



Since 1999, the Family & Community Health Sciences Department has been providing educational and social support to grandparents residing in Cape May County who are the primary caregivers for their grandchildren.

Support Group Goals:

- Strengthen family relationships
- Provide educational programs
- Identify community resources
- Improve the quality of life for families



Cooperating Agencies: Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and County Boards of Chosen Freeholders. Rutgers Cooperative Extension, a unit of the Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, is an equal opportunity program provider and employer.



Rutgers partners with Cape Assist, Cape May County Board of Chosen Freeholders, CMC Dept. of Aging & Disability Services, the CMC Prosecutor's Office, Cape Regional Medical Center and many others who provide services for the community.

Rutgers Cooperative Extension

Family & Community Health Sciences Department
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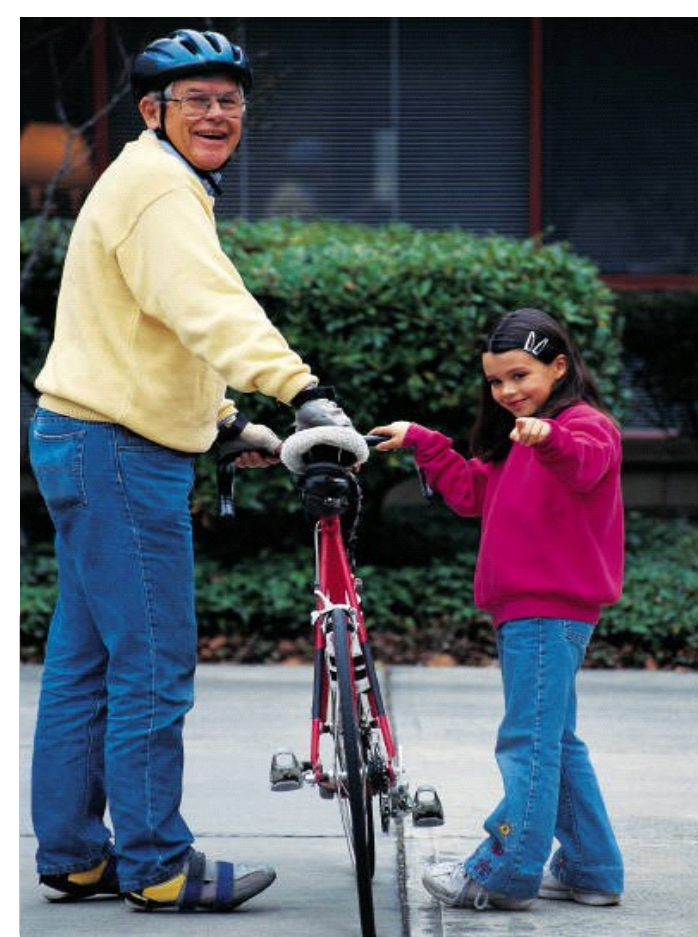
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Family & Community Health Sciences

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Support Group



Why we began...

In 1998, Marilou Rochford, former FCHS Educator for RCE of Cape May County was teaching a parenting education seminar. Three members of the group approached her after the class. They were grateful for the information shared since parenting was different for them “the second time around”. They explained that they were each raising their grandchildren and needed information, guidance, and support. They shared their stories and the unique challenges they faced. Marilou was prompted to investigate a growing group of families in the United States.

In 1999, Rutgers Family & Community Health Sciences Dept. co-hosted a national satellite video teleconference, “Grandparents Raising Grandchildren: Implications for Professionals”. One third of the participants were grandparents.

As follow-up, a “Legal Issues Workshop” was held with local county representatives from the legal community who could provide guidance for the grandparents in attendance. In response to their other challenges and the variety of needs of these families, the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Support Group was initiated by Marilou Rochford, RCE/FCHS and continues to grow in Cape May County, offering support and direction for the community of Grandparents Raising Grandchildren.



Did you know...

In 2017, 2.7 million grandparents in the U.S. were raising their grandchildren. According to the National Kids Count Data Center, the number of grandparents raising grandchildren in New Jersey grew from 47,000 to 52,000 between 2008 and 2017.

Program Topics

- Health, Nutrition and Wellness
- Coping with Stress
- Legal Issues: Custody, Guardianship and Adoption
- Creating a Stable Environment
- Vaping
- Preparing for Beyond High School
- Strengthening Family Communications

Monthly programs are available to Cape May County residents at low or no cost. Every season, different topics are offered based on the current needs and interests expressed by our grandparent community. A light supper is served and childcare is available.

Two of the most comforting words in the universe are, “me, too” and knowing you are not alone. This is what our program offers.

Receive our newsletter...

The “Kinship Connection” is published twice a year & addresses current issues facing you and your grandchildren. To request the newsletter, please email:

marian.courtney@co.cape-may.nj.us

Call: 609-465-5115 Ext. 3609



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Partial funding for our Grandparent Raising Grandchildren Support Group is provided through a grant from the Cape May County Division of Aging & Disability Services