

**In this issue: >>>**

*Multiple Sclerosis*

*Meet Our New Staff*

*Community Resources*

*LIHEAP*

*Kinship Survey*

*Client of the Month*



*(Grandparents Raising And Nurturing Dependents with Disabilities)*

A program of:



**NEWS**

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## Multiple Sclerosis

Multiple sclerosis (MS) is a potentially disabling disease of the brain and spinal cord (central nervous system).

In MS, the immune system attacks the protective sheath (myelin) that covers nerve fibers and causes communication problems between your brain and the rest of your body. Signs and symptoms of MS vary widely between patients and depend on the location and severity of nerve fiber damage in the central nervous system. Some people with severe MS may lose the ability to walk independently or ambulate at all. Other individuals may experience long periods of remission without any new symptoms depending on the type of MS they have.

There's no cure for multiple sclerosis. However, there are treatments to help speed the recovery from attacks, modify the course of the disease and manage symptoms.

For more information check out:  
<https://bit.ly/ISDDMSMayo>



## Gwinnett Expansion



Brittney Ferguson is our newest addition to the ISDD team. As a Georgia native who was raised in Gwinnett County, she knows the area well. Brittney began her career as a pre-k and childcare teacher. This experience

her to pursue a career in social work so that she could make more of a difference in the community. She continued her education at Clayton State University to obtain her Bachelor's degree. Afterwards she received her Masters of Social Work from the University of Georgia. In addition she earned a certification in nonprofit management and leadership. She feels destined to start her own nonprofit one day. She has many internships at nonprofit agencies geared toward child welfare under her belt. Most recently she came from the Gwinnett Division of Family and Children Services as a foster care case manager. She also has some experience in therapy. She loves to travel and visited Mexico and Jamaica last year. She is thrilled to learn about and work with our Gwinnett kinship families. Welcome to the team Brittney!

# Resources

## Free Tax Assistance:

Don't pay for filing, loans or rapid refunds! Let United Way help save you money. Text 211OD to 898211 and choose #3 for tax help. They will provide a local free site to assist you

## Food Assistance:

For food banks in your area:  
Text 'FINDFOOD' to 888-976-2232  
OR <https://feedinggeorgia.org/find-your-food-bank/>

## ISDD Summer Camp Scholarships:

### Eligibility Requirements:

- Financial need documentation
- School enrollment & 5-18 years old
- Georgia Resident
- Completed youth participation form
- Meet support group/parenting class participation
- Camp or after school program should be educational

Application: Coming soon

# LIHEAP Cooling Program

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is available to all income eligible households. This program offers a payment of \$350, \$450, or \$500 once per program year to be applied to your home energy bill.

They will begin accepting applications for the LIHEAP program on April 3, 2023 at 11:00 AM for seniors only (ages 65+). Applications for the general population will be accepted, starting May 1, 2023. All services are provided by appointment only.

Apply for assistance at your local Community Action Agency.

<https://georgiacaa.org/agency-finder>

### Documentation required:

1. Proof of Income for all household members for the past 30 days
2. Proof of Social Security number for each person in the household
3. Most recent Gas and Electric Bill for the household
4. Proof of citizenship or legal immigrant status

# Kinship Care Survey

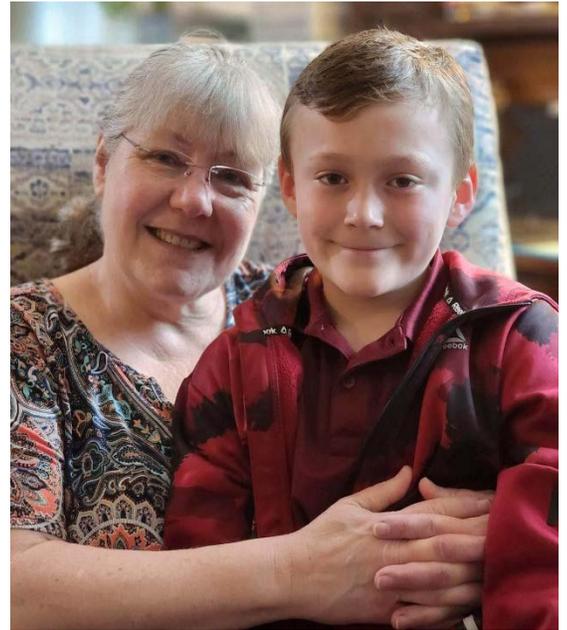
The Kinship Care Participant Survey tool is administered twice a year and used to gauge participants' perceptions of the various programs impact on Kinship families. You will receive an email with the survey attached. Please return your survey by March 31<sup>st</sup>. If you have any questions about the survey please contact our program assistant Shantell, at (470) 310-3458.



# Client of the Month- Marilyn Tumlin

Each month we select a Project GRANDD caregiver to highlight so we can get to know each other.

Marilyn Tumlin is a 61 year old grandmother raising her 8 year old grandson, Jace along with her husband. She is our client of the month because she is dedicated to providing the best care for her grandson. She is passionate about supporting other caregivers and sharing what she has learned. She loves the outdoors, watching Jace ride his bike, roller-skate and hunt for lizards. She is very passionate about the Word of God. The advice she would like to offer is if we invest our love and our time into a child it can and will change their future for the better. Our life will change for the better if we embrace the assignment we have been given and do it with a cheerful heart. Mourn the old life you had and get on with it because if you stay longing for something that is now gone for too long you will miss the smiles and laughter that these children so desperately need us to share with them.



Favorite Quote: When life throws you lemons make lemonade

## SUPPORT GROUPS

RSVP required for in person groups

<b>Virtual Adult Support</b> <b>10AM-12PM</b>	<b>3/7- Topic: Understanding and Responding to Dementia Related Behavior</b> (sponsored by Alzheimer’s Association) Guest: Christine Kelly	Google Meet: <a href="https://bit.ly/ISDDAdult">https://bit.ly/ISDDAdult</a> Phone: 414-600-9528 PIN: 888 104 633#
<b>DeKalb AM Adult Support</b> <b>10:30 AM-12:30PM</b>	<b>3/14- Topic: Ending the Silence - Mental Health</b> Guest: National Alliance on Mental Illness <b>RSVP:</b> <a href="https://bit.ly/PG03-14">https://bit.ly/PG03-14</a> or 470-310-3458	DeKalb County Library System: Covington Highway Branch <b>RSVP:</b> <a href="https://bit.ly/PG03-14">https://bit.ly/PG03-14</a> Or 470-310-3458
<b>Fulton PM Family Support</b> <b>6PM-8PM</b>	<b>3/21 Healthy Living For Your Brain and Body</b> (sponsored by Alzheimer’s Association) Guest: Christine Kelly <b>RSVP:</b> <a href="https://bit.ly/PG03-21">https://bit.ly/PG03-21</a> or 470-310-3458	Fulton Public Library System-Metropolitan Branch <b>RSVP:</b> 470-310-3458 or <a href="https://bit.ly/PG03-21">https://bit.ly/PG03-21</a> <i>A light dinner will be served 6:00 – 6:30 pm</i>
<b>Fulton AM Adult Support</b> <b>10:30 AM-12:30PM</b>	<b>3/28- 10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer’s</b> (sponsored by Alzheimer’s Association) Guest: Nathan Katzif <b>RSVP:</b> <a href="https://bit.ly/PG03-28">https://bit.ly/PG03-28</a> or 470-310-3458	Fulton Public Library System-Mechanicsville Branch <b>RSVP:</b> <a href="https://bit.ly/PG03-28">https://bit.ly/PG03-28</a> or 470-310-3458



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Visit us on the Web: [www.isdd-home.org](http://www.isdd-home.org)

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