



## Fresh from the Village Green

**Apology.** It is clear Issue #1 was too flimsy to withstand passage through the US Mail. Many copies were delivered in a more or less damaged condition. We send our apologies and hope that the new arrangement leaves *Campaign Brief* intact!

**Taking Stock:** Focus remains on obtaining gifts to qualify for the matching grant promised by the Kent H. Smith Foundation. We have sent out requests well in excess of the \$230,480 that remains to be raised to meet the qualifying goal. But donors, especially foundations and corporations, often take time to process requests for money. We have been asked for and have provided extensive additional information to two of the potential funders approached. Rest assured that we are keeping a close eye on all our prospects and will nudge gently when it seems wise to do so.

Young volunteer - a student at The Intergenerational School on the Fairhill Campus - participates in the Fairhill February Care Fair, showing a caregiver how to navigate caregiving sites on the internet.



**What's New?** When you are next in Fairhill, look at the corridor wall just off the elevator lobby leading to 'E' Wing. You will see the elegant chart produced and donated by our Board Director and campaign team member, Jack Bialosky, Jr. It allows us to show graphically the progress of our fund-raising efforts. Another \$100,000 will allow us to "color in" the second segment of the chart. Please help us towards that immediate goal.

**Did You Know?** According to the 2000 United States Census more than six million children – approximately one in twelve – are being raised in households headed by grandparents and other relatives. Reasons include: the biological parents' struggles with substance abuse, mental illness, incarceration, economic hardship, divorce, domestic violence and other serious problems. Just over two million of those children live in households where grandparents are the sole providers for the children.

**A Definition. Kinship Care** is the full-time nurturing and protection of children by relatives, members of their tribes or clans, godparents, step-parents, or other adults who have a kinship bond with the child.

**Frequently Asked Questions (and some answers).** Not surprisingly, those who learn about the Campaign For Kinship Village pose questions about both the Campaign and the Village that are not covered in our campaign publications. We will try to use Campaign Brief to repeat in this and subsequent issues some of the "Q&A's."

**Q.** Have 100% of Fairhill Board Members contributed to the Campaign?

**A.** By July 1, 2006 all the Board Members at that time had given or pledged to the campaign. Indeed, we did not begin fundraising activities until that goal had been achieved.

**Address comments/enquiries about the Campaign to Michael C. Gathercole, Associate Director – at [mcg@fairhillcenter.org](mailto:mcg@fairhillcenter.org) or (216) 421-1350**

# Village Vignettes

**Legislative Update.** On February 16, 2007 The Kinship Caregiver Support Act (Bill number S. 661) was reintroduced in the Senate of the United States by Senators Hillary Clinton (D-NY) and Olympia Snowe (R-ME). The Bill recognizes that kinship caregivers, who often become caregivers unexpectedly, face unique challenges to raising children successfully. Some of those challenges are financial; others are logistical and/or emotional. The Bill attempts to address the full range of challenges facing kinship caregivers.

“Title I: The Kinship Navigator Program” aims to reduce one of the greatest challenges faced by kinship caregivers raising children, i.e., obtaining accurate information about the services available in their communities. Toll-free hotlines and other easily accessible channels of communication will be established; partnerships between government and other organizations will seek to coordinate help available; and “ombudsmans” will be appointed to intervene when their

help is needed. **The Kinship Navigator proposals are modeled on practices in Ohio.**

“Title II: Subsidized Guardianship” will make it possible for kin to serve as permanent legal guardians for children who would otherwise be under the foster care of a stranger, with the option for States to use their Title IV-E funds to provide payments to such guardians.

We will bring you up-dates on Bill S. 661 as we receive news of its progress through the Legislature.

Volunteer photographer at the annual kinship party coaxes a smile out of an independently minded 2 year old.



## Collaborative Campus Update.

springbreak.you



20 young adults (ages 13 to 18) will be taking a different kind of spring break on the Fairhill Campus from April 9th through the 13th. Each of these teens is being raised in a kinship family by grandparents or other older adult caregivers. They will spend a week exploring team building, careers, college options and money management. This spring break will include challenges about sharing the caring - a specific concern of families where everyone is a caregiver. Before they leave, the team will spend Friday volunteering and giving back to family and community.

Staff teams from Fairhill, Kent State, Case Western Reserve University and University Aging & Health Center are diving into spring break too. **springbreak.you** is a Fairhill Building Suc-

cess for Kinship Teens program. Fairhill has spent ten years supporting and partnering with kinship families - it was a natural progression for Fairhill to build programs that invest in teens who are part of a joint caregiving equation. This initiative is supported by Sisters of Charity Foundation, The Treu-mart Fund (*a supporting organization of The Cleveland Foundation and The Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland*) and The Cleveland Foundation.