

## Thank you.

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We are taking a moment to express our gratitude for the work direct-service professionals do all year round. But you do not have to take our word for it. Here is what kin caregivers say about the care, collaboration, and kindness you bring to the families you partner with. Thank you...

### ... For seeing a need and filling it.

*Staff are always there to assist me with anything we may need; the little things (like gas cards) make a huge difference.* – Kin Caregiver, Washington State Kinship Program Services

*I really appreciate the help during winter because the Kinship Navigator Program provides winter coats for the children.* – Kin Caregiver, Kinship Navigator Program, Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio, Inc.

*I thought I could do it on my own. They brought beds, still makes me tear up, gently used clothes...* – Kin Caregiver, Shelby County (Tennessee) Relative Caregiver Program

*They asked if there was anything I needed right at that time. They provided gift cards so that I could get clothes and food for my six grandchildren. After I started getting the subsidy, they made sure to stay in contact to make sure I had everything I needed. I am really grateful.* – Grandmother, Grandparent & Close Relative Caregiver Subsidy Programs—District of Columbia

### ... For going above and beyond what is expected.

*The kinship and lifespan program manager and her team are accessible and responsive [...]. They are willing to brainstorm and think outside the box.* – Partner, Washington State Kinship Program Services

### ... For giving your clients new tools and strategies to meet the demands of their new lives.

*They don't just help you. They teach you.* – Kin Caregiver, DC KinCare Alliance

### ... For helping your clients become strong advocates for the children in their care.

*Our kinship worker is truly there for our interests. [She] will have an honest conversation and advocate for us.* – Kin Caregiver, Colorado Kinnected, Colorado Department of Human Services

*It feels incredible in this moment to have an advocate in our corner helping us navigate all of this.* – Kin Caregiver, Shelby County (Tennessee) Relative Caregiver Program

*The hope they instill in us is empowering.* – Kin Caregiver, The Kinship Program – Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine, Inc.

**... For seeing your clients' humanity.**

*We're human and they treat us like we're human. The first time I heard of self-care was here. Somebody came to talk about dental work; the relative caregiver program encouraged me to go.*  
– Kin Caregiver, Shelby County (Tennessee) Relative Caregiver Program

*It makes a difference when someone other than your regular family cares enough to ask about you.* – Kin Caregiver, High Country Caregivers, North Carolina

*If I had a crown to give, I would give it to [the staff].* – Kin Caregiver, Kinship Care Project, Atlanta Legal Aid Society, Inc.

**... For providing a place to talk about all the feelings.**

*I love that they had a children's support group that was online. My grandson really enjoyed doing that.* – Grandparent Caregiver, Project GRANDD (Grandparents Raising And Nurturing Dependents with Disabilities), Georgia

*Children's Service Society was one crutch and grief support was another. Together, I could walk again.* – Kin Caregiver, GRANDfamilies Kinship Care at Children's Service Society of Utah

*It is such a blessing to live here. This gave the kids more help through on-site therapy with Kinship House, and elders taking the kids on trips.* – Kin Caregiver, Bridge Meadows Intergenerational Housing Community, Oregon

*Knowing that there were other people, women like me trying to raise these grandbabies [...]. And they were going through the same thing I was, and it was such a relief to know I wasn't alone.* – Grandparent Caregiver, Project Healthy Grandparents, Georgia State University

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The Grandfamilies & Kinship Support Network: A National Technical Assistance Center (Network) helps government agencies and nonprofits in states, tribes, and territories work across jurisdictional and systemic boundaries to improve supports and services for families in which grandparents, other relatives, or close family friends are raising children whose parents are unable to do so. For more information, please visit [www.GKSNetwork.org](http://www.GKSNetwork.org).

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**Thank you.**