



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Sue K. Miller, Director for Family Services
Warren County Community Services, Inc. (WCCS)
570 N. State Route 741 - Lebanon, OH 45036
937-425-2239 or 513-695-2249
suekm@wccsinc.org

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Representative Shannon Jones Meets with “Kinship Program” Grandparents

Sharing the needs of “Grandparents Raising their Grandchildren” was the focus of a recent forum hosted by the Warren County Community Services’ (WCCS) Family Services Program in collaboration with the Ohio Empowerment Coalition.

Representative Shannon Jones met with the grandparents from around the Warren County to learn more about the needs, struggles and successes they experience while raising their own grandchildren of all ages.

Although many shared the joys and stresses of raising the grandchildren they love, it was quite evident that it takes constant juggling especially when living on fixed incomes. Rising gas costs, cost of food, as well as, health care costs are ongoing challenges.

Anita Pearson, WCCS’ Family Services Kinship Navigator, offers support to the grandparents and their children as needs arise. Grandparents served by Pearson commented that they appreciate the help and knowing that “expert assistance is simply a phone call away!” Pearson has offered ongoing support and assistance to as many as 40

families throughout Warren County who are raising grandchildren. Sue Miller, WCCS' Family Services Director, echoed the grandparents' sentiments and shared, "She is passionate about her work to support grandparents who may not know where to turn to get help."

Miller further shared, "Thanks to Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funding from the State, we are able to provide critical support needed; however, accessing dollars intended for the program is an ongoing struggle."

"The Kinship program seeks to combine our local efforts with state wide support we can increase our capacity to see these families achieve greater stability," stated Miller. The majority of these families receive \$245 per month for the first child and \$91 for a second child.

Throughout the state of Ohio approximately 186,000 children are in Kinship Care. There are approximately 85,000 kinship caregivers (grandparents and other family members) whose average age is 55.

For more information about the local Kinship program, please contact Warren County Community Services - Family Services at 513-695-2249 or 513-695-2284 Mondays through Fridays from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.