



The national resource for the support of children who are caring for ill, injured, elderly, or disabled family members.

## National News



### The US needs to support and recognize youth caregivers

Imagine that you are a caregiver for a family member who lives with a significant functional limitation. Your home routine is an effort to keep up with shopping, cleaning, dressing, and feeding. At night, you might be woken multiple times for trips to the toilet or for comforting.

You can't schedule time with friends or leave the home without worrying about your loved one. You might be confused by instructions for administering medication or be physically and emotionally overwhelmed by the work.

Now imagine that you, the caregiver, are fourteen years old.

[The Hill](#)

## Spotlight on...



Founded in 1979, the Intergenerational Center at Temple University strengthens communities by bringing generations together to address critical concerns and create opportunities for lifelong civic engagement. The center's respite support division provides services for families with special needs, children/youth who might be considered at-risk and elders whose health is frail.

With support from Gene and Marlene Epstein's Humanitarian Fund, Temple University is now an AACY Affiliate. Welcome!

## Resource Partner



We are a network dedicated to improving the well-being of youth caregivers and the older adults with complex or chronic health conditions for whom they provide care. The phrase "bookend caregivers" describes this important relationship of caregiving which, like most youth caregiving in the United States, is a largely hidden phenomena. We are working with schools, medical practitioners, and caregiver organizations to understand the priorities and unrecognized needs of bookend caregiving families, and would love to hear from you.

<http://bookendcaregivers.web.unc.edu/>

## Welcome Daniel Polen to the AACY Board



Stan Moss, Danny Polen, Gerry Fallon, Jeff Mueller

Daniel works in the retail Marketing & Operations arena of MyPhoto. He has immersed himself in the mission of AACY and gives his time and energy to being a caregiving youth mentor and volunteer at a number of our agency events. Daniel has strong community involvement and is also

## AACY is a Finalist for a Sapphire Award

The Florida Blue Foundation 2018 Community Health Symposium and Sapphire Awards are scheduled for May 3-4, 2018, at the Gaylord Palms Resort and Convention Center, Kissimmee, Florida. The theme for the 2018 Symposium is Big Issues in Health.



SAPPHIRE  
AWARD

In 2018 the Florida Blue Foundation will celebrate thirteen (13) years of presenting the Sapphire Awards to individuals, programs and organizations in community health. The first set of honorees was in 2005 and since that year, eighty-eight (88) Sapphire Awards, totaling more than \$4.2 million, have been awarded to individuals, programs and organizations from across Florida.

The Sapphire Awards honor, through a competitive external review process, outstanding organizations' effectiveness and services that are distinguished by exemplary leadership, innovation in service delivery and demonstrated successes in community health.

## Health and Human Services News

### America's Caregivers Get a RAISE

New legislation is designed to support America's family caregivers

The federal government is finally taking notice of the plight of family caregivers. President Donald Trump signed the "Recognize, Assist, Include, Support, and Engage Family Caregivers Act" or the "RAISE Family Caregivers Act," into law in January after approval in both houses of Congress. The legislation is meant to create a national strategy to assist family caregivers.

To read more about this Act, click on the link below ["What the New Raise FAMILY Caregivers Act Will Do."](#)

## New Initiative



### MobileHelp® Announces New Initiative with the American Association of Caregiving Youth (AACY)

In honor of National Caregiver Day and caregiving families, MobileHelp®, a leader in mobile Personal Emergency Response Systems (mPERS) and health management solutions, today announced a new program with the American Association of Caregiving Youth® (AACY), designed to provide support to youth caregivers and their families.

To that end, MobileHelp is partnering with the AACY to launch an initiative that will provide both medical alert equipment and service free of charge to 10 families who have a member that may need access to emergency help. This support at home will allow the youth caregivers to attend school, play sports or enjoy some time with friends - knowing their loved one has

actively involved with the Tri-County Humane Society. Most recently, AACY nominated Daniel to be recognized at the Men With Caring Hearts Awards Luncheon.

## Thank You for Your Service



Joe Kraus, Chair & Laureleigh Gould, Treasurer

Laureleigh Gould joined the AACY Board in July of 2012, Prior to that she volunteered with AACY and her family business, QEP, has sponsored and supported all of AACY's fundraising efforts. We thank Laureleigh for serving on our Board and look forward to continuing our relationship in a different capacity.

## In The News And Raising Awareness

### The Florida Pediatrician

Listen to Dr. Ann Faraone discuss youth caregivers on ArtistFirst.com Radio Network with Harriet Tramer from Jan 17, 2018.

### Medical news bulletin

## AACY Joins in Celebration



Sara Poole

Many thanks to Sara Poole of the AACY National Advisory Council who attended the retirement celebration for Gail Hunt in Wahington D.C. and presented her with a gift from AACY. Gail is the Founder of the National Alliance for Caregiving and main author of "Young Caregivers in the US" (2005) the yet only national study that

## New Initiative with Wheels from the Heart

A local reporter was writing a story about caregiving youth and understanding their role in the family. When an adult in the home is ill, elderly or disabled, children step up to help. The reporter was so touched by what he learned, and the struggles that caregiving youth and their families face, that he responded by donating his car to AACY.



Neal Family

Next was the surprise! Jasmine Neal, 15 who cares for her dad, and Kelli, Jasmine's mom, kept the secret of the car. This family that has many needs, is thankful for the car that will alleviate time, cost and stressors of public transportation. The mom works full time and after prioritizing needs, didn't feel a car was within their reach. The generous donation of a car will allow the father, who has a cancerous tumor, dialysis treatment three times a week, and a survivor of two strokes, to have needed transportation.

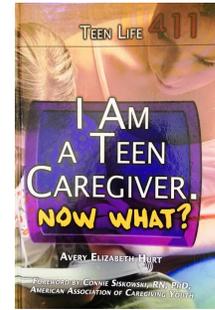
The importance of community partners working together cannot be emphasized enough. Connie Siskowski, RN, PhD, Founder and President of AACY, immediately reached to Steve Muschlitz, CEO of Wheels from the Heart, who put the donated car into tip top shape. Siskowski and Muschlitz appreciate this partnership that allows both nonprofits to transform and improve the lives of families going through tough times.

A strong community depends upon its citizens involvement and partnerships.

[www.aacy.org](http://www.aacy.org)  
<http://wheelsfromtheheart.org>

## Resource Book

Readers will get a frank description of the challenges faced by many teen caregivers. Teens who are immersed in this life already can find resources and organizations for support, as well as sound advice for coping in tough times.



Available through:  
[Amazon](https://www.amazon.com)

[Rosen Publishing](http://www.rosenpublishing.com)

## Opportunities for Helping Youth Caregivers

Tuesday, April 24th, Great Give: a 24 hour on-line giving

Tuesday, May 15th, CYP Graduation Brunch 10am-12pm at Broken Sound Club

August date TBD in the Boca chamber's Festival Days

Saturday, November 3rd, Hearts & "Soles" Makes it to Broadway!

On line donation 24h at [www.aacy.org](http://www.aacy.org)  
Please contact Gerry Fallon at 561.391.7401 or [gerry@aacy.org](mailto:gerry@aacy.org) for more details.

