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Ulster County Program for Relative Caregivers Receives Brookdale Grant

According to the 2000 Census, the number of grandparents providing primary care for relative children in Ulster County was 1,470; this number does not include relative or sibling caregivers. The Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP) of Ulster County helps to serve the needs of these families through educational programming and guidance.

As part of the Hudson Valley Regional Relatives as Parents Program, RAPP is administered by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County and is a free program offered to adults who have taken on the role of parenting the child or children of a relative. The program offers adult peer support groups, the RAPP Kidz Club; a youth development group designed for children being raised by a relative, a six week workshop series which is geared towards relative caregivers and various trainings and workshops on a variety of topics from financial management and nutrition education to legal information. The program is fully confidential and open to all relative caregivers residing in Ulster County regardless of their income.

RAPP of Ulster County is pleased to announce that they are the recipient of a \$10,000 grant from the Brookdale Foundation to assist with funding to start a third support group. The grant will also provide funding to offer free legal consultation for their clients.

RAPP was established in 1999 by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Orange County and expanded to neighboring counties including Ulster County in 2007. RAPP continues to offer information to assist kinship care giving families, youth and family enrichment and educational program information in a caring environment. Currently there are 40 caregivers and 57 children enrolled in the Ulster County RAPP.

For more information about RAPP please call RAPP Coordinator, Erica Smith at 845-340-3990 or email els235@cornell.edu.

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