

National Kinship Care Month: A Celebration and Strategy

Kinship Care Month is both a celebration and an advocacy strategy. It is a well-deserved opportunity to hold events that acknowledge the tremendous contributions of kinship families and to provide outreach to the kinship community. It is also an opportunity to educate policy makers. There is still a compelling need for more programs and policies that support children being raised in kinship families, especially informal kinship families. Promoting September as Kinship Care Month is a marketing opportunity for educating state and federal legislatures, governors, and the President about kinship families and their needs!

Supporting proclamations in honor of kinship families opens the door for informing about kinship care. It can help education on the core fact that children raised in kinship care must be afforded the supports and services necessary to live safe and fulfilling lives. Proclamations are a way for legislators and governors to say they are listening and that the citizenry of their state appreciates and honors the commitment and sacrifices of kinship families. A simple voice vote in the legislatures can yield a proclamation or the stroke of a pen can create a gubernatorial executive proclamation.

Many kinship organizations now have the tools and experience to promote help for their kinship families. Yet, it's worthwhile to provide basic advocacy information, and we provide information and sample editorials/resolutions here at the Kinship Care months pages. At the state and local levels, approaching county/city officials, your legislators and Governor are all possible ways to pursue promoting support for kinship families. Please see materials at this site, and join the many other states in a national movement to proclaim September as National Kinship Care Month.

By approaching policy makers with concise information about demographics, kinship stories, and famous kinship caregivers, it is relatively easy to gain their support.

We hope that you'll agree that this approach can move the cause of kinship families forward, and that you'll join the movement.
