

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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METRO ATLANTA'S LARGEST KINSHIP PROGRAM RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD

*Innovative Solutions for Disadvantage & Disability (ISDD) and
Project GRANDD recognized for outstanding contributions to the field*

DECATUR, GA, June 10, 2021 - **Innovative Solutions for Disadvantage and Disability (ISDD)—Project GRANDD is honored to receive the 2021 Brookdale Foundation Grandfamilies Award for outstanding contributions to the field of grandparents and other relatives raising children.** The award, part of Generations United's biennial awards program, will be presented at the 20th Global Intergenerational Conference June 15-17, 2021. ISDD is one of five award recipients to be honored at this virtual conference.

Project GRANDD (Grandparents Raising And Nurturing Dependents with Disabilities) was founded in 2005. The program had a small budget of \$41,000 on which it offered an adult support group and a small amount of case management and material aid to assist grandparents who were raising grandchildren with special needs. The program has since grown into the largest kinship services program in the Atlanta Metro Area with a budget of over \$400,000.

Project GRANDD is the only program providing services to families throughout the Atlanta Metro Area and is the only kinship support program specifically serving families that include children with special needs. Services have expanded in recent years to include support groups for children and teens with groups meeting pre-pandemic in Fulton and DeKalb counties, parenting classes specifically for kinship caregivers, and in-home tutoring for children with IEPs (Individualized Education Programs). Project GRANDD today serves an average of 600 children and adults annually. The goals of project GRANDD are to increase family stability, enhance child development, reduce child abuse and neglect by ensuring that children remain in the care of loving family members and out of the foster care system.

"ISDD's staff and board are incredibly proud to receive this national honor from Generations United," said Rainie B. Jueschke, Executive Director. **"We have worked very hard to grow from a program that could serve only about 25 families a year to one with an active caseload of over 100 families,** including more than 100 others who participate in support groups or remain on our newsletter mailing list. **Raising a second family, especially one that includes children with special needs, is incredibly difficult when you are older, your income is fixed and you have health issues of your own.** With the support of funders like the Atlanta Regional Commission, the Boards of Commissioners of Fulton and DeKalb Counties, United Way of Metro Atlanta, Promoting Safe and Stable Families Network of the Division of Family and Children Services, Murphy Family and Ron and Lisa Brill Foundations, the Pollard Fund and TD Ameritrade we are able to help ensure that the children in these families have a

chance to be successful.”

ISDD provides the following services at no charge (group and in-person services are currently suspended or provided by phone/videoconferencing):

- **Support Groups** - for children and adults meet regularly. Separate groups for adults, children aged 8-12 and teenagers. Registration is required.
- **Education and Training** - to address emotional, educational, medical/developmental and legal needs as well as promotion of personal well-being and relationship building.
- **Parenting enrichment workshop series**- specifically for kinship caregivers.
- **Case Management** - addresses family needs including emotional, social, financial, educational, legal and healthcare concerns for grandparents and grandchildren.
- **Home Visits** - providing assessment of family needs and individualized case plans.
- **Monthly Newsletters & Bi-weekly Resource Emails** - provide useful information for grandfamilies including children with special needs.
- **In-home tutoring** – children with IEPs can receive up to 10 sessions.
- **Family Fun Day** - Annual outing for participants – a day of fun for the entire family.
- **Material Assistance** - Assistance with food, clothing and other necessities to registered program participants.

Grandparents or other relatives responsible for raising a child with special needs can call (404) 310-3452 or email melissaf@isdd-home.org for more information and to become enrolled in Project GRANDD.

Photo link: <https://www.isdd-home.org/project-grandd-gallery>

Generations United press release: [GU Awardee Press Release](#)

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