

Kinship Newsletter

Thurston-Lewis-Mason Counties

February ~ 2022

Our Mission

To inspire healthy child development through the provision of quality family support services

Familyess.org



Speak to your children as if they are the wisest, kindest, most beautiful and magical humans on Earth, for what they believe is what they become.

Brooke Hampton



2022
2nd Annual

Voices of Kinship Caregivers Contest

Tell us ... *Your Positive Experiences as a Kinship Caregiver*



What is the Contest?

Voices of Kinship Caregivers is a contest for Kinship Caregivers in Washington State, who are raising (now or in the past) a relative child not their own. This contest honors the unique experiences of more 47,000 grandparents & relative caregivers in Washington state who are Kinship Caregivers.

How Do You Enter the Contest?

Write a poem or short essay that describes your **positive** experiences as a Kinship Caregiver.

What are the Rules?

- All participating caregivers must live in **Washington State**.
- Poems should be 21 lines or less.
- Essays should be 500 words or less.
- Do not include any last names within the body of your writing.
- Winners will be notified in early May and the decisions of the judges are final.
- The Award's Ceremony, due to COVID restrictions, will be held via Zoom. Time & Date TBA.
- We reserve the right of first publication and use of the writings submitted.
- All entries may be published as an added section within a 2022 Book entitled, **"Voices of Children – Raised by Grandparents & Other Relatives"**

Deadline for Entries
April 15th, 2022

Three Winners will each be awarded a \$50 Amazon Gift Card

Submit your entries in either an email or PDF/Word attachment to:

Tammara@familyess.org Questions? Call Tammara Newbill @ 360.754.7629

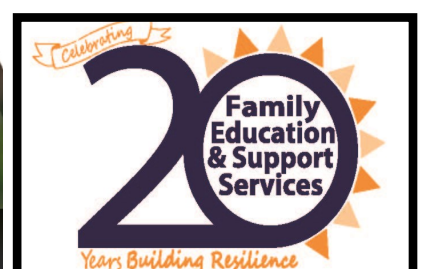
Include within the body of the email: Your full name and age, County of residence, mailing address, and current telephone contact number

**Family Education
& Support Services**
Supporting Families...Strengthening Communities



The Parental Compass

<https://www.parentalcompass.org/feed.xml>





19th Annual

Voices of Children Contest

Tell us ... *What living with a Grandparent, Aunt, Uncle, or other Relative has meant to you.*



What is the Contest?

Voices of Children Raised by Grandparents and Other Relatives is a contest for children in Washington State, who are being raised (now or in the past) by a relative— other than their parents. The contest honors both, the more than 57,000 children, and the more than 47,000 grandparents & relatives in Washington state who are raising them.

How Do You Enter the Contest?

Write a poem, short essay, or draw a picture that **describes how living with a relative** (such as a Grandparent, Aunt, or Uncle) **has made a positive difference in your life.**

Entries will be judged in three age categories: 5-7 year-olds, 8-12 year-olds, & 13-19 year-olds.

What are the Rules?

- All participating children must live in **Washington State** and be **5-19 years old**.
- Poems should be **21 lines or less**.
- Essays should be **200 words or less**.
- Make your art as big and bold as possible and add a statement that explains your drawing.
- **Artwork must be submitted on the enclosed entry form.**
- Do not include any names within the artwork.
- Artwork must be flat and submitted within the box on the entry form (Other side of this page).
- Winners will be notified in early May and the decisions of the judges are final.
- The Award's Ceremony, due to COVID restrictions, will be held via Zoom. Time & Date TBA.
- We reserve the right of first publication and use of the writings and drawings submitted.
- All entries may be published in a 2022 Book entitled,

"Voices of Children – Raised by Grandparents & Other Relatives"

What are the Prizes?

The Two Top Scoring Entries in each Age Division will receive:

- * \$100 from Twin Star Credit Union
- * A Gas Card
- * A One-year Discover Parks Pass



**Family Education
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Supporting Families...Strengthening Communities



2022 ~ 19th Annual

Voices of Children Contest

*Reflections of Children Raised by Grandparents
& Other Relatives*



Write an essay, poem, or submit a drawing **describing how you have benefited by living with a relative.** Poems should be 21 lines or less.

Essays should be 200 words or less. Writings may be submitted on this entry form or a separate piece of white paper.

Drawings should be BIG, BOLD, and COLORFUL images. **ARTWORK MUST BE SUBMITTED ON THIS FORM.** Artwork not submitted on this form will be ineligible for the contest. Do not include any names within the artwork.

Large empty box for drawing or artwork.

Child's Full Name: _____ Age: _____
Adult/Caregiver Name: _____ Relationship to Child: _____
Mailing Address: _____ (City) _____ (Zip Code) _____
Email Address: _____ Contact Phone #: _____
Mail or Email Your Contest Entries to: **ALL ENTRIES MUST BE SUBMITTED OR POSTMARKED BY APRIL 15th, 2022**
2022 Voices of Children Contest
c/o Family Education & Support Services
P.O. Box 14907
Tumwater, WA 98511 or Tumwater@familyess.org
Questions? Call: 360.754.7629 OR Email: Tumwater@familyess.org
Privacy Note: The information above is for the Award's committee members to contact you and will not be shared with any third parties. All entries will be published with the child's first name only and age. All other personal information will be withheld.



One of the grandmothers brought her 7 year old grandson with her when she came to our drive through gift pick-up before Christmas. He asked her why their family was getting these gifts. She took the time to explain our program. She explained that there are people in our community that want to help families like theirs and children like him. They have a pretty large group of family living together right now and I know they received a lot of what was donated as well as items from the Jubilee Giving Tree. After Christmas she decided to give her grandson the gift card from Walmart that the Giving Tree had provided. He asked if he could buy gifts for other "kids like him" - other kinship children. He checked out all the clearance sales and bought stickers and other small toys for us to have on hand to give to other kids. At just seven years old he is already trying to pay it forward! Way to go Axel!

**Stay Updated on COVID-19
with the most recent information
on our Kinship Facebook Page**

Lewis-Mason-Thurston Kinship

Caregivers



Stay informed on weekly
COVID vaccination clinics
in your area.

Check out:

<https://familyess.org/heritage-vaccine-event/>

BEAUTIFUL

TRUE LOVE

XOXO

**"The place where
light and dark
begin to touch
is where
miracles arise."**

-Robert A. Johnson

The Brookdale Foundation Group

The Brookdale Foundation The Glendale Foundation Ramapo Trust
Supporting today's seniors and tomorrow's leaders in aging



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