

Release: (DATE YOU RELEASE)

Contact: (LOCAL SITE FACILITATORS NAME AND NUMBER)

NATIONAL EXTENSION PROGRAM TO FOCUS ON GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN

(YOUR TOWN) More than 4 million American children, close to 6 percent of all children in the U.S., are now living in a grandparent's home. There is every indication that this number will continue to grow.

Grandparents raising grandchildren come from all regions of the United States, from all ethnic groups, economic classes, cultural groups and from both urban and rural areas.

A national satellite video program originating from University of Wisconsin-Extension in Madison, WI, on Jan. 12, 1999, will examine how professionals and agencies working with these grandparents can help them get needed support.

The three-hour satellite video, "Grandparents Raising Grandchildren: Implications for Professionals and Agencies" will be broadcast from (CHOOSE TIME FROM YOUR TIME ZONE: 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. EST; 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. CST; 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. MST; 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. PST). The program will be available locally at (NAME AND ADDRESS OF LOCATION). (OTHER DETAILS SUCH AS COST, LOCAL SPONSORS OR COORDINATORS).

The program, the result of a joint effort by experts from more than 17 colleges, universities and organizations, will explore core issues facing grandparents who are raising their grandchildren as well as the professionals and agencies that work with them. Professionals and grandparents will share examples of exciting efforts to develop coalitions, to provide education, to create community resources and to change policies.

Initial sponsors and producers include the National Network for Family Resiliency of the Children, Youth and Families Network of the Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service, the Cooperative Extension Services of the University of Wisconsin and Purdue University, and the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP).

"Grandparents may take on a parenting role for a variety of reasons, most of which revolve around problems or challenges facing the child's parents," says Mary Brintnall-Peterson, University of Wisconsin-Extension specialist on aging.

"Increasing numbers of grandparents provide long-term care to their grandchildren as a result of divorce, substance abuse, child abuse or neglect, abandonment, teen pregnancy, death, unemployment, incarceration and mental health issues. While the reasons vary, they all result in a great deal of responsibility and oftentimes added stress for the grandparent."

Brintnall-Peterson says much of the research on grandparent caregivers focuses on the difficulties they face. Older grandparents may be facing health problems, Stamina is also

a frequent concern. Many grandparents report feeling both emotionally and physically drained. Older grandparents also say they worry about what will happen to their grandchildren if something happens to them.

Grandparents also often must deal with economic difficulties. Because many older adults live on a fixed or relatively low income, care of a grandchild may put their economic future in jeopardy. Some grandparents also must make job-related sacrifices when they care for grandchildren.

"Although an increasing number of community and state programs, projects and policies are being established to support grandparents raising grandchildren, the information often does not reach professional outside of the targeted area," says Dena Targ, human development specialist with Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service.

Grandparents raising grandchildren is a rapidly emerging social and educational concern. Many professionals are expressing the need for more information in order to better serve these grandparents and grandchildren.

For more information on the upcoming video satellite program, call (LOCAL PHONE CONTACT, HOW TO REGISTER, BY WHEN) Or, visit the web site at <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/gprg/gprg/html>

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Release #2

Release: (DATE YOU RELEASE)

Contacts: (LOCAL SITE FACILITATOR, NUMBER)

NATIONAL SATELLITE VIDEO PROGRAM ADDRESSES NEEDS OF GRANPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN

(YOUR TOWN) Between 1980 and 1996, the number of grandchildren living with their grandparents nearly doubled, from 2.3 million to more than 4 million. Even more grandparents are providing care on a regular basis to grandchildren who don't live with them.

(LOCAL COORDINATOR OR SPONSOR) is taking part in a national satellite video conference originating from University of Wisconsin-Extension Jan. 12, 1999 from (CHOOSE TIME FROM YOUR TIME ZONE: 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. EST; 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. CST; 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. MST; 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. PST). The program will explore what professionals and organizations can do to help support grandparents

raising grandchildren. The program will be held at (NAME AND ADDRESS OF LOCATION). (OTHER DETAILS SUCH AS COST, LOCAL SPONSORS OR COORDINATORS).

Professionals such as social workers, educators, counselors and therapists, support group sponsors, financial counselors, aging experts, and child care providers who attend can expect to: explore core issues facing grandparents raising grandchildren through the use of the most current research and information; learn about exciting projects from throughout the United States that educate and support grandparents raising grandchildren; interact with representatives from other family-serving organizations and agencies in their community; and have the opportunity to ask questions of and share information with a studio panel and a national audience.

The three-hour program includes a two-hour satellite video conference which will include a panel discussion, on-site activities and pre-recorded video segments. Participants will have opportunities to call in or FAX questions and information to panel members in the television studio.

Half-hour segments before and after the video conference will allow participants to engage in specialized discussions at the individual sites. Site activities are designed to introduce and reinforce the material presented in the satellite portions of the program. Professionals will have opportunities to network with each other and apply what they have learned to their local communities.

Initial sponsors and producers include the National Network for Family Resiliency of the Children, Youth and Families Network of the Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service, the Cooperative Extension Services of the University of Wisconsin and Purdue University, and the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP).

For more information, contact (LOCAL PHONE NUMBER). Or visit the web site at <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/gprg/gprg.html>

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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Public Service Announcement #1

:30

More and more grandparents are raising their grandchildren. Professionals and agency personnel can learn more about the latest research, educational programs and local and state projects to help support grandparents raising grandchildren at a national satellite video programs co-sponsored by (THE COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN AND PURDUE UNIVERSITY OR NAME OF YOUR ORGANIZATION) January 12th, 1999, from (CHOOSE TIME FROM YOUR TIME ZONE: 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. EST; 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. CST; 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. MST; 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. PST) at (LOCAL LOCATION, COST). For more information, call (PHONE).

Public Service Announcement #2

:30

More than 4 million children in the United State live with their grandparents, often because of challenges faced by the children's parents. A three-hour national satellite video program on January 12 for professionals and agencies working with these grandparents and grandchildren will provide information on the latest research, educational programs and local and state projects designed to help grandparents raising grandchildren. For more information or to register, call (PHONE.)