

Kinship Newsletter

Thurston-Lewis-Mason Counties

March ~ 2022

Our Mission

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

Familyess.org



WE ARE FAMILY DAY
SUNDAY, MAY 8
1:10 P.M. TB vs. S

TICKET PRICES
MAIN-\$18
VIEW-\$8

There's nothing more important than family. We're excited to invite you to We Are Family Day, Sunday, May 8, as we celebrate foster, kinship and adoptive families and the folks that support them. Enjoy a fun-filled day of baseball and sunshine, a pregame event on the Rooftop Boardwalk (near Section 330) and claim an exclusive We Are Family Day Mariners-themed hat when you purchase through this special offer!

TO BUY TICKETS OR FOR MORE INFO CALL OR VISIT:
(206) 346-4528 * Mariners.com/WeAreFamily



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



Alliance
for Child Welfare Excellence

<https://allianceforchildwelfare.org/>

**Tailored
support for
caregivers**

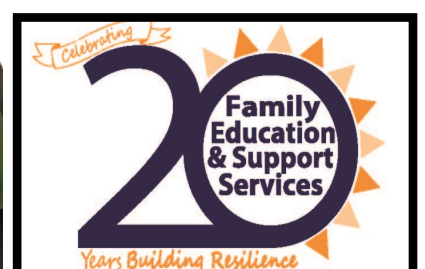
Get to know Alliance CaRES, offering personalized help and information. »



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

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?

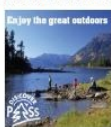
- All participating children must live in **Washington State** and be **5-19 years old**.
- Poems should be 21 lines or less.
- Essays should be 200 words or less.
- Make your art as big and bold as possible and add a statement that explains your drawing.
- **Artwork must be submitted on the enclosed 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 & Support Services
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.

Blank area for drawing or writing.

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 TannerM@familyess.org
Questions? Call: 360.754.7629 OR Email: TannerM@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.

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



You have what it takes to be a brain builder!
Download the Vroom app to add learning to mealtime, bathtime, bedtime, and anytime with Vroom tips.
See for yourself how Vroom tips are fast and fun!
vroom.org
Download on the App Store | GET IT ON Google Play
Over 1,000+ easy activities designed to help your child's brain grow strong
Life gets busy. Vroom tips stay simple. With fun activities, backed by science, you can turn everyday moments into brain-building opportunities.

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/>

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.



The Brookdale Foundation Group

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



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