
KINSHIP CAREGIVERS CONNECT



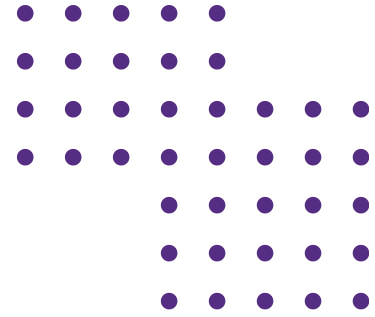
**PROGRAM
IMPACT
REPORT
2025**

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Letter from the Director

Dear Friends and Supporters,

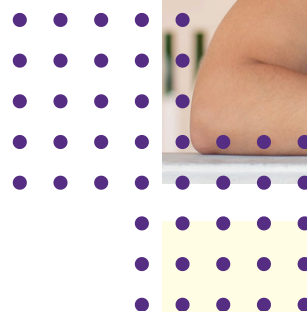
We have come a long way together! When I had the idea to start an online support group six years ago while still a graduate student, I could have never imagined the beautiful community KCC has evolved into. If I've learned anything over these past years, is that it takes a village in every respect- for caregivers to build support and to build an organization. We could not have made it where we are today without so many community members and of course dedicated caregivers to KCC's mission.

I have always prioritized providing high-quality community based services that meet the real-time needs of caregivers. KCC started and continues to operate with the same approach: by sitting and listening to caregivers and their strengths and needs. We center our work on genuine relationship building and lived experience. We believe caregivers are the true experts of their experiences and services should never be transactional.

While continuing to provide and expand our core services in partnership with OhioKAN, 2025 has been focused on capacity building for KCC. Most notably, we convened a Board of Directors, incorporated as a non-profit organization in Ohio, and achieved 501(c)(3) tax exempt status! Additionally, we completed a formal research evaluation in partnership with Cincinnati Children's Hospital Check Center to learn more about our program's impact. We have continued to expand our staff to provide group and individual services.

Although we've come a long way, we have endless opportunities for growth ahead of us. We look forward to continuing our current partnerships, and forging new ones. As a non-profit we plan to diversify our revenue through grants, fundraising, and community outreach to further the mission and impact of KCC.

*Kind regards,
Angela Tobin
KCC Executive Director*





Our Mission

Our mission is to empower kinship caregivers in their roles by providing resources, education, and peer connections to support their well-being and help their families thrive.

Support Group Values

We are supportive to ourselves and to each other; We are forgiving to ourselves and each other; We are compassionate toward one another and the people around us; We are unique as individuals and as a family.

Creative Mission Statement



[Click Here to watch](#)

*Together as kin,
we can!*

About Us



Kinship Caregivers Connect is an online statewide support network for kinship caregivers in Ohio. Dr. Angela Tobin founded KCC in 2020 after witnessing her grandparents raise her cousin for most of his life. She was inspired to bring caregivers together as a community to share the joys and challenges of kinship care.

KCC was granted 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status by the Internal Revenue Service on January 20, 2025.



**GRANDFAMILIES & KINSHIP
SUPPORT NETWORK**
A National Technical Assistance Center

EXEMPLARY

POLICY • PRACTICE • PROGRAM

[Click Here to learn more](#)

The Grandfamilies and Kinship Support Network, a national technical assistance center focusing on kinship care, recently designated Kinship Caregivers Connect as an Exemplary Kinship Program for our work and engagement with caregivers.

Meet Our Team



Our Staff

80% of our staff and board have lived experience in kinship care



Angela Tobin
Founder &
Executive Director



Sydney Pinder
Kinship Family Well-Being Consultant



Yaya Lumpkin
Caregiver Engagement Specialist



Joseph Warden
Board President



Sarah Anderson
Board Secretary



Linda Frazier
Board Treasurer



Ashley Hicks
Board Member



Holly Anna Gibbs
Board Member



Darlene Roberson
Board Member



Tangie Taylor
Board Member

SERVICES

WHAT WE OFFER



Peer Support Groups

Offered virtually twice per week

- Tuesday 11:30am - 12:45pm
- Thursday 6:30pm - 7:45pm



Kinship Family Well-Being Consultations

A new program that offers 3 to 6 sessions, covering areas such as self-care, caring for a child with disabilities, family bonding, & sensory well-being.



Informational Presentations

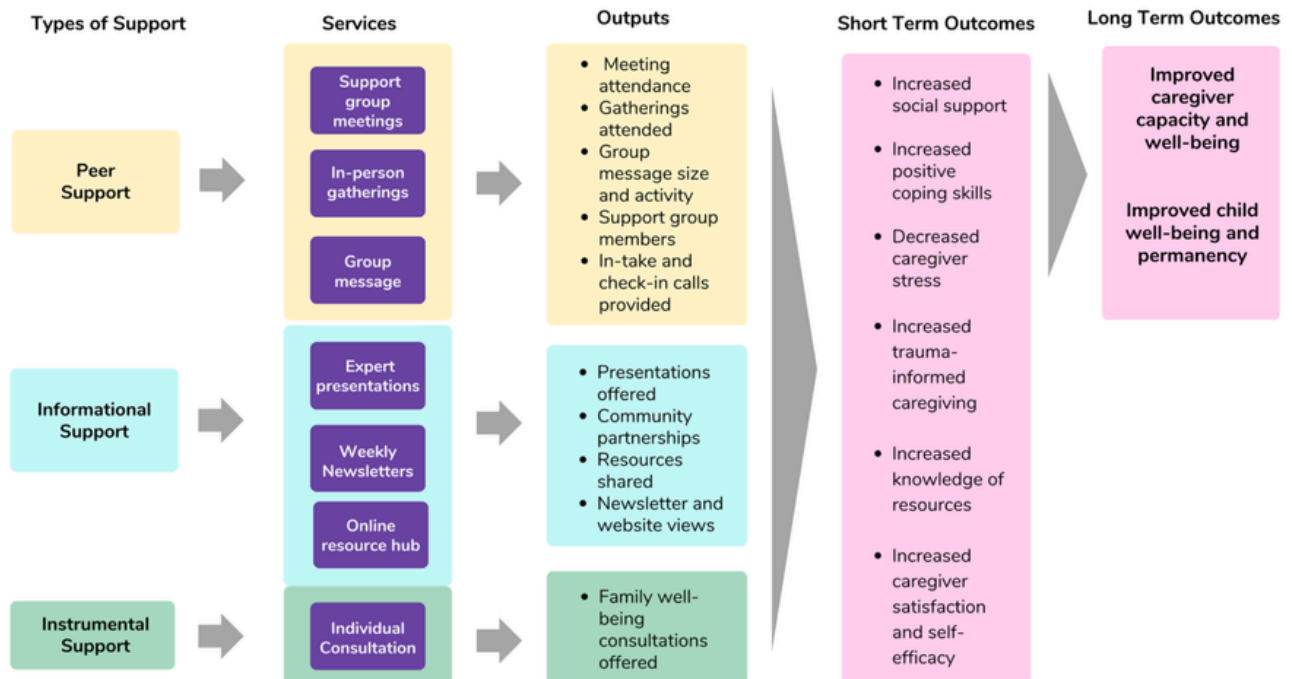
Experts join meetings and present on topics such as legal issues, child well-being, public benefits, trauma-informed care, & community resources.



Semi-Annual In-Person Gathering

Kinship Family Celebrations are hosted twice per year as a time to gather in-person & celebrate kinship care with child care provided

Kinship Caregivers Connect Logic Model



What is Kinship Care?



A kinship caregiver is a relative or family friend, who is not the birth parent, that provides full-time care for a child, such as grandparents raising grandchildren, aunts/uncles, siblings, and others who are already connected with the child.

Community Partnership



20 25 A Year in Review

Connecting kinship caregivers for over 5 years



89

Support groups held statewide in 2025



48

Number of counties served



12

Average participants per group



129

Caregivers Served



210

Children Impacted

Support Group Data



49

Guest speakers who shared education, expertise, & resources

35

Open Discussion meetings

54

Informational sessions

Outreach

49

New caregivers reached

324

caregivers reached

663

average website visitors per month

Community Engagement



2

Kinship Family Gatherings- Dayton and Strongsville, OH

3

National Conference Presentations



Well-Being Consultations

40

Kinship Family Well-Being Consultation Sessions held

11

Caregivers served

KCC RESEARCH REPORT 2024-25

The Impact of a Member-Led Virtual Support Group for Kinship Caregiver Well-Being

Authors: Angela Tobin, Katie Fox, Houley Sall, Tange Taylor, Lenora Lumpkin, & Sarah Beal

***Data below is based on a research study completed by KCC in 2024-25.**

Background:

Kinship caregivers experience increased isolation in their roles and poorer outcomes related to well-being. KCC is one of the first online, statewide support groups for kinship caregivers, providing a peer-led community for kinship caregivers throughout Ohio since its founding in 2020.

Methods:

1. Online open-ended questionnaire evaluating the usability and acceptability with a Participatory Action approach
2. Kinship caregivers (n=66) who have attended at least one meeting
3. Coding using Grounded Theory, including 2 caregivers as coders

94.4% report KCC is helpful or very helpful*

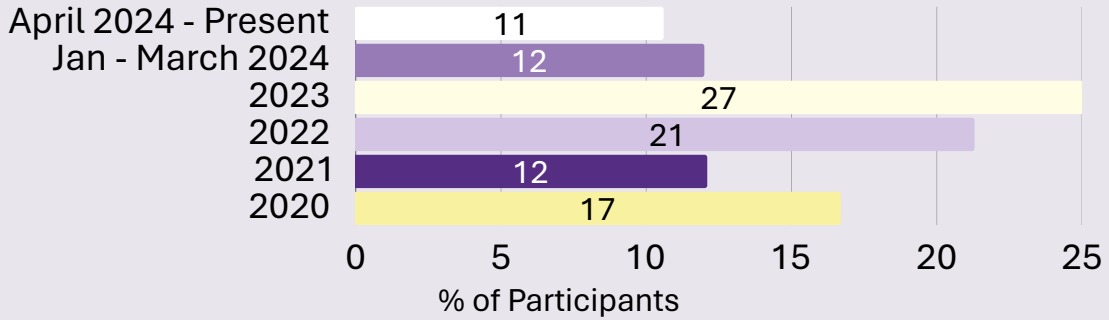
94.1% agree or strongly agree they would recommend KCC to another caregiver*

Increased meeting attendance is linked to better emotion-focused coping skills ($p > 0.01$)**

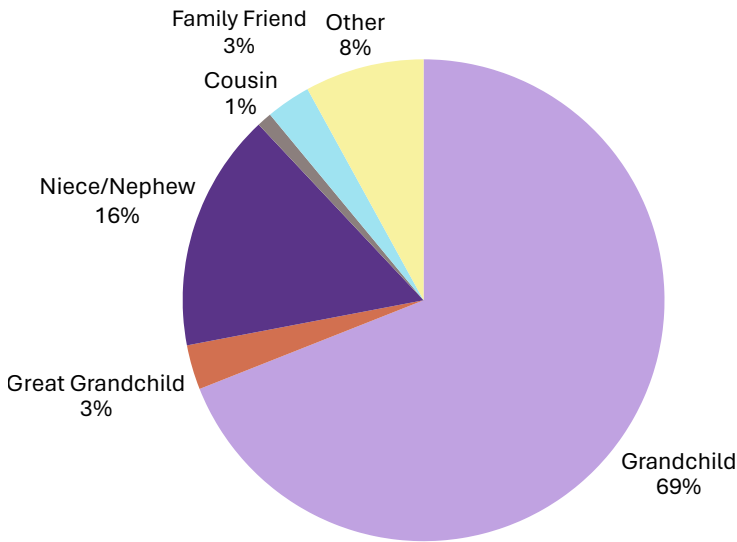
*remaining respondents selected neutral. None selected disagree or strongly disagree
**n = 119, analysis included caregivers on mailing list who had not attended a support group meeting

KCC RESEARCH REPORT 2024-25

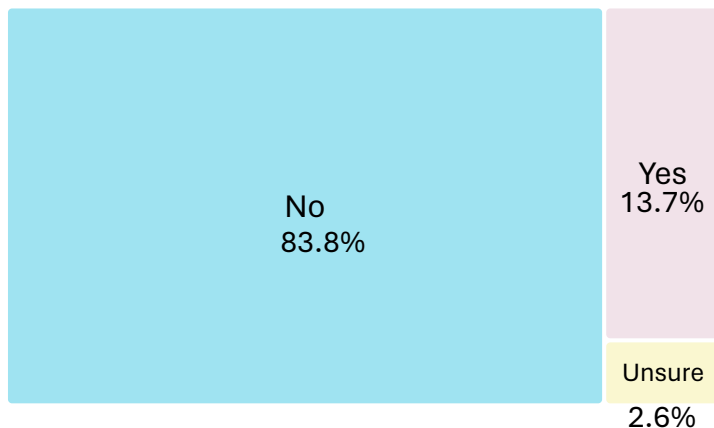
WHEN BEGAN ATTENDING SUPPORT GROUP (%)



Relationship to child in care



Current Child Welfare Involvement



Additional Demographics

Gender	
Male, %	2.5
Female, %	97.5
Race	
White, %	66.4
Black, %	32.8
Geographic Location	
Rural, %	37.2
Urban, %	22.1
Suburban, %	40.7
Child in care has a diagnosed condition	
Yes, %	52.5
No, %	47.5

FINDINGS

Themes	Description
Peer Support	Connecting with other kinship caregivers
Learning	Gaining information, tools, & resources from various sources
Impact on Family well-being	Overall positive impact on caregiver well-being, parenting strategies, & family well-being
KCC Model	Support provided within context of an online, statewide community

Peer Support

KCC is a big warm fuzzy hug that is also strong and tough and informed. The other parents are like me in at least one important way.

Learning

This group brings awareness to services around the state and real time reviews about them. Strategies, schools, camps, programs. Finding opportunities. Saves soooo much time!

Impact

It provided a needed inherent support and the emergency strength to push on in fighting for myself and advocating against the unfair barriers we face. I am a year ahead of where I was three months ago.

KCC Model

It is extremely authentic. The power of people standing together behind a common set of strengths and weaknesses is palpable.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS



KCC is made up of a diverse group of caregivers, many of whom have been a part of the community for years



Based on qualitative findings, caregivers shared peer support is the most meaningful aspect of KCC, including having a safe space to share, not feeling alone, & a sense of family with other



Information and resources from both expert speakers and other caregivers were helpful for equipping them in their roles



Together, these services have impacted their own well-being as a caregiver, their understanding of their children in care, implementing a trauma-informed parenting approach, and their family's wellbeing



Caregivers reported an online virtual & statewide model works well, especially with a committed leader and accesible options. Recommendations included more support groups and in-person opportunities



Quantitative findings uncovered that increased meeting attendance was linked to increased emotion-focused coping for caregivers



One caregiver shared, “KCC was critical to my confidence & fear of being thrust into a kinship arrangement in the beginning of the process. I was introduced to some resources that I did not know existed, but most important, I was connected with other people my age that were not only in the same ocean, but in my boat.” - KCC Participant

Acknowledgment: This research was funded by the Center for Clinical and Translational Science and Training (CTST) Integrating Special Populations Health Grant through Cincinnati Children's Hospital & the University of Cincinnati



IMPACT STORIES



Yaya

My name is Lenora, and I'm 49 years old caring for my 2 hyper grandsons. They came to live with me in 2018. My life changed I became depressed resentful lonely and sad trying figured how care for my grandsons that I wasn't prepared for. In 2020 I learned about a support group for grandparents that I became apart of... directed by Angela Tobin. It was a blessing for me to have found this support group it helped me with my emotions and feelings, connected me with other grandparents that have become my friends and I'm able to talk with them as we all take this journey together is awesome. I appreciate being part of this support group.

Watch Yaya's story here:

[Yaya's Story](#)



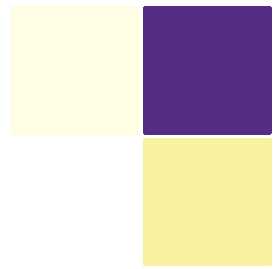
Tangie

Tangie shares about her experience of raising her grandson, including making the decision to care for him, the custody process, and how her life changed in a blink of an eye. She shows determination and intention in providing her grandson with all of the supports he needs in a safe and loving home. She also discusses raising a child with a disability, and things that have helped care for herself and her grandson along the way.

Watch Tangie's story here:

[Tangie's Story](#)

Sponsorship & Featured Presentations



KCC is presented by:



Department of Children & Youth

Ohio Kinship and Adoption Navigator (OhioKAN)

OhioKAN is a flexible and responsive kinship and adoption navigator program designed to support children, youth and their families. Building on the premise that families are inherently capable of finding solutions to the circumstances and challenges they face, the OhioKAN program will take an inclusive, engaging, and genuine approach to strengthening families and their networks



In this presentation, Amber Robinson and Paula Oliver from Ohio Kinship and Adoption Navigator's Program (OhioKAN) provide an overview of public benefits in Ohio, including eligibility criteria and how to apply.



In this presentation, Senior Attorney Joseph Warden joins Kinship Caregivers Connect to present on custody and guardianship as a legal option in kinship care.

CONTACT US



614-382-6272



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