



Summit County
CHILDREN SERVICES
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MEDIA RELEASE

Summit County Children Services ■ 264 South Arlington Street ■ Akron, Ohio 44306

For Immediate Release

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Summit County Children Services Recognizes September as "Kinship Care Month."

AKRON, OHIO – September 2020 – Summit County Children Services (SCCS) recognizes "Kinship Care Month" and the importance of grandparents, relatives and other caregivers helping to raise children when their parents are unable.

SCCS works to keep families together whenever possible, but when it is unsafe for a child to remain with their parents, relatives and kinship families often step forward to offer their love and care to children in need. SCCS believes that all children deserve a safe, stable and permanent home. "Our staff works diligently to build and maintain relationships between children in custody and their families," said Julie Barnes, Executive Director of SCCS. "We are thankful for the love and support that our kinship caregivers provide to the children served by our agency."

In Summit County, approximately 40 percent of children in the custody of SCCS are placed with kin. The number of children living with grandparents and other relatives continues to grow. Last year, SCCS had an average of 358 children placed in kinship homes.

Kinship care refers to a temporary or permanent arrangement in which a relative or any non-relative adult, who has a long-standing relationship or bond with the child and/or family, has taken over the full time, substitute care of a child whose parents are unable or unwilling to do so. Kinship care is the most preferred out of home placement option for children who cannot live with their parents, often keeping children connected to their family heritage and customs.

SCCS is fortunate to have a Kinship Navigator. The Kinship Navigator can help caregivers identify resources to manage challenges that may come up in providing kinship care. A kinship caregiver, regardless of agency involvement, can get assistance in 'navigating' through various community programs, resources and services.

For more information about kinship care, please contact the Kinship Navigator at (330) 996-1798 or visit the SCCS website at summitkids.org.

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