

# NEWS RELEASE

Mission WV, Inc.  
Frameworks

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: September 8, 2009

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## **2009 NATIONAL GRANDPARENTS DAY**

**There are over 24,000 WV children living in grandparent headed households.**

National Grandparents Day is September 13, 2009. In West Virginia, one has many reasons to celebrate National Grandparents Day. First, one can honor their grandparents who spoil, offer unconditional love, and tons of wisdom to their grandchildren. Secondly, honor the grandparents who are parenting the second time around. There are the grandparents who have raised their own families, and for whatever reason have sole responsibility for their grandchildren. Thirdly, the founder of National Grandparents Day was one of our own, Marion McQuade of Fayette County, WV.

The first Grandparents Day was proclaimed in 1973 in West Virginia by Gov. Arch Moore. In 1978, President Carter signed legislation proclaiming the first Sunday after Labor Day as Grandparents Day. The purpose of Grandparents Day is three fold:

- To honor grandparents
- To give grandparents an opportunity to show love for their children's children
- To help children become aware of the strength, information and guidance older people can offer

According to the 2000 US census there are over 24,000 children in West Virginia living in grandparent headed households. The Relatives as Parents Program in West Virginia offers support to grandparents raising their grandchildren. Services include special events, support groups, workshops, a web page, a list serve, a lending library and resource materials.

For more information about the program or the location of a support group, contact Laura Lou Harbert at Mission WV. Her phone is 304.380.6775 or toll free 1.866.CALLMWV. You can email Laura Lou at [lharbert@missionwv.org](mailto:lharbert@missionwv.org).

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