

THIRD ANNUAL

# Ohio Family Engagement — LEADERSHIP SUMMIT —

*Family Engagement that*

# ***BREAKS THROUGH***



Ohio Statewide  
**Family Engagement Center**  
— at The Ohio State University



**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**  
CENTER ON EDUCATION AND  
TRAINING FOR EMPLOYMENT



Ohio Statewide

**Family Engagement Center**

**Professional Learning** — at The Ohio State University

# Kinship Connections

How schools can partner with kinship families

# Welcome!

In the Chat:

- ✓ Name
- ✓ Location
- ✓ Professional role





## Learning Objectives:

- ✓ I can define kinship family and describe common reasons kinship families are formed.
- ✓ I can describe the strengths and lived realities of kinship families.
- ✓ I can describe the role of trauma in socio-emotional well-being and academic performance for kinship families.





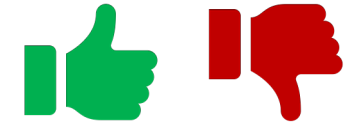
## Learning Objectives:

- ✓ I can describe strategies for partnering with kinship families to support a child's wellbeing and academic growth
- ✓ I can use tools to support kinship families within my professional role.



# True/False

Let's see what you already know!



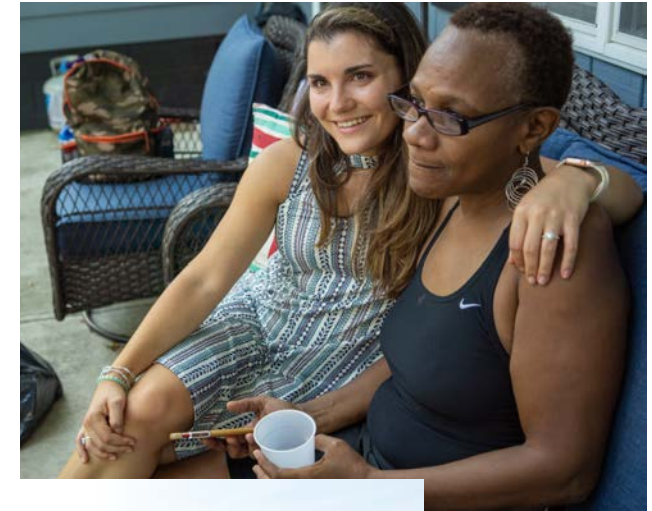


# Agenda

- ☒ Welcome
- ☐ Overview of kinship families
- ☐ Small groups
- ☐ Schools and kinship families
- ☐ Debrief and survey



# My “Why”





# Kinship Caregiver

A relative (who is not biological parents) that is the primary caregiver of a child





# 8 million

children in kinship families nationwide<sub>1</sub>

- 1) Generations United, 2021
- 2) Grandfamilies.org. *Grandfacts State Fact Sheet: Ohio, 2021*

# 2.6 million

children in kinship families without  
birth parent living in household<sub>1</sub>

# 238,921

children in kinship families in  
Ohio<sub>2</sub>



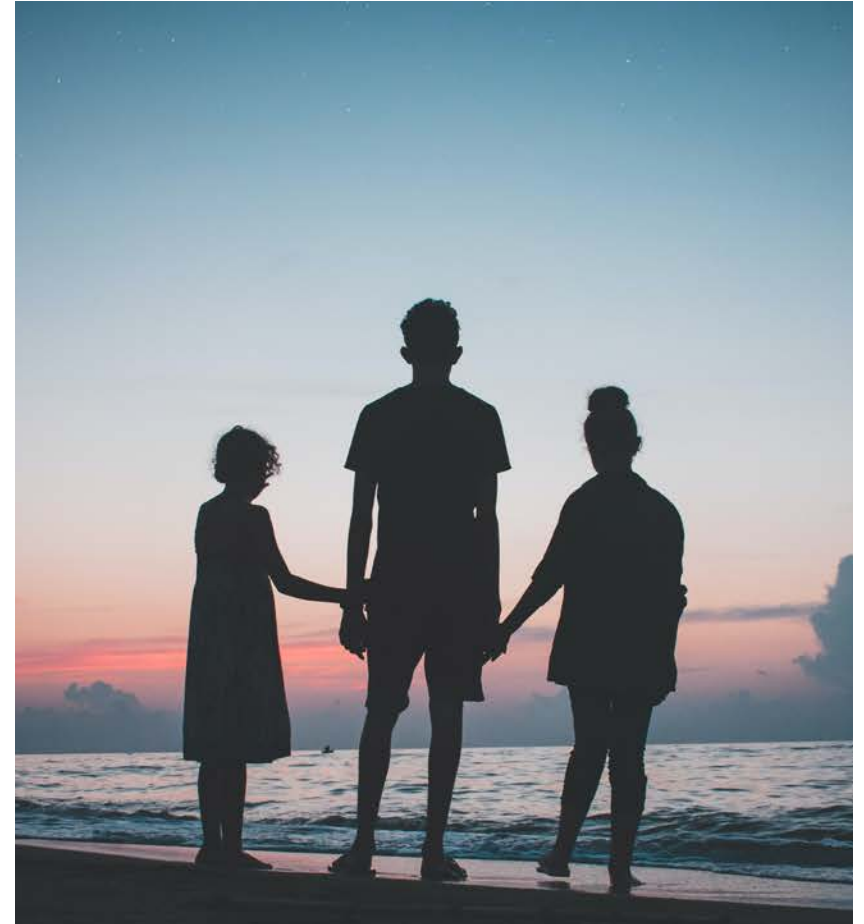
# Why Kinship Families Form

- A parent is often unable to or needs assistance in caregiving
- An alternative to foster care



# The Role of Trauma

- Trauma likely affects the family at all levels
  - child, birth parent, caregiver
- Sources of strength at each level of the family as well

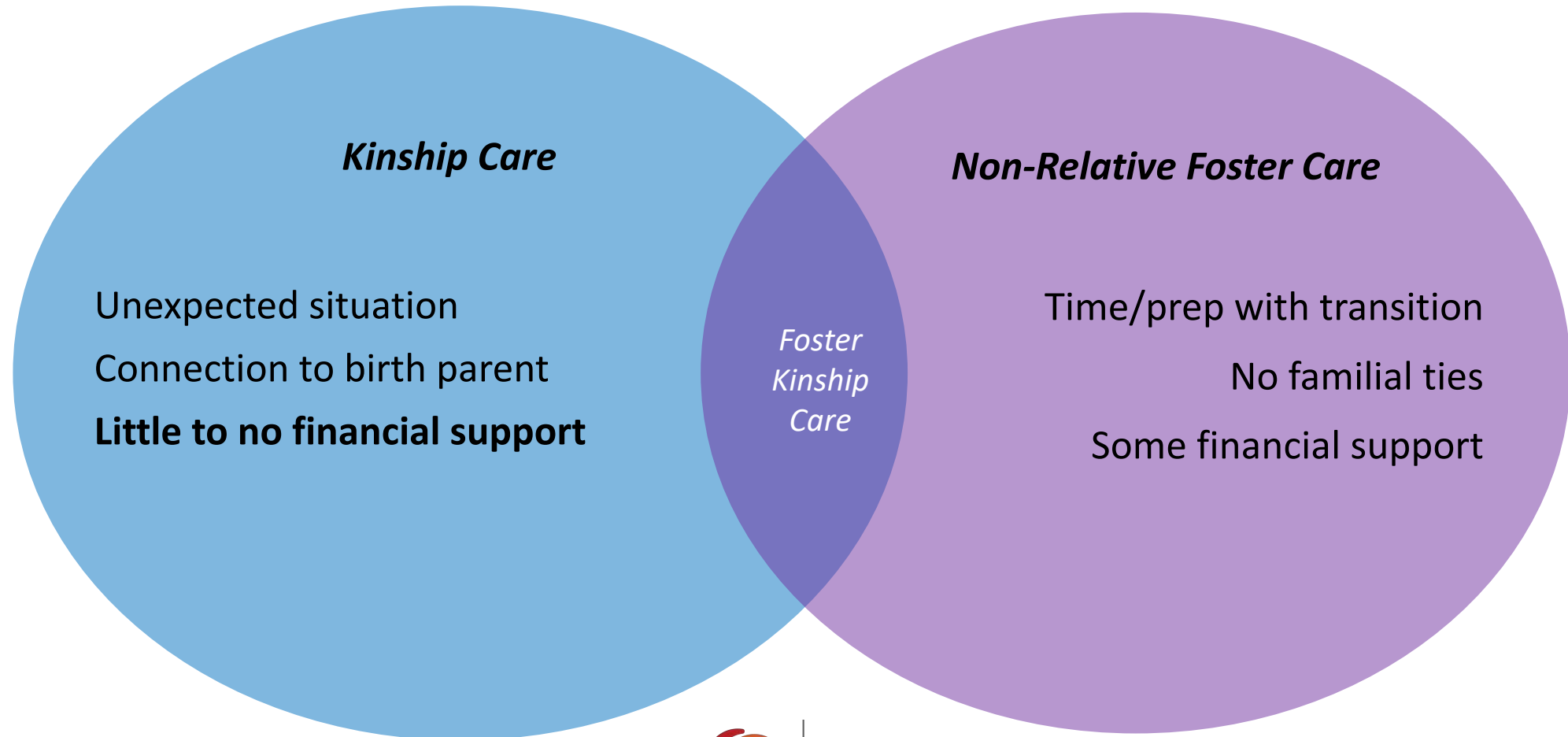




# A Caregiver's Story






# Kinship Care vs. Foster Care



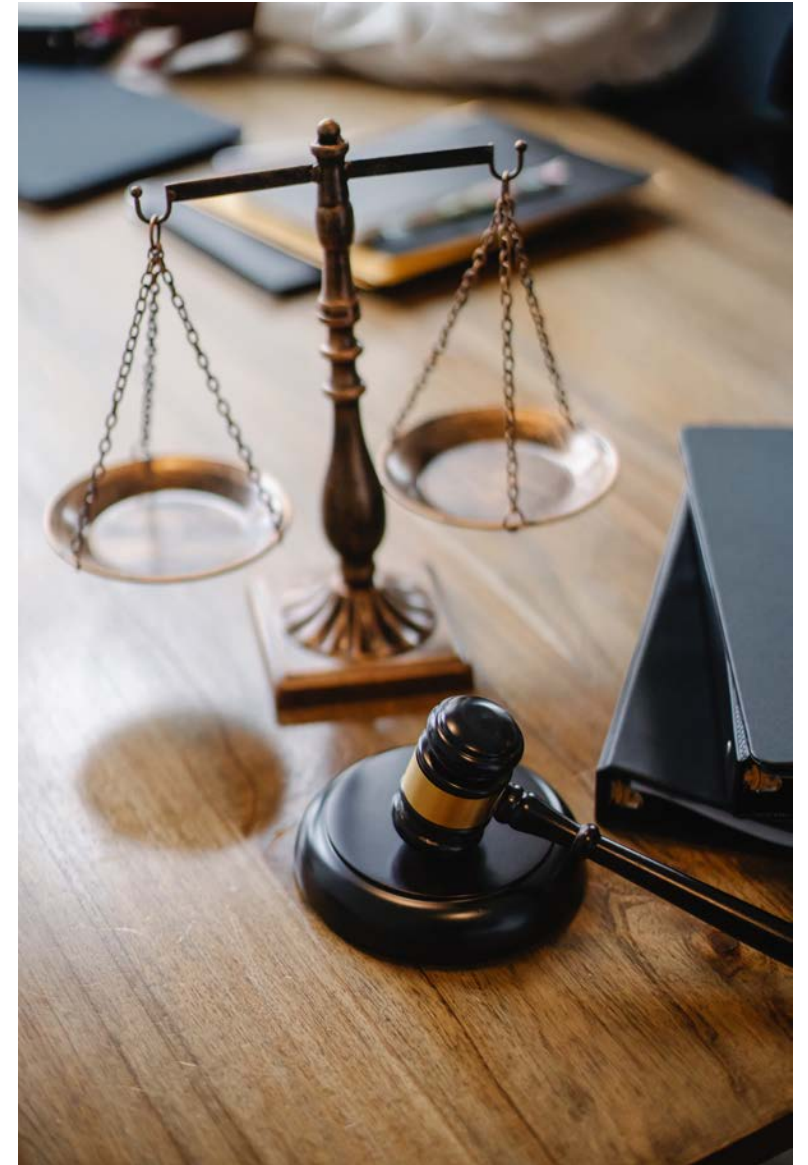
# NATIONAL COMPARISON OF FINANCIAL SUPPORTS

## TANF, Foster Care, Guardianship and Adoption Assistance

	 ONE CHILD	 TWO CHILDREN	 THREE CHILDREN
<b>Unlicensed kinship families</b> <i>Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) child-only grants</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• National average <u><b>\$249/month</b></u></li><li>• Typically, must apply separately for Medicaid</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• National average <u><b>\$344/month</b></u></li><li>• Typically, must apply separately for Medicaid</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• National average <u><b>\$423/month</b></u></li><li>• Typically, must apply separately for Medicaid</li></ul>
<b>Licensed Kinship Foster Care</b> <i>Foster Care Maintenance Payments</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• National average of minimum foster care maintenance payments <u><b>\$511/month</b></u></li><li>• Automatic Medicaid</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• National average of minimum foster care maintenance payments <u><b>\$1022/month</b></u></li><li>• Automatic Medicaid</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• National average of minimum foster care maintenance payments <u><b>\$1533/month</b></u></li><li>• Automatic Medicaid</li></ul>

# Legal Arrangements

- Different legal arrangements
  - emergency/temporary custody, permanent custody, grandparent power of attorney, adoption, no legal arrangement
- Custody can be a long and expensive process





# Children in Kinship Families

Better outcomes compared to children in foster care<sup>1,2</sup>

- Stability, safety, and permanency
- Mental and behavioral health
- Connection to sibling
- Cultural identity

Sources:

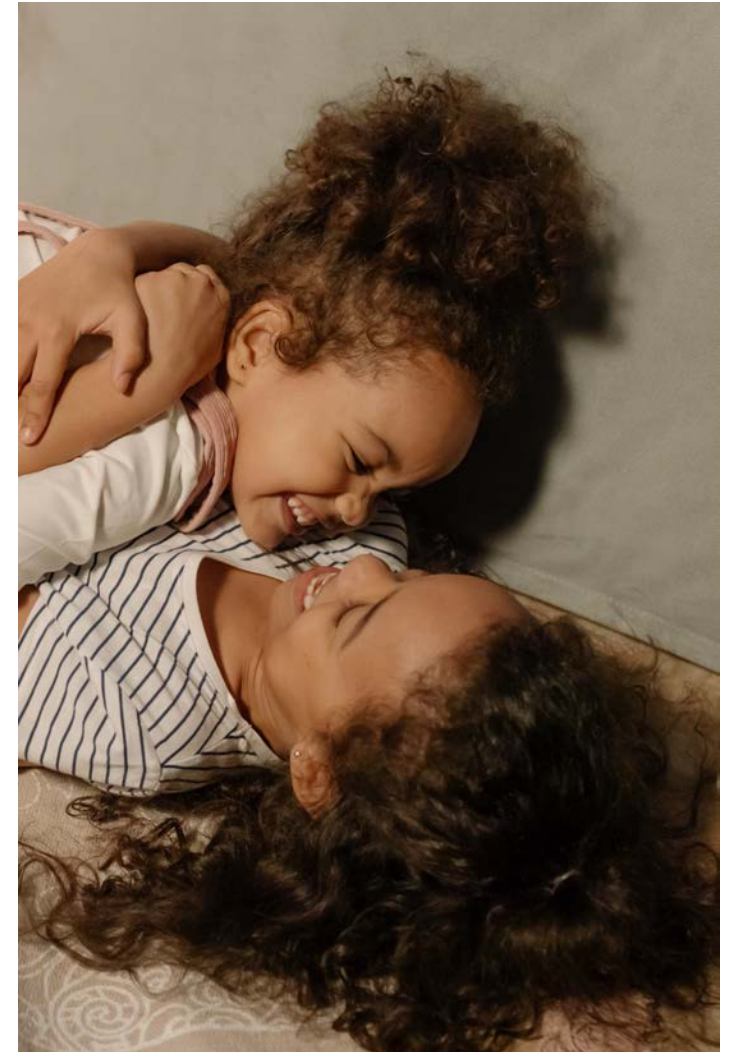
1) *Generation United*, 2016; 2) *Generation United*, 2021;



# Children in Kinship Families

- Often need support around trauma, behavioral health, and learning disabilities<sub>1</sub>
  - 18% had ADHD diagnosis
  - 32% had an attachment problem
  - 18.6% had a learning disability
  - 28.2% had a developmental delay<sub>2</sub>
  - 45% with behavioral concern at home<sub>3</sub>

1) *Generation United, 2021*; 2) *Dorval, 2020*; 3) *Farmer, 2009*



# Strength, resiliency, and identity



# Check in- questions?





# A Puzzle of Supports



# Kinship Families and Schools

Enrollment  
and  
decision  
making

Transition  
into  
“parent”  
role

Integrating  
into school  
community

Supports  
for child

# Supports in Schools

- Open communication
- Get to know your kinship families
- Inclusive practices
- Trauma-informed care approach
- Interdisciplinary supports



# Get to Know Your Kinship Families







## *Family inclusive language*

### Alternatives to “Parent” or “Mom and Dad”

- Your grown-up
- Family member
- Person caring for you
- Adult at home
- Guardian
- Other ideas?



# One high schooler's experience

Questions to consider:

1. How did being in a kinship family affect interactions with peers?
2. How did wellbeing affect his ability to engage in school?
3. What supports would have been most helpful?



# The How:

## Supporting families from a trauma-informed lens

1

### **Be Calm**

Take a breath and make sure you are calm before contacting families

2

### **Be Prepared to Listen**

Families are experts on themselves. Listen to what they have to say first!

3

### **Be Positive**

Recognize families' strengths and call them out! Only focusing on the negatives can be counter-productive

4

### **Be Honest**

Share information openly and willingly with families

5

### **Be Resourceful**

Be prepared to connect families to resources for themselves and their child

# Added Supports

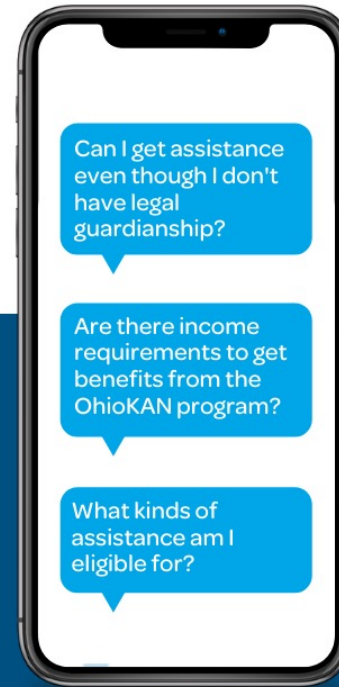
- Lunch groups
- Afterschool homework help
- Extra-curricular activities
- Support groups
- Raise awareness





# Statewide resources for caregivers

## Ohio Kinship and Adoption Navigators Program



**Kinship caregivers  
have questions.  
We have answers.**

1-844-OHIOKAN  
[ohiokan.jfs.ohio.gov](http://ohiokan.jfs.ohio.gov)



# Statewide resources for caregivers

## Kinship Caregivers Connect online support group



### *Caregiver Resources*

EXPLORE OUR VIDEO RESOURCES FOR KINSHIP CAREGIVERS  
FROM OUR SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS

**LEGAL INFORMATION**  
[FIND OUT MORE](#)

**CHILD WELL-BEING**  
[FIND OUT MORE](#)

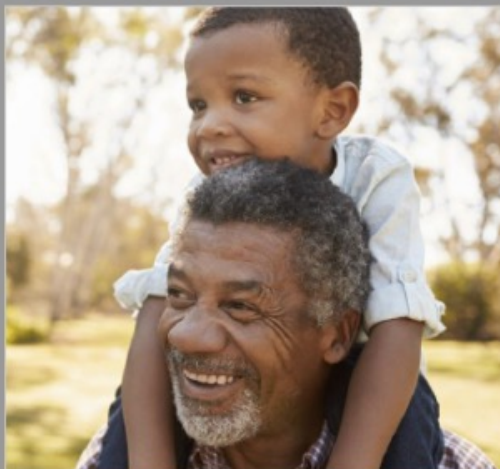
**MENTAL HEALTH**  
[FIND OUT MORE](#)

**SELF-CARE**  
[FIND OUT MORE](#)

**NAVIGATING THE SCHOOL  
SYSTEM**  
[FIND OUT MORE](#)

**STATEWIDE RESOURCES**  
[FIND OUT MORE](#)

**REGIONAL RESOURCES**  
[FIND OUT MORE](#)



# #GrandUnderstandings

## Our Message to GrandFamilies

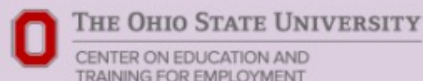
We recognize that raising your grandchildren or other relatives can require a lot of you. Be assured, you are giving them a better present and future. At the Ohio Statewide Family Engagement Center- we see you and we hear you. We want to support you in working together with schools and the community. Below you will find some resources about schools and family well-being- created with help from grandfamilies. When families, schools, and communities work together, children are more successful in learning and in life.

### SCHOOLS ARE HERE TO HELP



**YOU ARE NOT ALONE.**

**185,469**  
children in Ohio  
live with their  
grandparents



If you haven't already, reach out to your grandchild's school with your questions. Schools can help with learning supports, behavior, mental and physical health, and your family's overall well being.

Consider reaching out to one of these staff members for more information:

- teacher
- school counselors
- school social worker
- principal
- schools nurse

### THERE ARE RESOURCES FOR YOU



Many grandfamilies and kinship families find it helpful to connect to others and the community. Joining a group of others with similar lives is a good idea. To find a group or other supports to help your family along the way, consider these Ohio resources. Click on each one or scan the QR code for more information.

OhioKAN



Kinship navigator program  
[ohioKAN.jfs.ohio.gov](http://ohioKAN.jfs.ohio.gov)

Kinship Caregivers  
Connect



Online support group  
[kinshipcaregiversconnect.com/](http://kinshipcaregiversconnect.com/)

Ohio Grandparent/  
Kinship Coalition



Advocacy organization  
<https://ohiograndparentkinship.org/>



[go.osu.edu/  
grandresources](http://go.osu.edu/grandresources)

# Yaya's experience





# Final Reflection...

I used to think \_\_\_\_\_  
about kinship families

But now I think \_\_\_\_\_



# Angela Provenzano

[angela@kinshipcaregiversconnect.com](mailto:angela@kinshipcaregiversconnect.com)

203-466-9821



THANK YOU FOR WATCHING!

[OhioFamiliesEngage.osu.edu](https://OhioFamiliesEngage.osu.edu)



Ohio Statewide  
**Family  
Engagement  
Center**

—at The Ohio State University—



Ohio Statewide Family  
Engagement Center



[OhioSFEC@osu.edu](mailto:OhioSFEC@osu.edu)



[@OhioEngage](https://twitter.com/OhioEngage)