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N O R T H I D A H O

# R.A.P. family

Relatives As Parents

JANUARY 2014 NEWSLETTER

GLEND A WEAVER 208-769-7096



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The RAP/GAP Mascot is the turtle. The turtle, like us and our children, has a hard shell to protect it from getting hurt, but the inside is soft, vulnerable and lovable. We must learn to stick our heads out of our shell and take a chance.

## ✧ Resources for Relatives As Parents Families ✧

### WHERE DO I START?

Are you a grandparent, aunt, uncle, sibling or cousin, and you now are raising a child that belongs to one of your relatives? Do you know all the resources available for them and yourself to help raise this child? If you knew someone raising a relative child could you tell them about the resources available to them? In this newsletter I will attempt to list most of the basic resources for R.A.P. families. When a relative gets a relative child in their home, they are usually overwhelmed with emotion and need some help making a plan how to raise this child.

This information in this newsletter, is meant to reassure KinCare parents they have resources available to them and they are not alone in this process of raising the new children in their life. Support groups with people in similar situations are located throughout the state of Idaho and have people with experience and good ideas. If you have any questions about any of the information in this newsletter contact: Glenda Weaver at 208-769-7096

### What Documents Do I Need?

It is important to have all of the required documentation in order to start your relative child in school, get medical care and receive resource benefits. The following is a list of the required documents; **Social Security numbers** of all members of the household. **Dates of birth** for all members of the household. **Birth Certificates** or U.S. passport for the child to prove citizenship and your relationship to the parent. Your **Driver's License**, state ID or other proof to show you are a resident of Idaho. Any **Court Documents** that indicate that you have custody of the child in question. This might include a **Power of Attorney**, **Guardianship** or a signed **Notarized Letter** from the parent of the child stating you have the right of custody. Immunization Records of the child will be needed to start the child in school.





## Temporary Assistance for Families in Idaho

The TAFI grant is available to give temporary cash assistance to struggling Idaho families. Idaho has made this grant available to relative caretakers recognizing that they may be facing financial hardships. Eligibility is based on the child's income, (not the care takers income) such as Social Security Benefits, Child Support or Court Award of money or SSI (disability benefits). The TAFI grant is \$309 a month per family (not per child). The child's parent can not live in the household for the child to be eligible for TAFI. If a relative child is receiving SSI (disability benefits) and there is a sibling(s) in this same household that is not receiving benefits, that child may be eligible for the TAFI grant of \$309. If you are afraid by receiving the TAFI grant it would jeopardize your relative child by their parent(s) you simply have to state you are requesting that Child Support Services not be involved in this case as you fear it would be a detriment to the child. There may be other minimal requirements such as school attendance and immunization records. More information is available at 2-1-1 or 1-800-926-2588

## Medicaid/Health Care for Children

Medicaid is a health coverage available for children living in low income households. Normally the guidelines for coverage use the cumulative household income, but for children being raised by a relative (other than their parent), eligibility is determined based on the income of the child. The Idaho Smiles Dental Program is also available for Medicaid enrollees. Medicaid providers may ask you for information about the child's parents. You must provide all the information they request to receive Medicaid benefits for the child. After the child is approved for Medicaid benefits you will be issued a Medicaid card. This card is good for medical visits and for medical prescriptions.

## Head Start Program

The Head Start program was started to provide comprehensive child development services to economically disadvantaged children and families with a special focus on helping preschoolers develop early reading and math skills they need to be successful in school. The Mountain States Early Head Start Program was established to serve children from birth to three years of age in recognition of the mounting evidence that the earliest years matter a great deal to the child's growth and development. Children being raised by a relative, other than their parent, are automatically eligible for the program. By having a child in this program allows for the child to interact with others their age. It also gives you insight if your relative child is developing at the normal rate for a child of their age. For more information call: 208-666-6755

## What Is Idaho 2-1-1 ?

The 2-1-1 Idaho Careline is a free state wide community information and referral service. It is a program of the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare. The comprehensive database includes programs that offer free or low cost health and human services or social services, such as rental assistance, energy assistance, medical assistance, food, clothing, child care resources, emergency shelter, support groups, and more.

Agents at the 2-1-1 Idaho Careline connect people in need with government, faith-based, and community resources. When you call this number you actually get to talk to a real person and not a recording. If you need assistance, information or need to refer others who need help call: **2-1-1 or 1-800-926-2588**

On-Line: [www.211.Idaho.gov](http://www.211.Idaho.gov)

## Eligibility Guidelines for Food Stamps

To qualify for food stamps in Idaho, you must meet residency and income eligibility guidelines. As of 2010, Idaho households with a monthly gross income equal to or less than 130 percent of the federal poverty guidelines may qualify for food stamps. In 2013, an Idaho family of four can make up to \$2,552 per month to qualify for benefits. The income levels are slightly higher for families with a disabled household member or if a household member is over age 60. Your monthly income is calculated using the combined wages of anyone over 18 in the household, minus any allowable deductions for housing and other expenses. Any assets, such as stocks, bonds and cash in savings or checking accounts are also taken into consideration when determining your eligibility for food stamps. You must be a U.S. citizen or qualified immigrant to apply for food stamps.

In order to receive food assistance, certain eligibility requirements must be met in areas such as, citizenship/immigration status, income, resources, work requirements, and other areas based on your household's circumstances. To find out whether you could be eligible for Food Stamps, check out this [pre-screening tool](#) (use only as a guide, not as a final determination). Regardless of the results of the tool, we encourage you to come in to the Health & Welfare office. A quick conversation will help you find out whether you may be eligible.

## Relatives As Parents Meeting on January 09, 2014

The first **Relatives As Parents** meeting this year will be on **January 09, 2014 at noon** at the Jewett House. The **Jewett House is located at 1501 E. Lakeshore Drive in Coeur d'Alene**. We invite you to bring food to share (or not). No cost child care is provided during the meeting. This year our members are taking turns in running the meetings. They will provide a speaker that will be of interest to our group or speak themselves about resources or knowledge they have acquired during their journey as a relative raising relative children. Come to our meetings and enjoy a relaxing exchange of conversation and knowledge. Information:208-769-7096

# Can Adopted Children Get Social Security

## Eligibility

- Several eligibility requirements have been established for children to receive Social Security benefits. The child must be a natural child, stepchild, **adopted child** or **dependent grandchild** of the individual who was receiving the benefits. The child must be unmarried and under the age of 18. A child can be 18 or 19 years of age and receive benefits if he is attending a secondary school on a full-time basis. A child that is disabled or becomes disabled before the age of 22 can receive Children's Social Security benefits.

## Adopted Children Qualifications

- Social Security benefits can be paid to adopted children even if they are adopted after the parent is receiving Social Security benefits. A step-grandchild can receive Social Security benefits from a grandparent. The stipulation here is if the step-grandchild begins living with the step-grandparents after they are receiving benefits, they will have to adopt the child before they can get Children's Social Security.

## Auxiliary Benefits

- Adopted children can receive Auxiliary Benefits from Social Security according to code 20 CFR 404.336. This code specifically states that a child is qualified if he is legally adopted by the individual insured. This includes if the spouse adopts the child after the insured has passed.

## Applying

- Applying for Social Security benefits is the same for every child whether they are adopted, natural, stepchild or grandchild. Documents required to receive Social Security benefits for a child include the birth certificate and the Social Security number of the deceased, disabled or retired worker. Phone the local Social Security office for any other required documentation for individual states.

Read more: [http://www.ehow.com/about\\_6613238\\_social-security-rights-adopted-children.html#ixzz2ooFcB2fV](http://www.ehow.com/about_6613238_social-security-rights-adopted-children.html#ixzz2ooFcB2fV)

# Relatives As Parents Support Groups in North Idaho

The CdA RAP Support Group meets the second Thursday of the month at:  
Jewett House **January 09, 2014**

1501 E. Lakeshore Drive

Coeur d'Alene, ID

(A light lunch and no cost child care is provided)

Noon - 2 o'clock

Glenda Weaver 208-769-7096 cell: 208-964-0667

Margo Peebles 208-667-0320

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The Bonnors Ferry

Contact Person:

Dena Riffle 208-267-8166

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## Need help? Dial 2-1-1

*Do you need help or want to volunteer, but don't know where to start?*

*Get Connected. Get Answers.*

*Dial 2-1-1 Or 1-800-926-2588*

**8:00 am - 6:00 pm MST Monday - Friday**

[www.idahocareline.org](http://www.idahocareline.org)

*Idaho Department of Health & Welfare*

**\*Food Stamps, Iccp Child Care, and general questions call:  
1-877-456-1233**

**\* Medicaid Questions call: 1-866-326-2485**

**\* Child Support Questions call: 1-800-356-9868**

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*Thank You For Your Support*

We, Relatives As Parents, would like to thank the below organizations for their help and support throughout the 2013 year. Having you in our corner and knowing you will always help us with resources, fundraiser and when our member are in need. It is very much appreciated!

- \* Kootenai Alliance for Children & Families
- \* Kootenai County Kinicare Committee
- \* Prairie Avenue Christian Center
- \* United Way
- \* Health & Welfare Department
- \* North Idaho Area Aging Agency
- \* North Idaho College
- \* Idaho American Association for Retired Persons (AARP)
- \* ICWRTC
- \* CASA

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N O R T H I D A H O

# R.A.P. family



## RAP family

Kootenai Alliance for Children & Families

610 Hubbard, Ste. 123

Coeur d'Alene, ID. 83814



Kootenai Alliance for  
Children and Families

