



OUT OF THE ASHES CAME HOPE

CLARION

Serving The People Of The New Community Network

Kinship Legal Guardianship Program

At Family Service Bureau of Newark, we encourage social support and recognize the primary role that the elderly play in our society, especially in the lives of many children. The Kinship Legal Guardianship Program was created essentially for kinship caregivers who have taken on the responsibility of caring for their relatives' children who are unable to live with their biological parents for different reasons.

According to the Foster and Adoptive Family Services of NJ (2017), "the easiest part of becoming kinship parents is making the decision to take in children in need. After that initial decision, one may be unsure of the procedures involved, or wonder if accepting the responsibility of becoming a relative caregiver was the right one."

Additionally, kinship parents have a hard time dealing with the difficult emotions that come with kinship care and taking on additional responsibility can be stressful, especially for low income families. Therefore, the Kinship Legal Guardianship Program at the Family Service Bureau of Newark (FSB) supports grandparents and other relative caregivers to overcome such emotions and guide them through the emotional process.

During our support groups, grandparents refresh their parenting skills, build a new relationship with their grandchildren, learn how to work with their grandchildren's school, are linked to community resources, participate in workshops and conferences from community leaders, learn tips for managing money and even find out how to navigate the legal issues.

Our program is open to all Newark resident caregivers and referrals are accepted from schools, community based organizations, faith based organizations, family members and even self-referrals. Through bi-monthly support meetings, family activities, field trips, holiday celebrations, home visits and free assistance services such as food, financial assistance and clothing, families develop skills and gain insights that enable them to become a more stable household.

Our families have had the opportunity to visit several amusement parks and have received free Halloween costumes, toys and winter clothing. They also enjoyed the Thanksgiving celebration and even took a trip to New York City to see the famous Rockettes at Radio City Music Hall for the Christmas Spectacular show. Our families have expressed their gratitude about our services and their need to continue receiving our support. Our program aspires to continue growing and make a difference in the life of our community.