

What is Kinship Care?

Kinship care can be defined as the full-time nurturing and protection of children by relatives who have a kinship bond with children when those children have been separated from their biological parents.

- Are you concerned about how to communicate with the child's parent?
- Are you adjusting to your new role with the child?
- Is the child adjusting to your new role in their life?
- Are the needs of the child more than you can bear at times?

To meet these needs, the Kinship Caregiver Program of Catholic Charities provides support to relative caregivers using a family systems approach.

The program encourages families to access existing community resources, as well as form new relationships with other community organizations and services.

Services Provided

CATTARAUGUS COUNTY

Advocacy: Active support and promote rights of the family, that is, the caregiver(s) and the children

Assessment and Referral to Family Counseling: Help and support for the family, as a whole and each member

Case Management: Organize services for the family

Kinship Youth Group: Connects children who are no longer living with their biological parents and provides support with others who, like them, are in a kinship family. Groups look for opportunities to volunteer in the community; currently held at an Olean school.

Outreach: Outreach to families in need, including home visits

Parenting Education: A refresher on parenting in today's world

Referral and Linkage: Assists with connecting to other resources in the family's community; including legal, financial and human services

Support & Activity Group Meetings: Combines the support group and care coordination with YMCA family membership, family events, programs and youth activities. Held bi-monthly at YMCA of the Twin Tiers facility in Olean.

ALLEGANY COUNTY

Support & Activity Group Meetings: Combines the support group and care coordination with YMCA family membership, family events, programs and youth activities. Held bi-monthly at YMCA of the Twin Tiers facility in Wellsville.



Eligibility

Children must be TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) eligible or eligible for public cash assistance. Children living with a non-parent caregiver who are eligible to receive a 'child-only' TANF grant, regardless of the caregivers income.

The children don't have to be in court ordered legal arrangements such as guardianship or kinship foster care. Arrangements made with the child's parents are acceptable for this program.

There is no cost for the program services. Long-term counseling services may be paid through insurance or based on sliding fee, if referred to another Catholic Charities program.

Support for the Kinship Caregiver Programs are provided by the Cattaraugus County Department of Social Services, YMCA of the Twin Tiers, and the Health Foundation for Western and Central New York



Other Catholic Charities Services

Cattaraugus, Allegany, and Chautauqua Counties:

Satellite Offices' Counseling including individual, family, and group counseling. Services are available and accessible to each community.

Olean: 372-0101
Wellsville: 585-593-2015
Toll-Free: 1-877-372-0101

Services by Court Mandate or Department of Social Services Referral:

Domestic Violence Education Classes for Men, and Co-Parenting 372-0101

Other Services: 372-0101

New Hope Partners Family Violence Services; Multisystemic Therapy; Mediation (not court ordered); Intensive Case Management; Supportive Case Management

Some challenges kinship caregivers may encounter

How to meet the needs of the child (emotional and behavioral concerns)

Fulfilling your new parenting role and stepping out of the 'relative' role

Negotiating your new relationship with the child and the child's parent(s)

Parenting strategies

Financial demands

Legal concerns and questions

Finding affordable, accessible health care and health care coverage

Housing needs

Affordable and reliable child care

Questions and concerns regarding child's education

... We can help!

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

CATTARAUGUS AND ALLEGANY KINSHIP CAREGIVER PROGRAMS



Providing support to relative and non-relative caregivers



Cattaraugus and Allegany Kinship Caregiver Programs

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