



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**National Grandparents Day, Sept. 11:  
Honoring & Supporting Grandparents Raising Grandchildren  
YMCA Camp Colman to Host King County's Kinship Caregivers Retreat,  
Sept. 10-11**

(SEATTLE) – September 11<sup>th</sup> marks a somber day of remembrance for all Americans. This year, 9/11 also happens to be National Grandparents Day, an occasion to honor these loved ones and to celebrate the mark they make on our families.

In an effort to provide respite and support to local grandparents and other relatives who are raising children (also known as kinship caregivers), YMCA Camp Colman is hosting King County's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Kinship Retreat in partnership with King County Kinship Collaboration, Odessa Brown Children's Clinic, the YMCA of Greater Seattle and the City of Federal Way. This is a unique opportunity for caregivers to receive the encouragement, support and rest that they richly deserve and rarely get, and for kids to enjoy time with families similar to their own.

Throughout the U.S., approximately one in ten children is being raised by a kinship caregiver, according to the Pew Research Center. In King County alone, more than 18,000 people are raising a relative's child. They include grandparents, aunts, uncles, siblings, and others caring for family members' children when circumstances prevent parents from caring for them.

**EVENT DETAILS:**

**WHAT:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Kinship Caregivers Retreat to promote wellness for caregivers and their children through respite, fun activities, relevant information and resources.

**WHEN:** 10:00 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 10 – 3:00 p.m., Sunday, September 11

**WHERE:** YMCA Camp Colman, 20016 Bay Road, KPS, Longbranch, WA 98351

**SAMPLE OF ACTIVITIES:** Free Family portraits for all attendees. Adults will be doing yoga, taking beach walks and receiving hand massage while kids are boating and riding the Giant Swing. Caregivers and children will reunite for meals and campfire.

**WHY:** The rates of kinship care are increasing yet limited support is available for these families. There are approximately 4 times as many children in kinship

foster care than in regular foster care. One of the largest gaps in services is respite care for kinship providers. By rejuvenating caregivers, children benefit even more from the positive effects of kinship care.

**PARTNERS:** This retreat is made possible by the generous financial, in-kind and volunteer contributions from YMCA Camp Colman, University of Washington pediatric residents, UW Public Health, Atlantic Street Center, RAYs, Casey Family Foundation, City Light Photography, Pacific Office Automation, REI, Senior Services and Lifespan Respite.

**About the YMCA of Greater Seattle**

The YMCA of Greater Seattle is the Northwest's leading nonprofit organization strengthening communities through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. Founded in 1876, the Y enhance the lives of more than 190,700 people annually through 12 branches, two overnight camps and more than 200 program sites throughout King and south Snohomish counties. Visit [seattlemca.org](http://seattlemca.org).

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