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Editors' Welcome

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Welcome!

The editors of *GrandFamilies: The Contemporary Journal of Research, Practice and Policy* extend a sincere welcome to readers of our first published issue. We are looking forward to many years of bringing high quality, peer-reviewed papers on research, practice and policy affecting grandparent-headed families.

Publishing our first online issue is truly a collaboration effort made possible through the hard work of many committed persons who are passionate about serving families headed by grandparents. There has been much excitement and anticipation about this journal's potential to bring new knowledge to both research and practice fields. We believe the journal will have value for diverse groups of professionals working with grandparent-headed families. Researchers will have a specific journal to which they may submit manuscripts that will be reviewed by editors who are well-versed in the field of kinship care, and specifically grandparent caregiving. This may be particularly relevant for new/emerging researchers who are engaged in research and practice efforts in the field. In addition, current practitioners seeking evidence-based studies can use *GrandFamilies* as a source to find innovative, validated practice strategies that can inform both current and future work with grandparent-headed families.

Periodically, *GrandFamilies* will focus on topics related to social policy and advocacy. Generations United will feature an annual policy-based article to inform our readers about new initiatives or legislative efforts that have significance for grandparent-headed families. Finally, we believe the journal will also hold value for

administrators and grant managers of funding agencies who are looking for new funding priorities; we encourage them to use the journal as a viable source for their important work. The diversity of the potential readership is an essential reason we deliberately decided to keep the journal as an open access publication. Our goal is to allow easy access to *GrandFamilies'* content and to use its information to support continuing work in the field.

GrandFamilies is a primary resource of the National Center on Grandparents Raising Grandchildren. The mission of the National Center is to support efforts that enhance the well-being of grandparent-headed families. Influencing new scholarship, educating service providers, and creating a dynamic forum that supports an exchange of ideas among professionals characterizes the National Center's objectives. We encourage our readers to view other resources offered by the National Center at the website -

<http://www.wmich.edu/grandparenting/index.html> .

As noted earlier, putting all the ingredients together to publish an online professional journal is a collaborative process. There are many persons who helped to get the journal to this stage. Our managing editors, Deborah Langosch, PhD and John McElroy, PhD provided invaluable time and effort defining the contents of the journal. John, in particular, spent many hours working with our publisher, Scholar Works, to ensure all the inner workings actually functioned well. Our editorial board members provided encouragement and valuable suggestions about the journal's design, focus and content; we are truly indebted to them. Please see the list of research and practice experts who are serving as contributing editors for GrandFamilies. Their eagerness to be associated with the journal has confirmed the

importance of this work, and we thank them wholeheartedly. Finally, this initiative could not have occurred without the support of our partnering institutions – Western Michigan University and Georgia State University. *GrandFamilies* represents how two institutions can work together to create a product that has the potential for national /international significance.

The journal, *GrandFamilies*, is about grandparents and their grandchildren. It is their hope and desire for their families to grow and respond positively to change; it is our hope *GrandFamilies* is instrumental in helping these families meet their desires.

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