2022

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 than 40,000 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 Ceremony, due to COVID restrictions, will be held via Zoom. Time & Date TBD.
- 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”

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 Newsby @ 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*

https://allianceforchildwelfare.org/

https://www.parentalcompass.org/
Lewis-Mason-Thurston Kinship Caregivers

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

Lewis Mason-Throwen Kinship Caregiver

Why are the Voices of Kinship Children and Kinship Caregivers Important?

For 19 years the annual Voices of Children Contest in Washington State has shared the experiences of children being raised by their relatives. The stories and artwork are compiled into booklets each year.

What happens to these powerful little booklets after that? Each participant receives a copy, as do the judges that help us select the winning entries. Judges are often policy makers or elected officials, and when they review the VOC entries, they gain an understanding of the challenges and the joys of Kinship Care. This personalized the issue, and hopefully comes to their minds when they are dealing with difficult budget decisions, or policy changes. When Kinship Navigators and other Kinship Program advocates speak to Service Clubs such as Rotary or Kiwanis Clubs, or community collaborations of Non-Profit agencies, they often share excerpts from Voices of Children and Kinship Caregivers. You tell the story better than they can – therefore your voices are important. Please take a few minutes to share your positive experiences and enter this year’s contest.

Lynn Urvina
Kinship Program Manager

Stay informed on weekly COVID vaccination clinics in your area.

Check out: https://familyess.org/heritage-vaccine-event/

Anatha’s Corner

Recently I had a conversation with a Kinship Caregiver who is struggling to convince her child to clean her room. This is a common family problem. As frustrating as this can be, there are some options.

One option is to have a give and take agreement. It could sound like this:

"we all have to keep the common areas in the house picked up, but you can keep your room however you want, as long as you keep your door closed."

This will only work if he does not share his room and it is not so bad that critters have taken up residence.

Sometimes the influence of a sibling will help. I had twins, one was very tidy and the other messy, but they had to share a room. This kept them in constant negotiation and the room was always slightly between neat and messy.

Family Education & Support Services
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