State Senator Anthony H. Williams, in partnership with
the Philadelphia Kinship Care Committee, Gateway Health Plan
& the Philadelphia School District
presents the 2nd Bi-Annual

Helping Hands
Kinship Care Conference

For Grandparents & other relatives
who are raising children

Saturday • April 20, 2013
9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
West Philadelphia High School
49th & Chestnut Sts. • Philadelphia
State Senator Anthony H. Williams, the Philadelphia Kinship Care Committee, Gateway Health Plan & the Philadelphia School District

WELCOME
YOU TO

Helping Hands
Kinship Care
Conference

For Grandparents & other relatives
who are raising children

2013

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Helping Hands
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We help everyone get the exact same thing out of life: more.

With AARP, you can get so much more out of life. Not only do we provide information on how you can be healthier and more active, but we also help you save money on everything from restaurants to travel. Plus we fight for your rights on the issues that matter most to you and your family and can help you improve your community through volunteer opportunities. So let AARP help you discover your real possibilities. AARP works to make life better for all.

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The NewCourtland Network carries out its healing mission for Philadelphia’s seniors by meeting their individual and changing needs. We honor the staff that work with them and support them by providing training, education and career advancement.

Visit www.newcourtland.org or call 1-888-530-4913
Welcome to our second bi-annual Helping Hands Kinship Care Conference! We understand fully that time is precious, and in the case of the weekends, that’s particularly true. We are grateful that you decided to spend time here – and hope by day’s end, you will be, too.

Raising a child is difficult enough in society today. Choosing to raise a relative’s child for the good of that child’s welfare and the collective family is not only challenging, but also admirable. Due to incarceration, addiction, or neglect, we are witnessing a rise in intergenerational families like yours. Nationwide, more than 7 million children live with grandparents, where some 1 in 5 of those grandparents serve as primary caretakers – an increase of more than 30 percent within the last 20 years alone, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. And these tallies don’t include the countless uncles, aunts, cousins and older siblings who, despite considerable additional financial and emotional burdens, choose to step into that breach when parents walk away.

These are people filled with unconditional love for our next generation – people like you. Yet, despite these statistics, the tools to make these efforts easier too often are not apparent. The organizers for this event – The Philadelphia Kinship Care Committee, composed of a wide range of community organizations and members of my staff – have assembled several targeted workshops and discussions, as well as a wealth of resources and support, all in one place to help you and your family.

You will receive information and answers from legal, financial, educational and behavioral health experts. You will have the opportunity to connect with helpful agencies, organizations and fellow caregivers. And you will have the ear of lawmakers – myself included.

We need your voice, not just today, but throughout the process as we seek to advance your cause, in Harrisburg and beyond.

Above all, thank you for attending the Kinship Care conference. Your selfless deeds inspire us all.

Sincerely,

Anthony H. Williams
PA Senate – 8th District
A Message from

April 20, 2013

Grandmothers, Aunts, Sisters, Grandfathers, Uncles, Brothers—Kinship Caregivers all, welcome to the 2013 Helping Hands Kinship Care Conference. As the name implies, hopefully you will find today’s experience to be informative and helpful, and maybe even a little inspiring!

One message that I want to make sure you take with you is that you are not alone in this courageous and loving course you have undertaken, caring for the child(ren) of a relative. Across the state of Pennsylvania alone there are over 60,000 loving caregivers like you caring for over 200,000 children, while right here in Philadelphia, there are approximately 15,400 grandparents with responsibility for grandchildren. These numbers are at once inspiring and shocking.

They inspire because there are so many people like you willing to make the personal sacrifices to care for and raise another’s child. Sure, I know that you see it as not an option to do otherwise, but the truth is that there is, or was, another option, and you chose not to take it. Your love, your commitment, your sense of family was too strong to allow you to do otherwise and in that you inspire all.

At the same time the numbers are shocking because they highlight the enormity of the situation. There are not just a few children living in this situation, but hundreds of thousands, and as you know there is precious little in the way of supports available for them or for you. In fact there is practically no acknowledgement of the fact that so many of our children are faced with growing up without their parents.

I know I do not have to tell you about the challenges that you and the children that you care for face. In many ways they are the most at risk for many of the obstacles and pitfalls faced by all children growing up. Adding to that the challenges you face with all of the systems in society; schools, medical facilities, housing resources, legal supports, etc. And yet, despite everything you get up each day and do the best you can for love of a child.

So let me say, Thank you. Thank you for caring, for your sacrifice, for the example you set and for the love you share. I hope that you will leave today with some information or connection that will help you and make your burden just a little lighter. If nothing else, leave knowing that there are people like Senator Williams and organizations like Turning Points for Children, that appreciate the struggles and sacrifices you make and are committed to doing as much as we can to find ways to help you. God Bless you.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Vogel

415 S. 15th Street Philadelphia, PA 19146 • 215-875-8200 • www.turningpointsforchildren.org
A Message from Grandparents and relative caregivers do care. We are the ones who step in to raise our grandchildren, nieces, nephews and cousins when the traditional family unit is broken. We at Grands As Parents firmly believe that we fill in the gaps in our grandchildren’s lives.

As a grassroots organization formed in 1996 to support and advocate for grandparents raising their grandchildren, we are excited to welcome you to the 2013 Helping Hands Kinship Caregivers Conference. We recognize that grandparents are increasingly serving as the primary parents motivated solely by the love of their grandchildren.

We also recognize the pressure and stress that grandparents are under when they assume this role as primary caregivers. Many adults, who have already raised their children, find themselves thrust into the role of second time parenting. Grandparents face a myriad of challenges in nearly all aspects of their lives, such as housing, educational, behavioral and economic barriers. It is under this umbrella that this conference was born to assist, support and educate caregivers and arm them with the tools to succeed. We hope you find the information you receive today helpful and we understand firsthand what you are going through. Please know that our organization, Grands As Parents, State Senator Anthony H. Williams and Philadelphia Kinship Care Committee understand the struggle and sacrifices made and are committed to helping you.

Sincerely,

Eileen Brown – President
Jean Hackney – Vice President

GRANDS AS PARENTS, INC.
Grandparents supporting relatives who have become caregivers for their families assuring a good quality of life that every child deserves.
2227 N. Broad Street • Philadelphia, PA 19132
215-236-5848 Fax: 267-299-8189
E-mail: grandsasparents1@verizon.net
Website: www.gapsnow.org

EVENT SERVICES

Caterer
Cynthia Cave-McFadden, Symphony’s Inc., 610-662-1153
info.symphonys@yahoo.com

Videographer
David Starr, First Design, Inc., Event Video, 917-324-4234
dave0604@gmail.com.
www.web-pop.us

Photographer
Darryl Cobb Jr.

Childcare Volunteers
from the Family Friends program at Temple Intergenerational Learning Center:
Queen Richardson
Geraldine Russell
Patricia Whye

April 20, 2013
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2227 N. Broad Street • Philadelphia, PA 19132
215-236-5848 Fax: 267-299-8189
E-mail: grandsasparents1@verizon.net
Website: www.gapsnow.org
Dear Kinship Caregivers:

Philadelphia Corporation for Aging, the Area Agency on Aging for Philadelphia is dedicated to improving the quality of life for older Philadelphians, providing programs and services that assist them in achieving and maintaining health, independence, and productivity.

Among these is the Family Caregiver Support Program, which provides much needed assistance to individuals who are caring for relatives. Also through this program we work with Temple University’s Family Friends and the Supportive Older Women’s Network. Both agencies are doing important work to help grandparents and other relatives who have stepped up to help raise another generation of children. Bringing up children requires a tremendous amount of energy, patience and love. Doing so at a time of life when one might face health, economic and other challenges of one’s own can be particularly difficult. That is just one of the many reasons why grandparents who accept the responsibility to raise their grandchildren are very special people. It’s also one of the reasons why they need a helping hand.

We are pleased to support the Helping Hands Kinship Care Conference. We applaud the efforts of State Senator Anthony Williams in bringing attention and resources to this worthy cause. We extend our thanks to Senator Williams and the Kinship Care Committee for their work in making this conference possible, and for their role in educating and empowering caregivers.

Sincerely yours,

HOLLY LANGE
President and CEO

642 North Broad St, Philadelphia, PA 19130
Main Office: (215) 765-9000 • Fax: (215) 765-9066 • PCA Helpline: (215) 765-9040

Michael D. Blum, Chairman • Holly Lange, President and CEO
CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

AARP
Joi Hopkins

Community Behavioral Health
LaRue Harmon

Center-in-the-Park
Lynn Fields Harris, Marie Marthol-Clark

Department of Human Services
Kimberly Ali

Education Law Center
Hallam Roth

Grand Central, Inc.
Chartan Nelson

Grands as Parents
Jean Hackney

Penn State University
Jackie Simon, Suzanne Weitman

Philadelphia Corporation for Aging
Mary Mullen

Philadelphia Housing Authority
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Salvation Army
Jamie Johns

State Senator Anthony H. Williams
Marlene Henkin, Timika Lane, Desaree Jones

Senior Law Center
Cateria R. McCabe

Support Center for Child Advocates
Barron Kassel

Grand Family Resource Center
Richelle Phillips

Temple Intergenerational Center
Joy Woods Jones, Alpyria Williams

Turning Points for Children
Mike Vogel, Brenda Rich, Carla Thompson, Adele Prior

April 20, 2013

A warm welcome to you – Grandparents and other family members – Kin who care enough to give all that you do. May your participation in the Helping Hands Kinship Care Conference offer you new and valuable information, tools, resources and inspiration to continue the strong commitment you have already made to caring for others, especially the children.

Center in the Park (CIP) extends our sincere appreciation to you; celebrates your selfless contribution to our collective good; and, offers the support of our resources in helping you meet the challenges you may encounter while raising children. Center in the Park’s mission is “to promote positive aging and foster community connections for older adults whose voices are critical instruments in shaping its activities and direction.” As a nationally accredited non-profit senior community center in the Germantown section of Northwest Philadelphia, CIP provides comprehensive programs and services to individuals age 55+. Center in the Park endeavors to enhance and expand our programming to better meet the unique needs of grandparents and older adult relatives who are caring for children.

“Life’s challenges are not supposed to paralyze you, they’re supposed to help you discover who you are.” — Bernice Johnson Reagon

The great responsibility of caregiving sometimes carries stressors and challenges, along with the joys and benefits of second time around parenting. Please know that in Center in the Park, you have a supportive environment with staff, and your peers, who are committed to helping you experience the rewards of positive aging and meet the challenges. Also know that we – the members of the Kinship Care Committee, organized by State Senator Anthony H. Williams, are a solid network of support available to you.

Center in the Park welcomes the opportunity to serve you.

Sincerely,

Lynn Fields Harris
Executive Director

5818 Germantown Avenue • Philadelphia, PA 19144-2187
Tel: (215)848-7723 • Fax: (215)848-0979
website: centerinthepark.org
April 20, 2013

Dear Kinship Caregivers, Friends and Partners:

SeniorLAW Center is delighted to be a part of today's conference, to share information about the law and learn with you about how we can all best support and celebrate the extraordinary roles kinship caregivers play in the lives of children in our community.

This year SeniorLAW Center is celebrating our 35th anniversary of protecting the rights of older Pennsylvanians. One of the milestones of our organization’s history of which we are most proud is our launching, over two decades ago, our KinC.A.N. program, the Kinship Caregiver Assistance Network. This program was one of the first in the nation to provide legal and advocacy services for grandparents and other seniors taking on the role of primary caregiver for their grandchildren and other minor relative children. It has been and continues to be one of our most vibrant programs.

We are proud of the hundreds of intergenerational families we have had the privilege to serve, to represent and navigate through the family court system and to help us all understand the law and the legal tools that can strengthen families and protect their rights. We are also proud of the work we’ve done with our partners in the kinship care community, working together with other advocates for seniors, children and families to bring information, resources, and best practices to Philadelphia and our region. We are excited to continue this work and to look ahead to continue to find creative ways to support grandparents, aunts, uncles, siblings and other kin who give so much of themselves to provide a home for and strengthen the lives of the children in their care.

To our kinship caregivers, we celebrate you and we say thank you for all you do. You are not alone.

Please be in touch with us throughout this special anniversary year for SeniorLAW Center and beyond as we plan additional events to raise awareness and visibility of the contributions and needs of the grandparents and families of our community.

We look forward to many more reasons to celebrate the work we do together.

Very truly yours,

Karen C. Buck, Esq.
Executive Director

Karen C. Buck, Esq.
Executive Director
Land Title Building, 100 South Broad Street, Suite 1910 Philadelphia, PA 19110
(215) 988-1244  Fax: (215) 988-1245 Pennsylvania SeniorLAW HelpLine 1-877-EASY-4-LAW
www.seniorlawcenter.org

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City Council President Darrell Clarke
The Philadelphia Zoo
Mrs. Hopkins is currently the Associate State Director of Multicultural Outreach at AARP-PA. Since 2010, she has worked in local communities to promote collective interests of the African American 50+ population in Pennsylvania with the mission to inform, engage and empower African Americans by way of bringing to life, AARP’s portfolio issues: My Money; My Health; My Home and Family; and My Personal Time.

She has cultivated numerous successful collaborations and partnerships with leading community groups, faith-based organizations, fraternities and sororities, organizing leaders from the Philadelphia region to analyze data and identify emerging issues that directly impact the African American 50+ community in Philadelphia. “There is a wealth of talent working on issues that affect the African American community. Our last roundtable of 2012 continues to foster creative ideas about how AARP can better serve the 50+ population,” says Joana Hopkins, Associate State Director for Multicultural Outreach. These partnerships provide the Pennsylvania office with a more detailed roadmap toward ensuring that African American seniors and their communities are more resilient and informed.

She has conducted multiple Medicare and Social Security outreach events to African American populations that were seen as underserved and underrepresented. She was instrumental in advocating against the recent Voter ID legislation, requiring Pennsylvania residents to show a valid photo ID before voting in the 2012 election. She worked closely to help organize a successful Voter ID rally held in Philadelphia which aimed to inform the public about their basic right to vote. She has worked with notable community leaders such as the NAACP, Committee of 70, the ACLU and a host of others in order to inform the voting public about how the current legislation aimed to disenfranchise members of the African American community in Pennsylvania.

Joana is a loving mother of two, wife of 24 years, daughter, and a foster parent to five. Mrs. Hopkins holds an undergraduate degree of Criminal Law from Rowan University, NJ and a Masters of Social Work degree from Widener University, PA. She is a proud member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. and the National Association of Black Social Workers. It is her belief “to trust in the Lord with all your heart…in all your ways acknowledge Him and he will direct your path.” Joana strongly believes in “Greater Service, Greater Progress.” For what we do, we do for all!

April 4, 2013

Dear Kinship Caregivers:

For over 30 years, The Intergenerational Center at Temple University has been devoted to creating and implementing innovative, cross-age approaches to ensure that people of all ages are valued and have substantial opportunities to apply their wisdom to enhance the well-being of families and individuals, in their communities. Our high quality services range from training and consultation to home and community-based service programming. As a local, national and international resource, we are driven in our purpose to demonstrate that at each stage of life there are talents to be revealed and empowered.

The Intergenerational Center offers two wonderful programs to assist kinship caregivers as a part of its Family Support Services: The Grandma’s Kids Program and The Family Friends Program. The Grandma’s Kids Program delivers curriculum-focused tutoring and skilled mentoring supports at several local schools to help kinship caregivers have a safe, caring and stimulating learning environment for their children during afterschool hours. Likewise, The Family Friends Program, assists kinship caregivers and other enrolled families with special needs to access vital information and referrals as well as provides beneficial respite opportunities via chaperoned trips/events and family matches with volunteers aged 55+ who love children and who are thoroughly screened, trained and supervised. It is a pleasure to support the 2013 Helping Hands Kinship Care Conference and to have our families, volunteers and staff engaged in the day’s activities.

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to you and are appreciative of the support State Senator Anthony H. Williams and his Staff for their undying efforts to enact positive social change regarding education and policymaking to reduce the challenges faced by local kinship caregivers and the children/youth in their care. Additionally, we would like to acknowledge how much we admire Kinship Care Families, our fellow members of The Philadelphia Kinship Care Committee and all other organizations and individuals involved in empowering local children/youth, adults and elders on our shared path in life. May the beauty of this interconnected strength give you energy with each late night and early morning. None of us are alone in caring about Philadelphia’s families; our work is not in vain.

Best regards,

Nancy Henkin, Ph.D.  Joy Woods-Jones, MSW  Alysia Williams, M.A.

Nancy Henkin, Ph.D.  Joy Woods-Jones, MSW  Alysia Williams, M.A.

Founder & Executive Director  Family Support Director  Family Friends Program Manager

1700 North Broad Street, Suite 412, Philadelphia, PA 19122
Main Number: (215) 204-6970  Fax Number: (215) 204-3195 Website: www.templeigc.org
**DAY-AT-A-GLANCE**

**8:30 a.m.**  
Registration

**9:00 a.m.**  
Welcome

**9:15 a.m.**  
Panel Discussion

**10:00 a.m.**  
Workshop 1  
Custody & the Law

**11:00 a.m.**  
Workshop 2  
Family Dynamics of Kinship Care & Behavioral Health Resources

**Noon**  
Lunch

**12:30 p.m.**  
Keynote Speaker  
Nikki Johnson-Huston, Esquire

**12:45 p.m.**  
Advocacy

**1:00 p.m.**  
Closing

**Noon-2:00 p.m.**  
Resource Pavilion open

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**WORKSHOP SPEAKER BIOS**

*Cateria R. McCabe* is a staff attorney with SeniorLAW Center, a nonprofit organization which improves the lives of older Pennsylvanians and protects their rights through legal representation, education and advocacy. While Cateria has practiced in a variety of areas of law during her career, she currently concentrates on custody and landlord/tenant matters. She also gives advice, information and referrals through SeniorLAW Center’s Pennsylvania SeniorLAW Helpline, which serves all 67 counties in Pennsylvania. Cateria is active in several community service and advocacy organizations. She graduated from Mount Holyoke College and Villanova University School of Law, where she received the Joseph Wenk Award for legal service to the poor.

*Jennifer Russell, Esq.* is an associate at Sacks, Weston, Petrelli & Diamond, LLC where she practices primarily in the area of family law. Prior to her current position, Jennifer served as a staff attorney at SeniorLAW Center, where she provided legal services to senior citizens in the areas of family law, estate planning, estate administration, landlord tenant law, and issues involving real property and homeownership. Before becoming a staff attorney, Jennifer received an Independence Foundation Public Interest Law Fellowship to develop and implement the Fostering Kinship Care Legal Project. This Project provided legal services to grandparents raising their grandchildren and other seniors raising relative children in Philadelphia. Jennifer continues to provide community education and advocacy to support kinship caregivers. She received her Juris Doctorate from Temple University, Beasley School of Law in May 2009.

**ADVOCACY SPEAKER BIO**

*Joana M. Hopkins* (Joi) has a diverse background in Social Work. The majority of her work is centered on the issues of aging which pertains to Financial Security, Health, Home & Family and living full and fun lives. This gives her a unique perspective on the relationship between the needs of older adults and their home and community life. For over 10 years, she has worked with non-profit organizations and governmental agencies in a number of areas including child welfare, older adult services, program development, market research, individual and
PANELIST BIOGRAPHIES

Andrew J. DeVos is the Director of Member Services Community Behavioral Health’s Department of Behavioral Health. Since 1996, Andy DeVos, M.Ed., has worked at Community Behavioral Health (CBH) of Philadelphia’s Department of Behavioral Health & Intellectual Disabilities Services. In his current role as Director of Member Services, Andy leads a staff of 40 Member Services Representatives, who assist individuals and families in finding the most appropriate mental health and substance abuse health treatment, and advocate on behalf of those who are having challenges within the service system to resolve barriers to effective treatment. He began his behavioral health career at the Dr. Warren E. Smith Community MH/MR Center in 1992, listening to and documenting hundreds of individual life stories at the center’s Lehigh Avenue location as an Assessment Specialist. In 1994, Andy then went to work for KidsPeace, a large provider of mental health services for youth and families in the Lehigh Valley and in several other states, before coming to CBH in 1996.

Robert L. Ximines Jr. has been working in the Behavioral Health field for over thirty years, and is a member of the Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual Disability Service (DBHIDS). He is currently employed by Community Behavioral Health (CBH), as a Sr. Member Services Supervisor. He is very active within the Behavioral Health field, and a member of several initiatives and committees therein. Robert’s efforts support and demonstrate his commitment to the Recovery Transformation efforts of the DBH/IDS, as well as his many interactions within the Philadelphia Communities, where he serves as the department’s point person. He is a member of the initial steering committee for the Certified Peer Specialist Program, the Community Support Program (CSP), and the Quality of Work Life Committee and is involved in several of the Homeless Initiatives throughout the City of Philadelphia. Robert can be found doing Presentations throughout the City as it relates to Behavioral Health benefits and how to access services. His passion for the Recovery movement is well documented as he continues to spread the word through his various interactions. Robert has a Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration from Gwynedd-Mercy College, and is Chairman of the Deacon Board of the Resurrection Community Church, located in Southwest Philadelphia.

CONFERENCE OBJECTIVE

Description:
Advocacy, Resources, Legislation & Solutions

PANELISTS

Anne Marie Ambrose
Commissioner, Philadelphia Department of Human Services

Dr. Arthur Evans
Commissioner, City of Philadelphia Department of Behavioral Health

Honorable Jonathan Irvine
Judge, Philadelphia Family Court

Crystal Nelson
Director of the Parent Family Resource Centers
School District of Philadelphia

Moderator
Barbara Grant
Partner, Cárdenas Grant Communications
WORKSHOPS

Legal “Custody and the Law”
Jennifer Russell, Esquire, Sacks, Weston, Petrelli & Diamond, LLC
and Cateria R. McCabe, Esquire, Senior LA W Center

Children/Family
“Family Dynamics of Kinship Care & Behavioral Health Issues”
Andrew J. DeVos and Robert L. Ximines Jr., Community Behavioral Health

SUMMARY OF WORKSHOPS

Custody and the Law
This workshop will provide information about the legal basics of child custody that every caregiver should know as well as an overview of the family court system in Philadelphia. We will also discuss the planning tools, standby guardianship and medical consent authorizations. Caregivers will learn about the legal processes relating to their custodial rights, how to navigate the court system and better protect their families and future.

Family Dynamics of Kinship Care & Behavioral Health Resources
Caring for your young family members can be one of the most joyous and rewarding experiences, but there are often complex emotional issues involved. This workshop will help to unpack some of the emotional dynamics involved in kinship care, but will also describe professional resources that are available within the behavioral health treatment system when the emotional and behavioral issues start to seem overwhelming. This will include how to understand the emotions that arise in kinship care, and how to access counseling and other professional mental health services when needed.
PANELIST BIOGRAPHIES

Arthur C. Evans Jr., Ph.D. is commissioner of the Philadelphia Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual Disability Services (DBH/IDS), a $1 billion healthcare agency. In this capacity, he is leading a major initiative to transform how behavioral health care and mental retardation services are delivered in the city. Since his appointment in November 2004, Philadelphia has begun a transformation of its system to one that focuses on recovery for adults, resilience for children, and self-determination for all people with intellectual disabilities. A clinical and community psychologist, Evans holds a faculty appointment at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. He previously held faculty appointments at the Yale University School of Medicine and Quinnipiac University. Evans has extensive experience in transforming systems of care as well as serving in several national leadership roles. Prior to coming to Philadelphia, he was the deputy commissioner for the Connecticut Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services (DMHAS). In this capacity, he led several major strategic initiatives for the Connecticut behavioral healthcare system. He was instrumental in implementing a recovery-oriented policy framework, addressing health care disparities and increasing the use of evidence-based practices. Evans has served or is currently serving in several national leadership roles within the realm of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Those include chair of its Partners for Recovery steering committee, co-chair of the national action group on fostering system reform for adults with serious mental illness, and member of the federal Center for Substance Abuse Treatment advisory committee. He also chairs the national advisory committee for the Robert Wood Johnson’s Path to Recovery Project and has served as president of the board of directors of the New England Institute of Addiction Studies Inc. (NEIAS). Evans is highly committed to serving people who are underserved and ensuring that all people have access to effective, quality services.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Nikki Johnson-Huston, Esq. is a tax attorney for the City of Philadelphia Law Department. A 2004 graduate of Temple University Beasley School of Law, she earned a J.D./M.B.A./LL.M in Taxation in four years. Nikki is a frequent speaker on how she overcame a life of poverty and homelessness to become an award winning young attorney. She is the former Co-Chair of the Philadelphia Bar Association Women in the Profession Committee, a member of the Philadelphia Bar Association Board of Governors, and former Co-Chair of the Women in the Profession Public Service Task Force of the Philadelphia Bar Association. Nikki used that position to start a mentoring program for high-school students interested in pursuing a career in law, conducted numerous panels about issues related to educational opportunities and the law and even co-moderated a fireside chat with Bill Cosby in November 2008. In addition she has won several awards including the Craig M. Perry Community Service Award given by the Philadelphia Bar Association Young Lawyers Division, been named a 2009 “Lawyer on the Fast Track” by the Legal Intelligencer, one of the “10 People under 40 to Watch in 2010” by The Philadelphia Tribune, a 2010 Philadelphia Business Journal Woman of Distinction, 2011 Next Generation of Leadership: Rising Star, 2nd Annual Fashioning Futures for Women Honoree by the Career Wardrobe, one of the 2012 Nation’s Best Advocates: 40 Lawyers Under 40 by The National Bar Association and a 2012 USA Eisenhower Fellow, where she traveled to India and New Zealand in September 2012 to work with women and children who were living in poverty. Nikki was recently appointed the Diversity Chair to the Philadelphia Bar Association.
Anne Marie Ambrose

On June 23, 2008, Anne Marie Ambrose began working as Commissioner for the Philadelphia Department of Human Services (DHS). Under her leadership, the agency has made significant progress in improving organizational effectiveness and performance, provider monitoring and oversight, and outcomes for children and families served by DHS. She is committed to better serving the needs of the children and families in Philadelphia by partnering with the community and other child-serving systems. Ms. Ambrose envisions DHS as becoming a leading child welfare agency in the nation.

From 2005 to 2008, Anne Marie was the Director of Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice Services for the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare. She was responsible for the operation of four regional offices that provided licensing, conducted child abuse investigations, and offered technical assistance for public and private agencies as well as seven state-run facilities for delinquent youth including one for girls.

Ms. Ambrose served as DHS Deputy Commissioner for Juvenile Justice Services from 2001 to 2005. During her tenure, Ms. Ambrose developed and led initiatives to reform and improve the juvenile justice system in Philadelphia. She was a tireless advocate for gender-specific services for girls entering the juvenile justice system and reduced chronic overcrowding at the Detention Center.

Anne Marie began her career as an advocate for youth in the juvenile justice system in Philadelphia where she spent 13 years as an attorney for the Defender Association of Philadelphia. She left that position in 2000 to become the Deputy Commissioner for Juvenile Justice Services for the City of Philadelphia.

In January of 2012, Anne Marie Ambrose was the recipient of Casey Family Program’s Excellence in Leadership Award. She is a gubernatorial appointee to the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency and is a member of Georgetown University’s Juvenile Justice Leadership Network. In 2007, Anne Marie provided critical testimony before the United States House and Senate in support of the reauthorization of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. Anne Marie is a 1987 graduate of the Emory University School of Law.

Crystal Nelson

serves as the Director of the Parent Family Resource Centers throughout the School District of Philadelphia. Each center provides a one-stop-shop experience for families to navigate the school system and provide academic and social support for their children. Crystal has twenty years of school-based experience as a teacher, assistant principal and principal. Her quest is to promote great partnerships between schools, parents/caregivers and community stakeholders.

Honorable Jonathan Q. Irvine

serves as a judge for the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas, Family Court Division, where he presides over juvenile dependency cases. He was elected in 2011 to a term that expires in 2022. Prior to being elected to the bench, Judge Irvine operated a private law practice within the Philadelphia’s court system, specializing in criminal defense, family and dependency law. While maintaining his private practice, Judge Irvine applied his legal talents to serve the Philadelphia community through the Philadelphia Municipal Court and the Court of Common Pleas as a Certified Arbitrator (1997 to 2011), Hearing Master for the Emergency Protection from Abuse Court (1997 to 2011), Truancy Hearing Master (1998 to 2011) and Adoption Hearing Master (1998 to 2011).

Judge Irvine began his professional employment as a Pharmaceutical Representative for Eli Lilly & Company. Three years later he attended Temple University School of Law where he excelled academically and received several honors, including “Best Appellate Brief in Legal Writing and Research” and “Outstanding Oral Advocate in Trial Advocacy”. During law school Judge Irvine supplemented his course work with legal training as a law clerk for the Honorable James T. Giles in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and as a Summer Associate in the Philadelphia office of Marshall, Dennehey, Warner, Coleman & Goggin. Upon graduating from law school in 1995, he began his professional career as an associate with Marshall, Dennehey. Two years later, in 1997, he started his private law practice.

Educated in the Philadelphia public schools – J.R. Masterman (1981) and Central High School (1985) – Judge Irvine excelled in academics and varsity sports. In 1989 he obtained a Bachelor of Science in Business Management from Hampton University, Hampton, Virginia, where he was on the Dean’s List and served as an Executive Board member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated, a national service organization.
**PANELIST BIOGRAPHIES**

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PANELIST BIOGRAPHIES
**SUMMARY OF WORKSHOPS**

**Custody and the Law**
This workshop will provide information about the legal basics of child custody that every caregiver should know as well as an overview of the family court system in Philadelphia. We will also discuss the planning tools, standby guardianship and medical consent authorizations. Caregivers will learn about the legal processes relating to their custodial rights, how to navigate the court system and better protect their families and future.

**Family Dynamics of Kinship Care & Behavioral Health Resources**
Caring for your young family members can be one of the most joyous and rewarding experiences, but there are often complex emotional issues involved. This workshop will help to unpack some of the emotional dynamics involved in kinship care, but will also describe professional resources that are available within the behavioral health treatment system when the emotional and behavioral issues start to seem overwhelming. This will include how to understand the emotions that arise in kinship care, and how to access counseling and other professional mental health services when needed.

**PANELIST MODERATOR**

Barbara Grant is one of two founding partners of Cárdenas Grant Communications. For the past seven years, Barbara has shared the responsibility of business development, client relations, designing and executing communications, public relations, government relations, and community outreach strategy for corporate, government and non-profit clients. Barbara brings more than 30 years experience and success in the use of communications tools to advance business solutions with a specialty in servicing the diversity needs of clients who need to reach African American, Hispanic and Asian communities. Her client roster includes: Ameristar Casinos, United Negro College Fund, Edison Learning, City of Philadelphia, National Conference of African Americans and Aids, Pennsylvania Coalition of Charter Schools, Free Library of Philadelphia, Nielsen Media Research, Sunoco Welcome America and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Insurance Department’s Children’s Health Insurance Program in the African American market.

Prior to starting Cárdenas Grant, Barbara was Director of Communications for the Mayor of Philadelphia. Prior to city service, Barbara was Director of Communications for the School District of Philadelphia where she developed a specialty practice in education and spearheaded a major campaign for whole school reform. Barbara built her expertise in communications and media relations during her 15 years as an award winning television reporter, producer and news manager with a strong reputation for coverage of minority affairs and non-traditional audiences. She is a member of the Board of Directors of St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children, Scribe Video Center, Public Citizens for Children and Youth and the Philadelphia Folklore Project.
WORKSHOP SPEAKER BIOS

Andrew J. DeVos is the Director of Member Services Community Behavioral Health' Department of Behavioral Health. Since 1996, Andy DeVos, M.Ed., has worked at Community Behavioral Health (CBH) of Philadelphia’s Department of Behavioral Health & Intellectual disAbilities Services. In his current role as Director of Member Services, Andy leads a staff of 40 Member Services Representatives, who assist individuals and families in finding the most appropriate mental health and substance abuse health treatment, and advocate on behalf of those who are having challenges within the service system to resolve barriers to effective treatment. He began his behavioral health career at the Dr. Warren E. Smith Community MH/MR Center in 1992, listening to and documenting hundreds of individual life stories at the center’s Lehigh Avenue location as an Assessment Specialist. In 1994, Andy then went to work for KidsPeace, a large provider of mental health services for youth and families in the Lehigh Valley and in several other states, before coming to CBH in 1996.

Robert L. Ximines Jr. has been working in the Behavioral Health field for over thirty years, and is a member of the Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Service (DBHIDS). He is currently employed by Community Behavioral Health (CBH), as a Sr. Member Services Supervisor. He is very active within the Behavioral Health field, and a member of several initiatives and committees therein. Robert’s efforts support and demonstrate his commitment to the Recovery Transformation efforts of the DBH/IDS, as well as his many interactions within the Philadelphia Communities, where he serves as the department’s point person. He is a member of the initial steering committee for the Certified Peer Specialist Program, the Community Support Program (CSP), and the Quality of Work Life Committee and is involved in several of the Homeless Initiatives throughout the City of Philadelphia. Robert can be found doing Presentations throughout the City as it relates to Behavioral Health benefits and how to access services. His passion for the Recovery movement is well documented as he continues to spread the word through his various interactions. Robert has a Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration from Gwynedd-Mercy College, and is Chairman of the Deacon Board of the Resurrection Community Church, located in Southwest Philadelphia.

CONFERENCE OBJECTIVE

Description: Advocacy, Resources, Legislation & Solutions

PANELISTS

Anne Marie Ambrose
Commissioner, Philadelphia Department of Human Services

Dr. Arthur Evans
Commissioner, City of Philadelphia Department of Behavioral Health

Honorable Jonathan Irvine
Judge, Philadelphia Family Court

Crystal Nelson
Director of the Parent Family Resource Centers
School District of Philadelphia

Moderator
Barbara Grant
Partner, Cárdenas Grant Communications
DAY-AT-A-GLANCE

8:30 a.m.
Registration

9:00 a.m.
Welcome

9:15 a.m.
Panel Discussion

10:00 a.m.
Workshop 1
Custody & the Law

11:00 a.m.
Workshop 2
Family Dynamics of Kinship Care & Behavioral Health Resources

Noon
Lunch

12:30 p.m.
Keynote Speaker
Nikki Johnson-Huston, Esquire

12:45 p.m.
Advocacy

1:00 p.m.
Closing

Noon-2:00 p.m.
Resource Pavilion open

WORKSHOP SPEAKER BIOS

Cateria R. McCabe is a staff attorney with SeniorLAW Center, a nonprofit organization which improves the lives of older Pennsylvanians and protects their rights through legal representation, education and advocacy. While Cateria has practiced in a variety of areas of law during her career, she currently concentrates on custody and landlord/tenant matters. She also gives advice, information and referrals through SeniorLAW Center’s Pennsylvania SeniorLAW Helpline, which serves all 67 counties in Pennsylvania. Cateria is active in several community service and advocacy organizations. She graduated from Mount Holyoke College and Villanova University School of Law, where she received the Joseph Wenk Award for legal service to the poor.

Jennifer Russell, Esq. is an associate at Sacks, Weston, Petrelli & Diamond, LLC where she practices primarily in the area of family law. Prior to her current position, Jennifer served as a staff attorney at SeniorLAW Center, where she provided legal services to senior citizens in the areas of family law, estate planning, estate administration, landlord tenant law, and issues involving real property and homeownership. Before becoming a staff attorney, Jennifer received an Independence Foundation Public Interest Law Fellowship to develop and implement the Fostering Kinship Care Legal Project. This Project provided legal services to grandparents raising their grandchildren and other seniors raising relative children in Philadelphia. Jennifer continues to provide community education and advocacy to support kinship caregivers. She received her Juris Doctorate from Temple University, Beasley School of Law in May 2009.

ADVOCACY SPEAKER BIO

Joana M. Hopkins (Joi) has a diverse background in Social Work. The majority of her work is centered on the issues of aging which pertains to Financial Security, Health, Home & Family and living full and fun lives. This gives her a unique perspective on the relationship between the needs of older adults and their home and community life. For over 10 years, she has worked with non-profit organizations and governmental agencies in a number of areas including child welfare, older adult services, program development, market research, individual and
group facilitation and identifying strategic partners for collaborative efforts.

Mrs. Hopkins is currently the Associate State Director of Multicultural Outreach at AARP-PA. Since 2010, she has worked in local communities to promote collective interests of the African American 50+ population in Pennsylvania with the mission to inform, engage and empower African Americans by way of bringing to life, AARP’s portfolio issues: My Money; My Health; My Home and Family; and My Personal Time.

She has conducted multiple Medicare and Social Security outreach events to African American populations that were seen as underserved and underrepresented. She was instrumental in advocating against the recent Voter ID legislation, requiring Pennsylvania residents to show a valid photo ID before voting in the 2012 election. She worked closely to help organize a successful Voter ID rally held in Philadelphia which aimed to inform the public about their basic right to vote. She has worked with notable community leaders such as the NAACP, Committee of 70, the ACLU and a host of others in order to inform the voting public about how the current legislation aimed to disenfranchise members of the African American community in Pennsylvania.

Joana is a loving mother of two, wife of 24 years, daughter, and a foster parent to five. Mrs. Hopkins holds an undergraduate degree of Criminal Law from Rowan University, NJ and a Masters of Social Work degree from Widener University, PA. She is a proud member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. and the National Association of Black Social Workers. It is her belief “to trust in the Lord with all your heart…in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your path.” Joana strongly believes in “Greater Service, Greater Progress.” “For what we do, we do for all!”

The Intergenerational Center offers two wonderful programs to assist kinship caregivers as a part of its Family Support Services: The Grandma’s Kids Program and The Family Friends Program. The Grandma’s Kids Program delivers curriculum-focused tutoring and skilled mentoring supports at several local schools to help kinship caregivers have a safe, caring and stimulating learning environment for their children during afterschool hours. Likewise, The Family Friends Program, assists kinship caregivers and other enrolled families with special needs to access vital information and referrals as well as provides beneficial respite opportunities via chaperoned trips/events and family matches with volunteers aged 55+ who love children and who are thoroughly screened, trained and supervised. It is a pleasure to support the 2013 Helping Hands Kinship Care Conference and to have our families, volunteers and staff engaged in the day’s activities.

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to you and are appreciative of the support State Senator Anthony H. Williams and his Staff for their undying efforts to enact positive social change regarding education and policymaking to reduce the challenges faced by local kinship caregivers and the children/youth in their care. Additionally, we would like to acknowledge how much we admire Kinship Care Families, our fellow members of The Philadelphia Kinship Care Committee and all other organizations and individuals involved in empowering local children/youth, adults and elders on our shared path in life. May the beauty of this interconnected strength give you energy with each late night and early morning. None of us are alone in caring about Philadelphia’s families; our work is not in vain.

Best regards,
Nancy Henkin, Ph.D. Joy Woods-Jones, MSW Alysia Williams, M.A.

April 4, 2013

Dear Kinship Caregivers:

For over 30 years, The Intergenerational Center at Temple University has been devoted to creating and implementing innovative, cross-age approaches to ensure that people of all ages are valued and have substantial opportunities to apply their wisdom to enhance the well-being of families and individuals, in their communities. Our high quality services range from training and consultation to home and community-based service programming. As a local, national and international resource, we are driven in our purpose to demonstrate that at each stage of life there are talents to be revealed and empowered.

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April 20, 2013
Dear Kinship Caregivers, Friends and Partners:

SeniorLAW Center is delighted to be a part of today’s conference, to share information about the law and learn with you about how we can all best support and celebrate the extraordinary roles kinship caregivers play in the lives of children in our community.

This year SeniorLAW Center is celebrating our 35th anniversary of protecting the rights of older Pennsylvanians. One of the milestones of our organization’s history of which we are most proud is our launching, over two decades ago, our KinC.A.N. program, the Kinship Caregiver Assistance Network. This program was one of the first in the nation to provide legal and advocacy services for grandparents and other seniors taking on the role of primary caregiver for their grandchildren and other minor relative children. It has been and continues to be one of our most vibrant programs.

We are proud of the hundreds of intergenerational families we have had the privilege to serve, to represent and navigate through the family court system and to help us all understand the law and the legal tools that can strengthen families and protect their rights. We are also proud of the work we’ve done with our partners in the kinship care community, working together with other advocates for seniors, children and families to bring information, resources, and best practices to Philadelphia and our region. We are excited to continue this work and to look ahead to continue to find creative ways to support grandparents, aunts, uncles, siblings and other kin who give so much of themselves to provide a home for and strengthen the lives of the children in their care.

To our kinship caregivers, we celebrate you and we say thank you for all you do. You are not alone.

Please be in touch with us throughout this special anniversary year for SeniorLAW Center and beyond as we plan additional events to raise awareness and visibility of the contributions and needs of the grandparents and families of our community.

We look forward to many more reasons to celebrate the work we do together.

Very truly yours,

Karen C. Buck, Esq.
Executive Director

Karen C. Buck, Esq.
Executive Director
Land Title Building, 100 South Broad Street, Suite 1710 Philadelphia, PA 19110
www.seniorlawcenter.org
A warm welcome to you – Grandparents and other family members – Kin who care enough to give all that you do. May your participation in the Helping Hands Kinship Care Conference offer you new and valuable information, tools, resources and inspiration to continue the strong commitment you have already made to caring for others, especially the children.

Center in the Park (CIP) extends our sincere appreciation to you; celebrates your selfless contribution to our collective good; and, offers the support of our resources in helping you meet the challenges you may encounter while raising children.

Center in the Park’s mission is “to promote positive aging and foster community connections for older adults whose voices are critical instruments in shaping its activities and direction.” As a nationally accredited non-profit senior community center in the Germantown section of Northwest Philadelphia, CIP provides comprehensive programs and services to individuals age 55+. Center in the Park endeavors to enhance and expand our programming to better meet the unique needs of grandparents and older adult relatives who are caring for children.

“Life’s challenges are not supposed to paralyze you, they’re supposed to help you discover who you are.”
- Bernice Johnson Reagon

The great responsibility of caregiving sometimes carries stressors and challenges, along with the joys and benefits of second time around parenting. Please know that in Center in the Park, you have a supportive environment with staff, and your peers, who are committed to helping you experience the rewards of positive aging and meet the challenges. Also know that we – the members of the Kinship Care Committee, organized by State Senator Anthony H. Williams, are a solid network of support available to you.

Center in the Park welcomes the opportunity to serve you.
Dear Kinship Caregivers:

Philadelphia Corporation for Aging, the Area Agency on Aging for Philadelphia is dedicated to improving the quality of life for older Philadelphians, providing programs and services that assist them in achieving and maintaining health, independence, and productivity.

Among these is the Family Caregiver Support Program, which provides much needed assistance to individuals who are caring for relatives. Also through this program we work with Temple University’s Family Friends and the Supportive Older Women’s Network. Both agencies are doing important work to help grandparents and other relatives who have stepped up to help raise another generation of children. Bringing up children requires a tremendous amount of energy, patience and love. Doing so at a time of life when one might face health, economic and other challenges of one’s own can be particularly difficult. That is just one of the many reasons why grandparents who accept the responsibility to raise their grandchildren are very special people. It’s also one of the reasons why they need a helping hand.

We are pleased to support the Helping Hands Kinship Care Conference. We applaud the efforts of State Senator Anthony Williams in bringing attention and resources to this worthy cause. We extend our thanks to Senator Williams and the Kinship Care Committee for their work in making this conference possible, and for their role in educating and empowering caregivers.

Sincerely yours,

HOLLY LANGE
President and CEO

RESOURCES PAVILION PARTICIPANTS

AARP
Achieving Unification Center
Adolescent Initiative Center
Althea Gibson Community Education
Boy Scouts
Boys & Girls Club
Bravo Health
Center in the Park
Christy Recreation Center
College Settlement of Philadelphia
Department of Behavioral Health
Department of Human Services
Education Law Center
Gateway Health
Grands as Parents
Grand Central
Grand Family Resources - SOWN
Health Partners
Keystone Mercy Health Plan
Kimmel & Silverman, PC: Community Relations & Consumer Advocacy
Philadelphia Corporation for Aging
Millcreek Playground
Neighborhood Bikes Works
NewCourtland
Parent Action Network
Parent Education Newtwork
Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts
PECO
Philadelphia Corporation for Aging
PHMC
Regina Hutchings
SCAN
School District of Philadelphia
Second Chance
Senior Law Center
Temple Center for Intergenerational Learning
Turning Points for Children/PHMC
YMCA - West Philadelphia

Michael D. Blum, Chairman • Holly Lange, President and CEO
A Message from

GRANDS AS PARENTS, INC.
Grandparents supporting relatives who have become caregivers for their families assuring a good quality of life that every child deserves.
2227 N. Broad Street • Philadelphia, PA 19132
215-236-5848 Fax: 267-299-8189
E-mail: grandsasparents1@verizon.net
Website: www.gapsnow.org

April 20, 2013

Grandparents and relative caregivers do care. We are the ones who step in to raise our grandchildren, nieces, nephews and cousins when the traditional family unit is broken. We at Grands As Parents firmly believe that we fill in the gaps in our grandchildren’s lives.

As a grassroots organization formed in 1996 to support and advocate for grandparents raising their grandchildren, we are excited to welcome you to the 2013 Helping Hands Kinship Caregivers Conference. We recognize that grandparents are increasingly serving as the primary parents motivated solely by the love of their grandchildren.

We also recognize the pressure and stress that grandparents are under when they assume this role as primary caregivers. Many adults, who have already raised their children, find themselves thrust into the role of second time parenting. Grandparents face a myriad of challenges in nearly all aspects of their lives, such as housing, educational, behavioral and economic barriers. It is under this umbrella that this conference was born to assist, support and educate caregivers and arm them with the tools to succeed. We hope you find the information you receive today helpful and we understand firsthand what you are going through. Please know that our organization, Grands As Parents, State Senator Anthony H. Williams and Philadelphia Kinship Care Committee understand the struggle and sacrifices made and are committed to helping you.

Sincerely,

Eileen Brown – President
Jean Hackney – Vice President
A Message from

April 20, 2013
Grandmothers, Aunts, Sisters, Grandfathers, Uncles, Brothers—Kinship Caregivers all, welcome to the 2013 Helping Hands Kinship Care Conference. As the name implies, hopefully you will find today’s experience to be informative and helpful, and maybe even a little inspiring!

One message that I want to make sure you take with you is that you are not alone in this courageous and loving course you have undertaken, caring for the child(ren) of a relative. Across the state of Pennsylvania alone there are over 60,000 loving caregivers like you caring for over 200,000 children, while right here in Philadelphia, there are approximately 15,400 grandparents with responsibility for grandchildren. These numbers are at once inspiring and shocking.

They inspire because there are so many people like you willing to make the personal sacrifices to care for and raise another’s child. Sure, I know that you see it as not an option to do otherwise, but the truth is that there is, or was, another option, and you chose not to take it. Your love, your commitment, your sense of family was too strong to allow you to do otherwise and in that you inspire all.

At the same time the numbers are shocking because they highlight the enormity of the situation. There are not just a few children living in this situation, but hundreds of thousands, and as you know there is precious little in the way of supports available for them or for you. In fact there is practically no acknowledgement of the fact that so many of our children are faced with growing up without their parents.

I know I do not have to tell you about the challenges that you and the children that you care for face. In many ways they are the most at risk for many of the obstacles and pitfalls faced by all children growing up. Adding to that the challenges you face with all of the systems in society; schools, medical facilities, housing resources, legal supports, etc. And yet, despite everything you get up each day and do the best you can for love of a child.

So let me say, Thank you. Thank you for caring, for your sacrifice, for the example you set and for the love you share. I hope that you will leave today with some information or connection that will help you and make your burden just a little lighter. If nothing else, leave knowing that there are people like Senator Williams and organizations like Turning Points for Children, that appreciate the struggles and sacrifices you make and are committed to doing as much as we can to find ways to help you. God Bless you.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Vogel

415 S. 15th Street Philadelphia, PA 19146 • 215-875-8200 • www.turningpointsforchildren.org

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Welcome to our second bi-annual Helping Hands Kinship Care Conference! We understand fully that time is precious, and in the case of the weekends, that’s particularly true. We are grateful that you decided to spend time here – and hope by day’s end, you will be, too.

Raising a child is difficult enough in society today. Choosing to raise a relative’s child for the good of that child’s welfare and the collective family is not only challenging, but also admirable. Due to incarceration, addiction, or neglect, we are witnessing a rise in intergenerational families like yours. Nationwide, more than 7 million children live with grandparents, where some 1 in 5 of those grandparents serve as primary caretakers – an increase of more than 30 percent within the last 20 years alone, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. And these tallies don’t include the countless uncles, aunts, cousins and older siblings who, despite considerable additional financial and emotional burdens, choose to step into that breach when parents walk away.

These are people filled with unconditional love for our next generation – people like you. Yet, despite these statistics, the tools to make these efforts easier too often are not apparent. 

The organizers for this event – The Philadelphia Kinship Care Committee, composed of a wide range of community organizations and members of my staff – have assembled several targeted workshops and discussions, as well as a wealth of resources and support, all in one place to help you and your family.

You will receive information and answers from legal, financial, educational and behavioral health experts. You will have the opportunity to connect with helpful agencies, organizations and fellow caregivers. And you will have the ear of lawmakers – myself included.

We need your voice, not just today, but throughout the process as we seek to advance your cause, in Harrisburg and beyond.

Above all, thank you for attending the Kinship Care conference. Your selfless deeds inspire us all.

Sincerely,

Anthony H. Williams
PA Senate – 8th District

April 20, 2013

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PA Senate – 8th District

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Sincerely,

Anthony H. Williams
PA Senate – 8th District
State Senator Anthony H. Williams, the Philadelphia Kinship Care Committee, Gateway Health Plan & the Philadelphia School District

WELCOME YOU TO

Helping Hands Kinship Care Conference

For Grandparents & other relatives who are raising children

2013

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2013
State Senator Anthony H. Williams, in partnership with
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& the Philadelphia School District
presents the 2nd Bi-Annual

Helping Hands
Kinship Care Conference
For Grandparents & other relatives
who are raising children

Saturday • April 20, 2013
9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

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