



10000 North 31st Avenue, Suite D200 Phoenix, Arizona 85051

Duet assists grandparents raising grandchildren and other kinship caregivers. Since 1994, Duet has strived to improve the lives of kinship caregivers and their families. **Kinship Care Services** include:

Grandparent Sharing Groups: Sharing groups support grandparents during times of crisis – especially when they have no other place to share feelings, experiences and challenges. These groups help us identify grandparents’ needs, as well as link them to critical resources. Raising grandchildren often creates lifestyle changes and friendships are put on hold. Family members may not fully support or understand the challenges grandparents face each day and grandparents often feel alone. Support groups help combat feelings of isolation and burnout. We have seven sharing groups in greater Phoenix.

Educational Workshops: We coordinate periodic workshops that focus on issues relevant to raising a second family. These workshops both support and empower grandparents who are facing difficult situations. Educational topics may include financial decisions, legal questions regarding custody, guardianship and adoption, medical care, choosing appropriate childcare, and more.

Legal Guidance and Assistance: In Maricopa County, we help grandparents determine appropriate legal options for their unique situations. We offer quarterly *Guardianship Clinics* and funding to pay for the preparation of legal documents (restrictions apply). Informal caregiving begins when grandparents assume temporary parenting responsibilities while their adult child “gets it together.” However, grandparents may face difficulties in raising their grandchildren without formal custody. Securing formal custody helps grandparent’s access support services and provides greater stability for grandchildren.

Respite: Financial assistance is available to pay for a portion/all of fees associated with extracurricular activities, which many grandparents cannot afford because of budget restrictions. Grandparents find appropriate summer programs, classes, lessons, daycare, etc. that provide enrichment activities for their grandchildren. While the children’s lives are enriched, grandparents are given a much-needed break – which supports their emotional and physical health.

Monthly “Grandfamilies” activities: We offer recreational outings or events for children who are being raised by grandparents or other relatives. We encourage and support them as they adjust to new living situations. These children may participate in fun activities with other children and families experiencing similar family challenges.

Information & Referral: We provide ongoing referrals and information to eligible grandparents who need support and services. We offer one-on-one benefits and entitlement counseling to help identify available services. Also, a quarterly newsletter is available to kinship caregivers.

Services are provided free of charge (with the exception of occasional admission fees for events).

Contact: Patricia Dominguez, Director of Kinship Care Services, (602) 274-5022 or dominguez@duetaz.org