

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

12/1

Hi Ruby -

This is most of the info.
accompanying the Landrum letter.
I will cc you on the response.

- Renee

GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN STATISTICS

IN ARIZONA:

- More than 100,000 families in Arizona where grandchildren live with grandparents
 - In more than half of these families, the grandparent is the primary caregiver
 - Reasons:
 - Divorce
 - Death
 - Incarceration
 - Out of wedlock birth
- According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Arizona is 19 out of 51 in the highest percentage of its children living in a grandparent's household
 - 55,257 (5.7%) kids live in their grandparent's household
 - Excludes householders, spouses, institutionalized and group quarters

IN THE UNITED STATES:

- Trend is increasing
 - 1980, 2.3M kids live with a grandparent
 - 1970, 2.2M kids live with a grandparent
- In 1996, about 4M kids (6%) live with a grandparent
 - More than 1/3 had neither parent present
 - 1.9M lived with mother in grandparent's house
 - Half were 6 years-old or younger
- 2.4M grandparent-maintained households with grandkids present
 - 51% have both grandparents present
 - 43% have just the grandmother
 - 6% have just the grandfather
 - 19% are over the age of 65
 - 15% of grandmothers
 - 21% of grandfathers
 - 48 % are between the ages of 50-65
 - 33% are under the age of 50
 - Average age is 55
- According to the AARP, the most common reasons grandparents must care for grandkids are:
 - 45% drug abuse
 - 22% child abuse
 - 6% abandonment
 - 6% teen pregnancy
 - 5 % parent unable

- 5% death of parent
- 11% other
- The U.S. Census Bureau also cites:
 - Rapid increase in single parent households
 - Mental and physical illness
 - AIDS
 - Crime/incarceration of parent
- Of homes where grandparents and grandchildren are coresident, $\frac{3}{4}$ are grandparent-maintained
- Grandparents coresiding with grandchildren are typically:
 - Healthier
 - More educated (at least a high school education)
 - Younger
 - More likely to work outside the home
 - 72% of grandfathers work
 - 56% of grandmothers work
- However, grandparents who care solely for their grandchildren are two times more likely to suffer depression.
- In grandmother only maintained households:
 - 25% are poor if one or more parents are present
 - 60% are poor if no parent is present
- 1 in 5 kids in the U.S. is poor, but 1 in 4 kids living with a grandparent is poor
- 27% of kids living in a grandparent maintained household are poor
 - 63% of kids living with the grandmother only are poor
- Only 44% of grandmothers who solely care for their grandchildren are income earners
- 84% of grandmother only maintained households receive public assistance
- 36% of Americans receive public assistance, but 52% of grandchildren who coreside with one or more grandparents receive public assistance
- 15% of American children do not have health insurance, but 33% of grandchildren who live in grandparent maintained households do not have health insurance
- Mean income of grandmother only maintained household is \$19,750; whereas, mean income of a household with both grandparents and at least one parent is \$61,632

9/1/89



Photos by Peter Schwepker/The Arizona Republic

When her parents could no longer care for her five years ago, 7-year-old Christianie went to live with her grandparents, Ron and Jean Rzucidlo of Glendale. The Rzucidlos aren't alone, according to a recent Census Bureau report.

Second time around

*More grandparents finding
selves back in parental role*

By Laura Trujillo
The Arizona Republic

As a parent raising three children in the 1970s, Jean Rzucidlo always worried she wasn't teaching her children enough. And if she had to do it all over again, she figured, things would be different.

She'd be more involved, getting the kids to join Little League and Brownies, church groups and school activities.

About five years ago, at 50 with grown children and a plan for her retirement, she got her chance. She took in her 2-year-old granddaughter when her youngest could no longer take care of her.

"And all those things that I said I'd do differently, well, I had to do them, I had the chance to do them," said Rzucidlo, now 56 and raising 7-year-old Christianie in her

Glendale home.

She found herself among a growing number of grandparents with 30-plus years of child rearing and old-fashioned values, taking the good and changing what they thought could be better from the first time around with a new generation of children.

A recent Census Bureau report says that more than one in 20 children in the United States lived in a home headed by a grandparent in 1997, the most recent year for which figures are available. Of those kids, about one-third live in a grandparent-headed home where no parent is present.

The number increased about 60 percent in the past two decades, according to the American Association of Retired Persons.

While the Census Bureau found that these children are more likely to



Instead of thinking about retirement, Jean Rzucidlo busies herself with the care of Christianie, which includes a recent trip to a portrait studio.

be raised in poverty and have no health insurance, grandparent advocates say they are also more likely to grow up in homes with involved guardians, using often strict, but caring, discipline and old-fashioned values.

"You get a chance to do things again," says Margaret Hollidge, director of the AARP's Grandparent Information Center in Washington,

— Please see **MANY** Page R2

human cor ban

Comm after in

By Barry Burkha
The Arizona Republic

FLAGSTAFF — Arizona Game and Fish Commission ban hunting contests for bobcats.

The 3-2 decision by the commission followed intense public outcry from hunting groups.

More than 11,000 faxes to the commission led to the contest ban.

The issue has been debated for years. Before that, the commission held contests with little fanfare and long and loud animal noises. Hunter Extreme animals.

The contest of predators — mostly bobcats — caused public outrage.

In March 1998, the commission held a public hearing lambasting.

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Peter Schwepker/The Arizona Republic

Grandparents
Ron and Jan
Rzucidlo are
also Mom and
Dad to
Christanie, who
has lived with
them since she
was 2 years old.

Many grandparents find selves back in parents' role

— MANY, from Page B1

D.C. "You have an opportunity to do things better. There's not a parent around who did everything right the first time around."

When Hollidge took in her grandson a few years ago, she learned to be a different parent at 47.

"You have an opportunity to be stricter," she said. "But then you do other things differently. Dirt didn't seem to bother me nearly as much the second time around."

Hollidge said grandparents — many of whom raised children in the 1950s and '60s when people more frequently ate dinner together and didn't let children watch hours of TV — turn to their past values in the second generation of children.

"We see the old-time values, of respect, of 'In my day we wouldn't have done that,'" says Patricia Dominguez, the coordinator of the GrandCare program through the Church of the Beatitudes.

Some of the grandparents say they are stricter than many young parents when it comes to limiting TV watching and keeping a closer eye on their grandchildren. But, Rzucidlo says, she also sees some young parents who share her "old-fashioned values."

She finds herself stressing education more this time and saving money for her granddaughter's college expenses.

Rzucidlo doesn't work, but most of the grandfathers, 72 percent, and about 56 percent of the grandmothers heading these households still work, according to the Census Bureau.

Eileen Harris, a Scottsdale real-estate agent who is raising her 4-year-old granddaughter, Sheri Lynn,

says she's more patient this time.

And she's learned some things as times have changed, saying she's now more interested in nutrition and limiting television. She reads more books to Sheri Lynn and takes her to plays and to listen to music.

"I think learning more information about parenting makes you different; I hope it makes me better, too," said Harris, 58. "I hope I'm growing and getting better."

Many of the grandparents find themselves turning to support groups at some point, looking to other grandparents to sometimes share the sad stories of drug use and deaths, neglect and abandonment that left them as the only choice as caregivers. They also swap stories of sacrifice, of spent pensions and retirement cruises replaced by trips to Magic Mountain. And they comfort each other as they mourn the loss of being a grandparent in taking over the role of parent.

They also find themselves turning to each other for help on raising children again, learning how to help them in schools that are teaching in different ways from those they remember from years ago.

Harris says she tries to reach back, remembering what it's like to raise a child, to make pancakes that look like Mickey Mouse.

They share tips on what they need to do differently this time, including helping kids with school and computer work.

And they share satisfaction and pride in watching the second generation grow up. "I don't think the first time, that I remember looking at my children 30 years ago and being so amazed," Harris said. "Now I think I'm seeing her as a little human being, rather than just being a kid."

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into a business deal down town, dragged a 58-year old woman employee outside and was choking her when officers arrived. After he was sprayed, Foley had trouble breathing and was hospitalized with a temperature of 105 degrees and a pulse rate in the 170s. His kidneys also were beginning to fail, said Assistant Chief Robert Lehner.

Grace Temple Baptist Church a few weeks ago to mourn and say good-bye to Tyrone Johnson, a Tucson native who died August 8, 1999 after being struck with police batons and snuffed out with pepper spray.

As of this writing the toxicology reports into the cause of his death were not in.

Representative Landrum to Help Provide Services to Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

Phoenix — Representative Leah Landrum is continuing her Grandparents Raising Grandchildren series by holding a meeting designed to help give grandparents onsite serv-



REP. LEAH LANDRUM

es and assistance to help raise their grandchildren. Representative Landrum will also review possible pieces of legislation for the next legislative session that can benefit the needs of the GRG project and its participants.

The next meeting will be held on Friday, September 17th, in the boardroom of the Roosevelt School District building, located at 6000 S. 7th St. District 23 constituents, as well as any other interested parties, are welcome to attend.

For more information, interested participants can contact Representative Landrum's office at 602-542-5864.

(Left to right) Mary Green, Denise Meridith, Michael Kelly and Ty'rone Green. Mary & Ty'rone Green are owners of *Image: Your Chef for Hire*, which was honored as the September Business of the Month by the Greater Phoenix Black Chamber of Commerce (GPBCC).

Strayhand Hopeful in Dist. 1 City Council Race

By G. Napier Barnes III
Staff Reporter

Republican Yolanda Strayhand, the first African-American to be elected to the Board of Directors of the Washington Elementary School District (WESD) is now vying to serve her northwest community in a different capacity. She is challenging incumbent Democrat Dave Siebert for his seat on the Phoenix City Council. The election for the District One seat will be held on next Tuesday, September 7.

Strayhand is a native Arizonian who has lived in District One for over thirty years. She is a graduate of Moon Valley High School (located in that district) and Grand Canyon University. She cares deeply about her community and neighbors which can be attested by the numerous civic organizations that she has served. Besides being the President

of the WESD Board, entering her second term, she has served with the Citizens Police Academy, the North Mountain Village Planning Committee, the Blockwatch Oversight Committee, and the Commission on Housing and Neighborhoods.

She was appointed by Governor Jane Dee Hull to the Governor's African-American Advisory Council, and served on both the Governor's Office of Substance Abuse Prevention and the Commission on National and Community Service. In 1992 she received the Outstanding Community Service Award. She has also received the Martin Luther King Jr. Living the Dream Award.

Strayhand believes that the district's current representation isn't addressing the issues that are of most concern to the residents of District One. "Focus has been more on issues concerning downtown and oth-

er areas of the city, then those to this community," she told the *Informant*. "I was running my campaign around being more assessable to this community, willing to listen to the people of District One. I am also concerned with the reduction of crime in the area, and better educational opportunities for our children, but surprisingly the majority of calls and comments from citizens have been from people upset over how City Council approved the deal with the Marriott Hotel."

Strayhand pointed out that District One, which runs from Glendale Avenue north to the Anthem Subdivision, and roughly between I-17 and 51st Avenue, is a very diverse area that is growing rapidly. Issues like affordable housing, new roads, the homeless, and new developments, schools and libraries must be addressed. "We



YOLANDA STRAYHAND
Councilwoman, District 1

as a community must learn to grow smarter," she said.

If elected, the happily married mother of three, vows to keep the lines of communication open to the entire district. She noted that her phone has been ringing off of the hook with questions about her platform. She also noted that district members have just been dropping by her north Phoenix home asking her position on various issues.

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Arizona Informant September 8, 1999

AGENCY AND ORGANIZATION PARTICIPANTS IN THE GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN PROGRAM

Arizona Department of Economic Security

- **Division of Aging and Community Services**
 - **Adult and Aging Administration**
- **Division of Children, Youth and Families**
 - **Child Protective Services**
 - **Child Care Administration**
- **Division of Benefits and Medical Eligibility**
 - **Family Assistance Administration**

Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System

- **KidsCare**

City of Phoenix

- **EARN Alliance**

Phoenix Memorial Hospital

Phoenix Health Plan

Center D.O.A.R

Kids' Place

Grandparents United for Children's Rights

Mesa Community College

South Mountain Community College

JWJ/Hope Academy