



Board of Commissioners

PRESS RELEASE

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Lake County Commissioners Proclaim Grandparent/Kinship Month

PAINESVILLE, Ohio, September 21, 2023— At the Commissioner’s meeting on September 7, 2023, the Board of Commissioners made a motion to proclaim September as Grandparent/Kinship Month in Lake County. This week, the Board recognized a few agencies who assist grandparents and kinship caregivers; Lake County Department of Job and Family Services, Lifeline, and Council on Aging.

The number of grandparents and kinship caregivers who raise their grandchildren or other relative children is increasing in Ohio. There are more than 297,000 children under the age of 18 who live in homes where the caregivers are relatives other than their parents, and of these, more than 189,000 live with grandparents.

“This month, we take the time to recognize the grandparents and other kinship caregivers who provide a safe and stable home to ensure the children thrive,” said Commission President, John R. Hamercheck.

“Thank you to the grandparents and kinship caregivers who have agreed to provide safety and consistent care to children in our community. I would encourage all grandparents and kinship caregivers to utilize the resources available to them - a good place to start is the statewide Kinship and Adoption Navigator program called OhioKAN. OhioKAN assisted over 2,000 families in the past year. You can visit their website at ohiokan.ifs.ohio.gov or call 1-844-OHIOKAN (1-844-644-6526). The Lake County Department of Job and Family Services is also working to expand services to our grandparent and kinship caregivers,” said Suzanne Casar, Director Lake County Department of Job and Family Services.

“I think it’s important that we highlight the resources available to family members who are taking care of children and the hard work and dedication of these agencies. We know it is not an easy job, they take care of Lake County Families,” said Commissioner John Plecnik.

“Stepping into the role of a caregiver for a child is very important. We recognize the important role caregivers play in creating the best possible outcomes for Lake County’s youth,” said Commissioner Richard J. Regovich.



From the left: Commissioner John Plecnik, Suzanne Casar, Carrie Dotson, Commissioner John R. Hamercheck, Tim Rieder, Commissioner Richard. Regovich.

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