



Lynn Urvina

Lacey, Washington

Kinship caregiver winner

As a kinship navigator for the nonprofit Family Education and Support Services in Washington state, Lynn Urvina helps kinship caregivers traverse complex court systems, work with Child Protective Services, and advocate on behalf of the children at school and with health care systems. She also links caregivers to essential benefits and services they need to raise children successfully.

Ms. Urvina also facilitates the Washington state Kinship Caregiver Support Program in her local area, offering advocacy, information and emotional reinforcement to caregivers who are managing the challenges of raising grandchildren.

“My experiences raising my own granddaughter help me understand what other families are going through,” Ms. Urvina says

Ms. Urvina first learned of the existence of her granddaughter, Tara, when the child was 11 months old. She and her husband obtained custody, removing Tara from living conditions that were determined to be unsafe. Raising Tara was not always easy. Ms. Urvina sought help by attending a kinship support group. One evening, a local kinship navigator made a presentation to the group and mentioned that she soon would be leaving the job. Ms. Urvina knew right then that kinship navigation was her calling and that the presenter’s job would become hers. She was correct on both counts.

