

GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN



CITY OF DALLAS-
OFFICE OF SENIOR AFFAIRS



The Children

Nationally

- **4.5** million children under age 18 live in grandparents-headed households
- **1.5 million** children live in other relatives' households (Census 2000)
- **30%** increase since 1990; **15%** increase since 1997

Texas

- **448,439** children under age 18 live in grandparents-headed households
- **2nd highest state** for number of children in grandparents-headed households
- A **44.1% increase** from 1990 Census figures
- That's **7.7% of all Texas children** under age 18
- **55,000+ Grandparents are Raising Their Grandchildren in Dallas County**



The Profile of the Children



- Estimated at least 1/3 have no parent present in the home
- Half are under the age of 6
- 1/3 have no health insurance
- All socio-economic levels; over 20% living in poverty
- Higher incidence of physical, mental, & learning disabilities



The Grandparents

- 71% are under the age of 60
 - 6.7% age 30-39
 - 29.2% age 40-49
 - **35.1% age 50-59**
 - 21% age 60-69
 - 7.1% age 70-79
- 39% of grandparent caregivers have been responsible for their grandchildren for 5 or more years

(U.S. Census 2000)



The Causes

Crisis or Chronic Problems

- Substance Abuse
- Incarceration
- HIV/AIDS
- Teen Pregnancy
- Death
- Child Abuse and Neglect
- Unemployment
- Divorce
- Family Violence
- Poverty
- Military Deployment



Needs of the Grandparent-Headed Families

- Financial
- Legal
- Health Insurance (physical & mental)
- Special needs of grandchildren
- Education
- Children-rearing
- Family communication and relationships
- Social isolation
- Respite care
- Outreach and Information



Dallas Initiative to Help Grandparents

- Dallas County KinCare Network
- Full-Time Program Coordinator
- Grandparents Warmline
- Grandparents Resource Guide



Dallas County KinCare Network

- **Mission: To provide assistance to grandparents and other relatives who are raising their grandchildren to ensure access to services.**
- DCKN is an informal group of organizations, agencies and volunteers in Dallas County that is committed to supporting grandparents and other kin who are raising children.



Dallas County KinCare Network Cont'd

- Provide conference and workshops for grandparents
- Provide trainings for professionals who work with grandparents
- Provide grandparents support groups
- Provide advocacy through legislative efforts
- Provide network building



Full-time Program Coordinator

- Funded by City of Dallas
- Coordinate the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program
- Liaison between Dallas County KinCare Network and City of Dallas
- Provide Case management



Grandparents Resource Collection

- New collaboration with Dallas Public Library Services and Dallas County KinCare Network
- Created a grandparent resource collection where grandparents can access services, seek information from a special collection designed specifically for grandparents and other relatives raising children
- Housed at one location but will be replicated to other branches throughout the city

Grand Opening Celebration



Grandparent Resource Collection Audelia Branch Library





Grandparents Warmline

- Grandparents call the warmline to seek services and assistance
- Will receive a warm and friendly voice
- The first step in accessing services and connecting with Dallas County KinCare Network



Grandparents Resource Guide

- Provided by Dallas County KinCare Network
- Funded by a grant from New York Life Foundation
- Funded by AARP



Summary

- The issues of grandparents as caregivers must be addressed
- There needs to be a collaborative effort to address the needs
- The future and the wellness of the children depends upon us all