

GRG Conference Speakers

The GRG Project is proudly presenting the following speakers for our state's first GRG Conference:



- ♥ **Hank Hudson**, Administrator of Human and Community Services Division, DPHHS
- ♥ **Anna Whiting-Sorrell** - Family Policy Advisor to the Governor
- ♥ **Marcia Goetting, Ph.D.**, MSU Extension Family and Economic Specialist
- ♥ **Martina Heavyrunner**, Resource Specialist, Cascade County DPHHS
- ♥ **David J. Patterson**, Professor of Law at the University of Montana School of Law
- ♥ **Maylinn Smith**, Director of the Indian Law Clinic at the University of Montana
- ♥ **Maureen McInnis, MS, LCPC**
- ♥ **Jill Thorngren, Ph.D., LCPC**, Associate Professor Marriage and Family Counseling at Montana State University-Bozeman
- ♥ **Brenda Roche, Ph.D., LP**, Neuropsychologist/Program Evaluator

ANNOUNCEMENTS

In our continuing effort to support and explore the issues and challenges of grandparents raising grandchildren in Montana, we are asking anyone with questions, concerns, or ideas to please contact us at grg@montana.edu or by calling 994-3395.

If you would like to be part of our listserve, email us and write "Add me to your listserve" in the subject. We will be emailing upcoming events and news related to GRG issues.

We have updated our Resource Guide for GRG's. Email or call us if you need one sent to you.

It is not giving children more that spoils them; it is giving them more to avoid confrontation.

John Gray, "Children Are From Heaven"

Parenting Teens

By: Sandra Bailey, PhD, CFLE



Parenting is a challenging job and parenting the second time around as grandparents can be even scarier – especially with teens. Knowing when and how to allow more freedom and responsibility can be tricky. Here are some tips to consider:

Start slowly: Around ages 10-12 youth will start to ask for more freedom. Do this in small steps, such as allowing him to go to a matinee with friends.

Discuss responsibility: Talk to your child about appropriate behavior when she is with a friend or group of friends. For example, talk about how storekeepers might respond to four 13-year-olds entering the business together.

Ask, who, what, when, and where: Even though your teen may complain about giving out details of where he is going, insist on it. At the same time explain why it is important that you know where he is going and who is going with him.



Explain consequences: Before your teen ventures out on her first evening with the car, explain the consequences if rules are broken. Link the consequences to the action – for example, the consequence for staying out past curfew with the car could be removal of privileges to use the car.

Carry through consequences: Once you have determined a consequence, carry through with it if a rule is broken. If the consequence for low grades is not going out with friends until the grades are back up, then stick to it!



Seek support: When you are feeling stressed in parenting reach out and talk to a friend or find a support group. Sharing your concerns with others can give you a chance to talk about the problem and at times, find a solution.

Teens are exciting, energetic, inquisitive, and challenging. Providing them with guidance and love will help you enjoy this time together.

GRG Newsletter



Montana's First GRG Conference

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The Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Project is gearing up for our first state conference. The conference will be held in Great Falls at the College of Technology and on June 10th in Billings at MSU on June 17th. There are 20 hotel rooms booked for each conference; if you are interested in reserving one, call the GRG Project's office for more information.

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To ease grandparents' burden, childcare will be provided at no cost at both conferences. Those in need of childcare need to assure that they include that on their registration forms.

Registration is underway and will continue through May 10th. If you have not received a registration form, they can be accessed through the GRG website at

<http://www.montana.edu/wwwhd/grg/index.htm>. Click on the "What's New" link. The registration form needs to be printed off and mailed to the GRG Project's office.



GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN PROJECT

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Six Reasons Grandparents Make *Great* Parents

Six Reasons By: Anne Reimer

Written by: Fonda Porterfield

Anne Reimer of Belgrade, MT was reared by her grandparents. She fondly remembers living with her grandparents. "I think growing up with my grandparents was the most wonderful thing that could have happened to me. They gave me a perspective on life that was different from my friends. It was like I was from a different culture from my friends."

Here are six reasons Anne think grandparents make *great* parents:

- 1) **24 hour playmates.** "My grandma stayed home to take care of my sister and I and my grandpa worked at home. There was always someone there for me. If I was bored, she would give me some macaroni, glue, and a plate and I was good to go."
- 2) **Grandparents know how to pick their battles.** "They let us leave our 'forts' in the living room all night so we could play with them the next day. They didn't get mind when we made messes on the table while doing crafts."
- 3) **Grandparents teach values.** "Grandma taught me to take advantage of what I had and not to take anything for granted."

"For instance, she kept and reused *everything*. She taught me the value of reusing and recycling. Materialism was not an issue in our house."

- 4) **Grandparents pass on their crafty skills.** "Grandma took the time to teach me how to sew, knit, and crochet. I really appreciate those times she spent one-on-one with me."
- 5) **Grandparents give the 'whole picture.'** "They taught me about history and helped to put things into perspective. They talked about their childhoods, and how things got to be the way they are today."
- 6) **Grandparents are encouraging.** "My grandpa was an inventor and quite imaginative. He taught me that I could be whatever I wanted to be."

Anne said living with her grandparents was fun. "I remember having my friends over to play and when their parents would come to pick them up they wouldn't want to leave."

Anne concluded by saying, "I wouldn't have it any other way. My grandma is *still* the person I call in the middle of the night for support. My grandparents are a constant source of support for me."

Grandparent Support Groups Across Montana

Billings:

Bernie Mason
P.O. Box 35021
Billings, MT 59107
256-2828

Bozeman:

Shayna Lemke
316 A Herrick Hall
Bozeman, MT 59715
994-3395 or
994-3833

Browning:

Carrie Jackson
Eagle Shield Center
P.O. Box 76
Browning, MT 59417
338-7257

Butte:

Jeff Jensen
Butte 4C's
101 E. Broadway
Butte, MT 59701
723-4019
800-794-4061
jjensen@butte-
4cs.com

Colstrip:

Jennifer Anderson
P.O. Box 65
Forsyth, MT 59327
346-7320

Dillon:

Jeff Jensen
723-4019
800-794-4061

Glendive:

Carol Fuqua
Parents Resource Center
200 S. Kendrick
Glendive, MT 59330
377-7515

Great Falls:

Geri Laubnetz
Partnership Project
1101 7th Ave So.
Great Falls, MT 59403
268-6762
Claire Delguerra
Cascade Extension
454-6980

Helena:

Jeannette B. Mattfeldt
562 Broadway
Helena, MT 59601
442-8207

Lewistown:

Denise Seilstadt
712 W. Main
Lewistown, MT 59457
538-3919

Kalispell:

Melody Domphe
The Nurturing Center,
Inc.
146 3rd Ave. W.
Kalispell, MT 59901
756-1414

Missoula:

Kathy Revello, MSU Ex-
tension
Missoula County Agent
256-4208
Barb Cowen
721-7690

Poplar and Wolf Point:

Ardis Oelkers
MSU Extension
Culbertson, MT 59218
787-5312

Rocky Boy Reservation:

Peggy Riotar-Aquino
Stone Child College
Box Elder, MT
395-4875

Townsend:

Nancy Marks 2263710
Jerri Paulk 266-4249



What's New at the GRG Project?

A new member has recently joined the team of the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Project. Aimee Kissel, will be graduating this May and then starting as a Graduate student in the Fall. She has been working this semester as an intern; and will be continuing with us this summer and into next year. She was recently awarded a scholarship from the Montana Gerontology Society, and was given several other scholarship awards from the College of Education, Health and Human Development to help defer the costs of Graduate School. Aimee is happy to have the opportunity to contribute to such a worthy project, and looks forward to meeting some of the grandfamilies at the upcoming conferences this summer.

