

Family Living



Happy Birthday
Frieda Murray
from your loving
grandchildren!

Research on Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

Peoria, IL., March 9—The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that more than 2 million children live in a household headed by their grandparent. This role can be a very special one, with many rewarding aspects. However, this responsibility also means major changes in the lives of grandparents.

Dr. Rachel Pruchno, Director at the Center on Aging at Bradley University, has received a grant from the National Institute on Aging to learn more about how living with and helping to raise young grandchildren affects adults in their middle and later years. She has conducted extensive research in the areas of human development and psychology.

The Grandparent Study will fill an important knowledge gap by providing information about the challenges and rewards grandparents experience by living with and taking care of a grandchild. The result of the study will identify appropriate interventions and policies which could significantly reduce the social, physical, and emotional difficulties experienced by these families.

Now in its third year, the Grandparent Study is seeking to conduct private, confidential telephone interviews with 3-generation families, those in which a grandparent, a young grandchild, and the grandchild's par-

ents live together. Says Pruchno, "The challenges and rewards faced by grandparents who live with both their own adult child and a young grandchild may differ significantly from those faced by grandparents who are raising a grandchild in the absence of the middle generation parent. Service providers and policy makers must be aware of the needs of 3-generation families in order to better serve them."

Grandparents over age 50 who are currently living with both a young grandchild who is under age 18 and the grandchild's parent are asked to call Dottie McKenney at 1-800-695-5927 for more information about how they can help make a difference.

FIRST ANNUAL SEI PARENT RALLY

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Theme: "Taking Ownership of Being Parents"
Friday, April 3, 1998
6:30p.m. to 8:30p.m.
Center for Self Enhancement
3920 N Kerby

For further information please feel free to contact M. Callier-Wells or D. Hodges at (503) 249-1721.

Q&A's For Social Security or Supplemental Income Assistance

QUESTION: Can you tell me about the new Medicare benefits? I heard some were effective January 1998 and that more will be available in July 1998.

ANSWER: Medicare has added benefits to help people stay healthy. The benefits that were effective January 1998 include: yearly mammograms, pap smears which include pelvic and breast examinations, and colorectal cancer screening. Effective in July 1998, diabetes glucose monitoring and diabetes education for people with diabetes will be available. And remember, Medicare pays 100% of costs for flu and pneumonia shots.

QUESTION: I've owned and operated my own beauty school most of my working life. I'm planning on retiring soon and my son will be taking over the business. But I will still have some involvement with the business. How does this effect my Social Security?

ANSWER: You will need to let Social Security know that you are retiring and you still will have some involvement in the business. Since as owner of the business, you could be in the position to control your earnings, you will need to furnish Social Security with specific information about your involvement. You cannot simply pay yourself a smaller salary so you can receive Social Security benefits. The factsheet, "When You Retire From Your Own Business: What Social Security Needs To Know," explains this subject in more detail. Call Social Security's toll-free number, 1-800-772-1213, to request the factsheet or to make an appointment to discuss your individual case with a Social Security representative.

QUESTION: I've heard some people say that Social Security benefits are "weighted." What does that mean?

ANSWER: Although the higher your earnings, the higher your benefit, Social Security uses a method of figuring benefits that replaces a higher proportion of the earnings of workers with low average lifetime earnings and those with families because they have less of an opportunity to save or invest for their retirement. Workers with low wages receive a replacement rate of about 60% of their earnings, average wage earners receive about 42%, and higher-paid workers receive approximately 26%.

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Prices Effective Wednesday April 1, 7am thru Tuesday April 7, Midnight

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