



Fresh from the Village Green

Taking Stock

In mid-July Fairhill staff received a referral from the City of Cleveland Department of Aging about an older adult in a housing crisis – her home had been broken into and missing windows, damaged locks and pending police/insurance reports necessitated finding a temporary place to stay. Finances prevented a stay in a hotel during this crisis, so she arrived at the Senior Guest House in tears - afraid to return to her home but afraid of this unfamiliar setting. Soon after her arrival, she inquired about the children around campus. Hearing about Kinship Care, she shared that she too was raising a granddaughter – the first time she identified herself as part of a kinship family. 29 days later, with the support of Fairhill staff, she secured safe housing, just in time for school. She is now connected to Fairhill, City and County kinship resources. The security and support services of Kinship Village would be a dream come true for this grandmother and granddaughter.



A picture is worth a thousand words! James, 77 year old resident in the Senior Guest House and Bianca, 15 year old Kinship teen participating in Fairhill's Teen Leadership program quietly model intergenerational learning on a warm spring day in May.

We need help!

Efforts to further the Campaign have continued throughout the summer. In mid-September we received a pledge of \$10,000 from another generous individual, to be added towards the total of \$300,000 that we must raise before the end of 2007 to qualify

for a \$100,000 challenge grant from the Kent H. Smith Charitable Trust. As this is written we need only \$37,000 more to meet the challenge. With this goal met, we can begin work immediately to remove asbestos and other hazardous materials from the buildings to be renovated. It would be a boost to the project and to the campaign if this task could be done in the Fall, before cold weather makes it impractical to work in unheated buildings. So, **if you (or your friends or acquaintances) are thinking of making a gift to the Campaign before the end of the year, may we ask you to do so now.**

With your generous support we will not only meet the challenge but make a start on the first phase of the project itself – a thrilling prospect.

Comments/enquiries
about the Campaign?
Contact Michael C. Gathercole,
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Village Vignettes



KINSHIP ADVOCACY ALERT:

State Bill Number 111 continued...
No significant progress to report on Ohio State Bill Number 111, described in the last issue of Campaign Brief.

Kinship Caregiver Support Act ...
New news on important legislation now before the U.S. Congress – The Kinship Caregiver Support Act (S. 661/H.R. 2188).

Approximately 2.5 million children are being cared for by grandparents and other relatives without either parent present. One in five of these children live below the poverty line and many of the caregivers live on fixed incomes, but only about 30% receive any public financial support. Of the more than half a million children in foster care, about a quarter live with relatives.

Research shows that children raised in foster care with relatives fare well. When compared with children in foster care with non-relatives, children in relative foster care are just as safe or safer, less likely to have multiple placements, more likely to stay connected with siblings, and less likely to change schools.

Unfortunately, under current federal law the caregivers of these children are likely to lose the financial assistance they received as foster parents to meet the needs of the child if they become legal guardians and provide permanent homes for the children. The Kinship Caregiver

Support Act (S.661/H.R. 2188) provides access to important supportive services for relatives caring for children in foster care and those helping to keep children out of foster care.

Among other important supportive services, S.661/H.R. 2188 will:

- Establish a Kinship Navigator Program, which will help link relative caregivers to a broad range of services and supports;
- Establish a Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program, which will give states the option to use federal funds for subsidized guardianship payments to certain relative caregivers; and
- Allow states to establish separate licensing standards for relative foster parents.

DID YOU KNOW that as few as 25 personal telephone calls are thought to be sufficient to influence a Legislator to review his/her position on a policy issue? Please consider telephoning your members of Congress and asking them to co-sponsor The Kinship Caregiver Support Act with Congressmen **Danny K. Davis** and **Timothy V. Johnson**, and with **Senator Hillary Clinton**. Remember, three telephone calls could help to provide much improved and needed support for both relative caregivers and their charges.

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Every issue of the Campaign Brief features a CKV (Campaign for Kinship Village) Q&A - frequently asked questions (and some answers) from readers, donors, friends or team members. Please feel free to send in your own!

- Q.** Does the campaign budget differentiate capital needs from operating and endowment needs?
- A.** Yes: Of the \$3,500,000 campaign target, \$2,900,000 will be allocated to renovation costs, including \$100,000 for campaign expenses. \$100,000 will go towards planning, marketing and start-up expenses. The remaining \$500,000 will support a substantial project contingency allowance, the remaining balance of which, upon project completion, will fund long-term capital upkeep needs.