

Back to School Blowout for Kinship Families

Zonta Organization gives School Supplies to 112 Kinship Families

August 17, 2006, 5:00 – 7:00 pm, Walbridge Park Shelter House

Approximately 275 children being reared by grandparents and other relatives will receive knap sacks filled with school supplies free because of the generosity of the Zonta Club of Toledo 1. The Zonta Club of Toledo 1 is a women's service organization that has as a part of its mission to improve the lives of women world wide and in our community.

The supplies will be given out at what is being called a "Back to School Blowout" sponsored by the **Area Office on Aging's Kinship Navigator Program**, which guides grandparents and other family members who are raising relative's children to services in our community.

The event will be held Thursday, Aug. 17, 2006, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., at the Walbridge Park enclosed shelter house. A picnic will be served free of charge to the more than 110 kinship families that plan to attend. Reservations were required in order to attend and are now closed.

The \$600 worth of school supplies is from a \$10,000 grant from the Zonta Club of Toledo 1 that was given to the Kinship Navigator Program to help kinship families who have voluntarily stepped forward to rear children in their extended families.

In addition to the free school supplies, and picnic lunch, the Fire Safety Truck from the Toledo Fire Department will be there. As well as 20 community agencies with information tables.

This is a coordinated county-wide event that brings together all six Kinship Clubs to one large meeting. Kinship Clubs meet monthly to provide educational and enrichment opportunities for all members of kinship families. The six clubs currently meet at the Margaret L. Hunt Senior Center, the Chester J. Zablocki Senior Center, Mayores Senior Center, Sylvania Senior Center, the Augsburg Lutheran Church and the East Toledo Family Center.

The Area Office on Aging's Kinship Navigator Program is funded by the Lucas County Job & Family Services, Lucas County Children Services and the Area Office on Aging's Family Caregiver Support Program.

For more information, contact: Judy Paschalis, Coordinator, 419.382.7060 ext. 27.