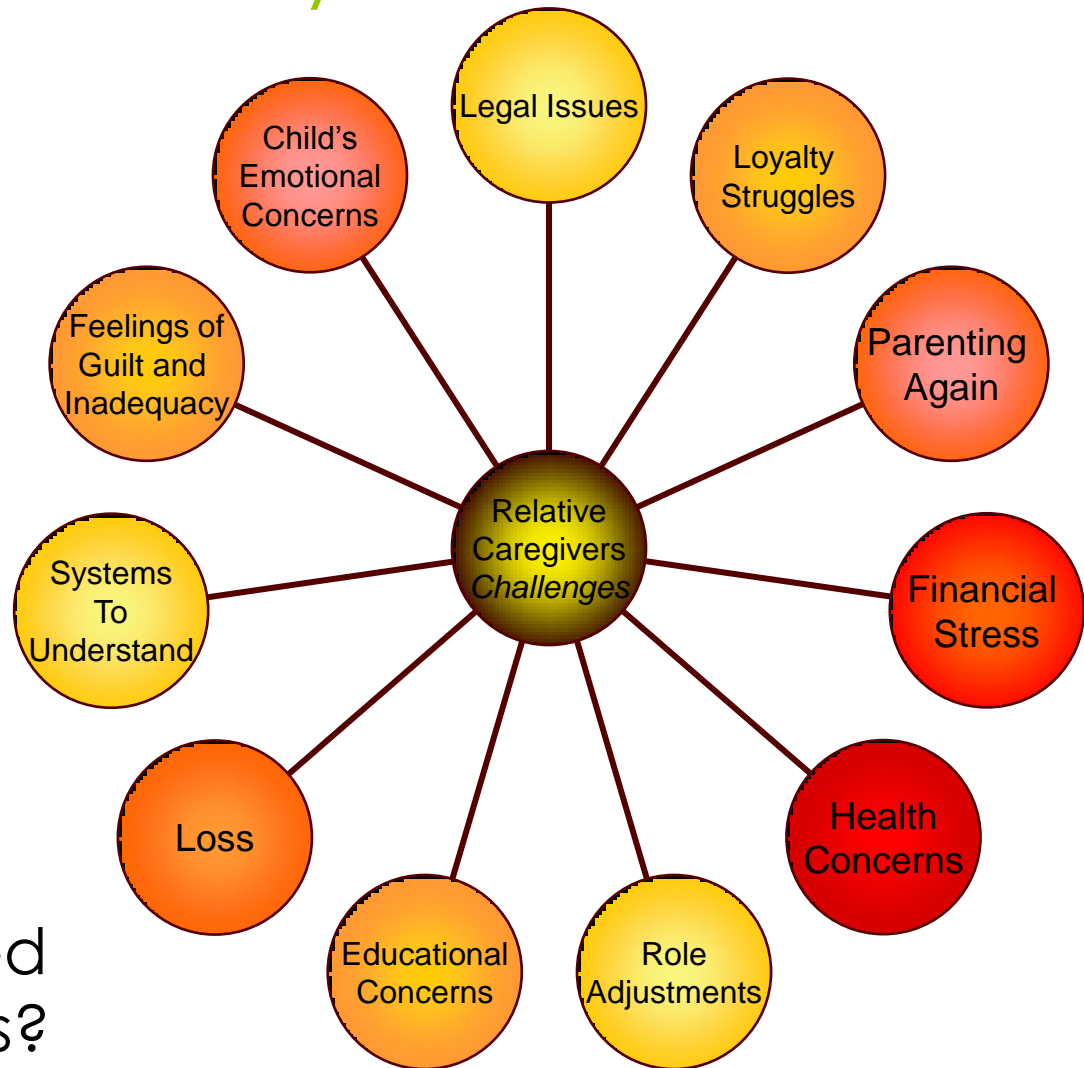


What would be your
challenges?

What fears would you have?

What would you need
to be successful in
raising them?

Challenges faced by Relative Caregivers



How are these different than challenges faced by foster parents?

Cost of raising a child to 18 years of age

- Approximately a quarter of a million dollars or \$13,611 per year for 18 years*
- Foster care approximately \$6,074 per year
- TANF approximately \$1,536 per year

*USDA, CNN Money, August 18, 2014

Childcare - one of the Biggest Needs

- The average annual cost for two children (an infant and a 4 year old) in a child care center ranged from \$9,175 in Mississippi to \$28,606 in Massachusetts.*
- What if childcare could be paid to relatives instead of putting children in foster care?
 - Need is for a shorter time period
 - Up to age 5 and then afterschool until age 12

*Childcare Aware of America



What one thing can you do to strengthen or add to your county's kinship services?

Resources

- Generations United www.gu.org
- Brookdale Foundation
www.brookdalefoundation.org
- Colorado Department of Human Services
Colorado Kinship Connections website
www.cokinship.org
- My email: smackenzie@thefamilytree.org

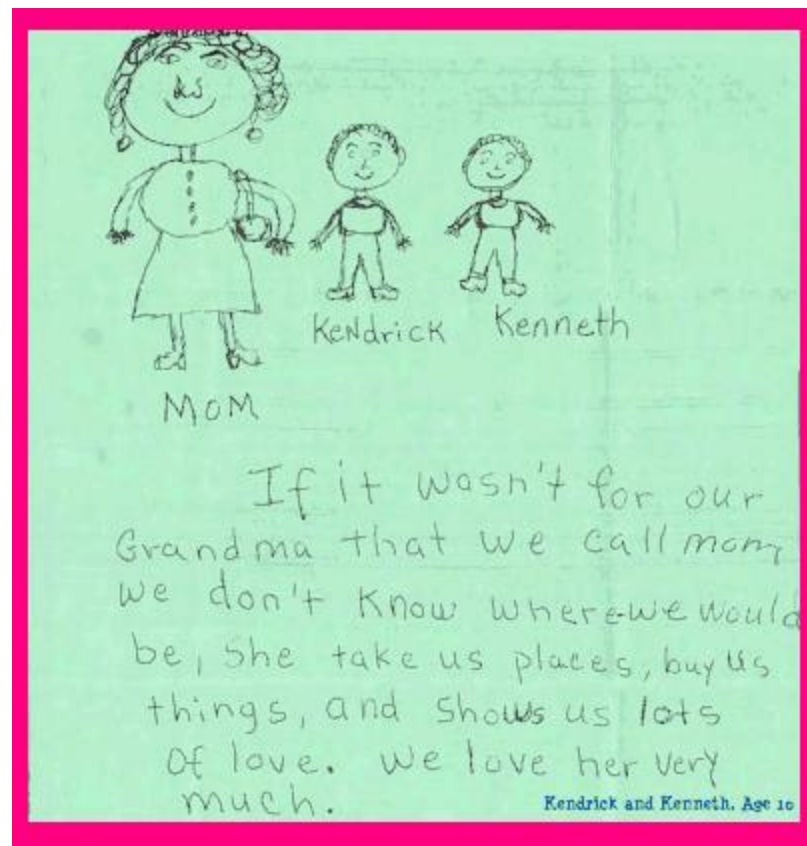
Additional information

- Document – Suggestions from Kinship Families
- Attached Document – 2013 Cost of Childcare Report by Childcare Aware of America
- Family Tree Kinship Celebration of Achievement [recipient](#) video

Client Success Video: The Campbell Family



Colorado kinship kids artwork



Grandma

G - great heart

R - respectful

A - awesome person

N - nice personality

D - delightful

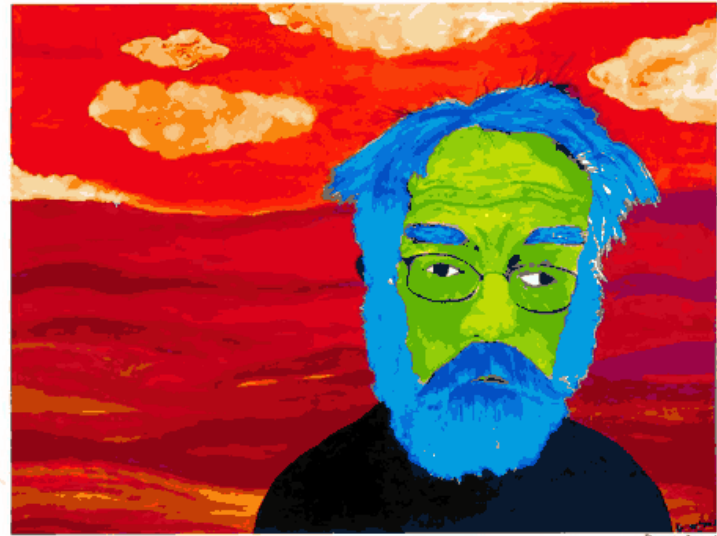
M - most best person to care for me

A - All ways caring for others

My Grandma has a wonderful heart. Does things for others instead of self. My grandma is my hero and the best thing that happened to me.

Mya, Age 11

Thank You



Rayen, Age 16