

# Relatives as Parents Newsletter

## The North Idaho R.A.P.

April 2011  
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## April Is Child Abuse Awareness Month

April is the National Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness month. More than 3 million children are victims of violence each year. Those are only the ones reported. We cannot overlook America's children who are at risk and peril every day. There is a national effort to educate and raise awareness for preventing violence against children. The "blue ribbon" is the symbol for child abuse prevention.

Child abuse is more than bruises and broken bones. Physical abuse is the most visible sign, but there are other types of abuse, such as emotional abuse or child neglect that leave long lasting scars. Learn the types and signs of abuse and do not be afraid to report the abuse to the authorities. Here are a few of the types and symptoms of abuse:

### **Physical Abuse**

- \* Has unexplained burns, bites, bruises, broken bones, or black eyes
- \* Has fading bruises after an absence from school
- \* Seems frightened of parents and protest or cries when it is time to go home.
- \* Shrinks at the approach of an adult
- \* Aggression towards other children

### **Neglect**

- \* Is frequently absent from school
- \* Constant hunger
- \* Lacks medical/dental care and untreated medical problems
- \* Is consistently dirty and/or has poor hygiene
- \* Lacks sufficient clothing for the weather

### **Sexual**

- \* Has difficulty walking or sitting
- \* Refuses to change for gym
- \* Demonstrates unusual sexual knowledge or behavior
- \* Suddenly drawing sexually explicit pictures
- \* Runs away
- \* Reports sexual abuse by a parent or another adult

Children need predictability, structure, clear boundaries, and the knowledge that their parents/caregivers are looking out for their safety. Abused children cannot predict how their parents/caregivers will act. Their world is an unpredictable frightening place. What is the end result of abuse? The child will feel unsafe, uncared for, alone, possibly sustain a serious injury or even death. If you suspect a child is being abused, it is critical to get them help. Many people are reluctant to get involved in other peoples lives by reporting child abuse. The child being abused needs you to step up and help. If you don't help...who will? If you suspect a child is being abused or neglected, please call the **Child Protection Service** at the Department of Health and Welfare at 208-769-1515/ after hours 866-769-1543 or call the **Idaho Careline** by dialing 2-1-1 (1-800-926-2588).

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Autism Walk on April  
30th at 10am  
Riverstone Park  
208-704-3698

### **The Next R.A.P. Meeting**

The 2nd  
Thursday,  
April 14, 2011

### **Jewett House**

1501 E Lakeshore Dr.  
Coeur d'Alene, ID

**A light lunch will be  
served and child  
care provided at no  
cost.**

**Glenda Weaver**  
769-7096 Home  
964-0667 Cell  
**Margo Peebles**  
667-0320



**Mission is to:**

*“Build healthy families by promoting broad-based community collaboration and coordination to combine resources to reduce substance abuse, increase literacy, and to reduce the duplication of services.”*

*Kootenai County Kin-Care Committee c/o KACF  
610 W. Hubbard, Ste.123  
Coeur d’Alene, ID 83814*

## Walk MS April 30, 2011

The Coeur d’Alene Multiple Sclerosis Walk winds through scenic Coeur d’Alene and City Park with a choice of 2 or 5 mile routes, nutritious rest stops and a finish line celebration. Check in begins at 8:30 am at the North Idaho College Molstad Library. For more information call: 509-482-2022 Or 1-800-344-4867



## Arbor Day - 4/29/2011

Arbor Day is a tree-planting holiday celebrated both nationally and internationally. Idaho’s official Arbor Day is always the last Friday in April. There is an art contest for middle school and high school students who live within the Coeur d’Alene, Post Falls, and Lakeland school districts. Tree seedlings will be given away at the Arbor Day event. For more information about the seedlings and the Arbor Day events call: Karen Haskew @ 769-2266

### Mission of Kootenai County Kin-Care Committee is to:

*Advance Community Support for a Safe and Nurturing Environment for Children Raised by Relatives.*



The RAP/GAP Mascot is the turtle. The turtle, like us and our children, has a hard shell to protect it from getting hurt, but the inside is soft, vulnerable and loveable. We must learn to stick our heads out of our shell and take a chance.

## My Family. My Story

The Idaho KinCare Project is excited to announce the 2011 **My Family. My Story**. Contest. Children ages 5 through 18 will explain through a drawing, poem, or short essay why living with someone other than their parents has made a positive difference in their lives. Children must currently live or have lived in a kincare family in the past. The top 3 age divisions will win a \$100 prize from D.L. Evans bank. All entries will receive a special gift from 211 Idaho CareLine. At the end of the contest, the entries will be compiled into a booklet and sent to our entrants. So not only will the kids have a chance to win a prize, they will be published. For privacy reasons, only the child’s first name and age will be published. All entries must be turned in or postmarked by May 31, 2011. For complete rules visit the kincare tab at [www.211.idaho.gov](http://www.211.idaho.gov) with questions.

## Rathdrum’s RAP Group

### **Relatives As Parents**

You are invited to a new Relatives As Parents chapter group the second Wednesday of the month in Rathdrum.

**Bridgette Hager will be presenting on the Circle of Security and Attachment.**

**Where:** Mountain States Early Head Start Program

**When:** Wednesday, March 13th, 2011  
9:30 to 11:00 am

**Who:** Any relative assisting to raise children 0-18 years.

**\* Light refreshments will be served.**

For more information call:  
Linda Stolley 712-3152 ex. 304

## Senior Living Complex for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

Friday, March 4, 2011, Silver Creek broke ground to build a 42-unit senior affordable housing project for those 55 years and older. There will be from 1 to three bedroom units available. The larger bedroom units reflect the trend of more **grandparents raising their grandchildren**. This complex will be located at IdahoLine Road on the west side of Post Falls. The 2.3 acre project will include a three-story building, a community center, carpools, walking paths, greenspace and a small "tot lot" for children. Supportive services such as transportation will be available for the tenants. The monthly rent will range from \$277 for a basic one bedroom apartment to \$594 for a three bedroom unit. The application process will be held in July and August at the community center of North Creek apartments, an existing family housing project located next to the new Silver Creek development . The project is expected to be completed by fall 2011.

## Coeur d'Alene Library 1st Week in April

April gets off to a busy beginning at the Coeur d'Alene Public Library. All programs will be held in the Community Room at the library located at 702 E. Front Ave.

Local Inventor **Dick Smart** brings his program, "**The Great Patagonian Railbike Adventure**," to the library at 7 pm Wednesday, April 6. This is a free program that will feature a film of Smart and a group of friends riding the rails on specially developed bikes on a abandoned line in Argentina.

The 2010 Disney film "**Secretariat**" will be screened at 7pm, Thursday, April 7. A \$5 donation is suggested for this movie. Proceeds will be used to enhance the library's DVD collection. Free popcorn will be provided for this family-friendly movie.

Folk singer **Bob Nelson** will present a concert on Friday, April 8, 2011. He will offer a special youth program at 12:30 pm and an all-age program beginning at 7 pm. Nelson's presentations are made possible by a grant from the Friends of the Library. (Schools or groups planning on attending the 12:30 youth concert are asked to contact Davis Townsend, at: 208-769-2315 Ext. 426.

Be sure to check the Coeur d'Alene Library program schedule for more interesting programs to be presented in April at [www.cdalibrary.org](http://www.cdalibrary.org)



The power to make it better.  
Grandparents  
Raising  
Grandchildren  
[www.aarp.org](http://www.aarp.org)

**Idaho KINCARE  
Coalition Mission:**  
"To promote  
social and  
legislative change  
through education  
and advocacy and  
to provide the  
social supports  
needed by  
grandparents and  
other relatives  
raising the  
children in their  
care"



**KINCARE Coalition  
Leadership  
Committee's Work  
Plan: Support the  
development of  
community  
partnerships that will  
develop strong  
relationships with  
kinship families and  
work in partnership to  
improve, expand and  
sustain programs and  
services to kinship  
families.**

# Are You A Grandparents, Aunt, Uncle, Cousin or Sibling Raising a Relative Child?

**Join one of our RAP Group if you need a listening ear or some new ideas.**



**RAP Mission is to:**  
*Make the world a better place for those children whose parents are unable or unwilling to assume the legal & moral responsibilities of parenthood.*

The [CdA RAP Support Group](#) meets the second Thursday of the month at:

**Jewett House**  
1501 E. Lakeshore Drive  
Coeur d'Alene, ID  
Noon - 2 o'clock

Glenda Weaver 208-769-7096  
Margo Peebles 208-667-0320

The RAP groups provide information & support to kinship care givers through sharing information and guest speakers. We stay aware of the laws and proposed legislation that impacts kin care givers & children.

The [Post Falls RAP Support Group](#) meets the first and 3rd Fridays of the month from 10 to 11:30 am at:

Head Start/Across from the library  
106 West 9th Street  
Post Falls, ID

Robbie Eaton 208-773-6164

The [Rathdrum RAP Support Group](#) meets the second Wednesday of the month from 9:30 to 11:00 am at:

Early Mountain Head Start  
14790 Kimo Court  
Rathdrum, ID

Linda Stolley 208-712-3152  
Jennifer McLuskie 208-687-1682

Glenda Weaver  
3202 Wedgewood Loop  
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83815

## **Our Kids: Our Business**

