



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Denise Nelesen (858) 505-6474

COUNTY/YMCA PARTNERSHIP OFFERS BREAK FOR GRANDPARENTS *Camps are Respite for Older Relatives Raising Children*

A new County of San Diego Health & Human Service Agency Aging & Independence Services program is available to help foster grandparents who find themselves with the additional responsibilities of raising another generation. The program aims to ease the unexpected burden that can strain family relations and provide resources to keep children healthy and thriving.

“We can help grandparents and kids at the same time,” said Pam Smith, director of Aging & Independence Services (AIS), a division of the County’s Health and Human Services Agency.

The program, funded by a Family Caregiver Support Program grant through AIS, provides vouchers for children to attend camps during summer recess and all school intersessions. The children are able to spend an enjoyable week in a healthy atmosphere. And the grandparent guardians are afforded a needed respite.

“This is one of the best programs available to foster grandparents right now,” said Annie Moore, coordinator of the YMCA Kinship Support Program. “It is a way of bringing immediate relief to a family and the anticipation of doing something fun.”

One grandmother, recovering from hip surgery, is raising her 14-year-old granddaughter. Their “eyes lit up” when they heard of the camps offered by the program, according to Moore, adding that the pair decided on a location within minutes. The camps include YMCA camps and those offered by other organizations such as park and recreation departments, churches, schools, and Boys and Girls Clubs. The kinship care provider must be 60 or over, and can be a grandparent or other relative who has primary care responsibility for a child or children.

For more information or to apply for a camp, call the YMCA Kinship Program at (619) 691-1331, ext. 214.

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