

Rae Glaser, Co-Director, NYS Kinship Navigator

Rae Glaser has been with the Kinship Navigator program since its inception in 2006, where she started as the first kinship specialist. Since then, she has worked with thousands of caregivers over the phone and via email. In 2009, she became the on site manager of the program in Rochester, NY, and oversees daily operation of the project. She manages the budget, database, website, and liaisons with local kinship program providers across the state. She also acts as the regional navigator for western NY. Ms. Glaser has a dual degree in Psychology and Sociology, and is in the process of completing her Masters Degree in Business Administration. She has been working in non-profit since 2004, and has experience working with domestic violence victims, Child Protective Services, and people with developmental disabilities.

Doris Green, Director, New York State Caregiving and Respite Coalition (NYSCRC)

Doris Green has worked in the Aging and Disability field since 2002. She earned her Master's degree in Public Administration from SUNY Brockport. Her experience includes developing programs in the areas of planning, advocacy and financial services for older adults and caregivers of persons with disabilities. She rejoined Lifespan in January of 2016 as Director of the New York State Caregiving and Respite Coalition. In this role, Doris oversees a coalition of agencies that support caregivers throughout New York State. The coalition identifies and communicates best practices for caregiver and respite programs and takes a lead role in the development of statewide volunteer-based caregiver respite initiative.

Ryan Johnson, MSW, Program Development and Education Specialist, NYS Kinship Navigator

Ryan joined the Navigator in 2014 as an intern and was brought on in an official capacity in 2015. Ryan brings years of experience in direct care work in Child Welfare, as well as experience in legislative and policy work to the Navigator. As one of the Navigator's primary educators, Ryan has given dozens of presentations and trainings around the State, primarily in Central New York and the Mohawk and Hudson Valley Regions, building meaningful collaborations with professionals in these regions. Ryan also works directly with caregivers on a weekly basis, answering our helpline, and has co-led support groups in his region monthly. Ryan also works in a leadership capacity for the NYS KinCare Coalition, helping the State's kinship support network by organizing regular meetings, in-service presentations, and educational events.

Deana Prest, Lifespan Respite Program Director, Family Caregiver Program Coordinator, New York State Office for the Aging (NYSOFA)

Ms. Deana Prest has over 18 years of program experience with aging services, analyzing state and federal legislative policy and determining implications for long term services and supports reform. In addition, Deana has spent many years developing policy and program materials to support state and local management in effective operation of long term services and supports program and grant initiatives. Prior to assuming her duties at the New York State Office for the Aging, she worked as local program coordinator for the Family Caregivers Program (Title III-E) and the HIICAP program for the Rensselaer County, Unified Family Services,

Department for the Aging. As a coordinator for these programs she was responsible for program development, program implementation, outreach initiatives, case management, reporting, and assisting with other programs as necessary that served the elderly and their families in Rensselaer County.

Brenda Reynolds, North Country Kinship Specialist, NYS Kinship Navigator

Brenda Reynolds has been working with the kinship population for over 15 years. She coordinated the Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP) for Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) in Orange County. Brenda retired from CCE in November 2016 but still wanted to continue working with kinship caregivers. The NYS Kinship Navigator provided her the opportunity by offering Brenda a part-time position as a Kinship Specialist answering helpline calls and monitoring e-mail and the website.

Gerard Wallace, Esq., Senior Co-Director, NYS Kinship Navigator

Gerard Wallace, Esq. is the senior co-director of the NYS Kinship Navigator. From 2005 to 2010 he was the project consultant for the AARP Kincare Project and from 2005 to 2014 he was co-chair of the NYS KinCare Coalition. He is a member of the Child Welfare League of America's Policy Commission and past director of Hunter College's Grandparent Caregiver Law Center and of the National Committee of Grandparents for Children's Rights.

In 1999, he authored an *amicus curiae* brief in the United States Supreme Court grandparent visitation case, *Troxel v. Granville* that was featured in the Congressional Digest's Supreme Court Debate. His writings have been published in the New York State Elder Law Attorney, Grand magazine, New England's "Common Ground", the Journal of Gerontological Social Work, West Law's Elder Adviser, the Washington Post's op-ed page, and in the Journal on Family Social Work. He is the co-editor of the 2015 CWLA Kinship Navigator Profiles, the editor of four NYS KinCare Summit reports and of a national kinship summit report, and has published numerous other op-eds and articles..

In 1997, he graduated Magna Cum Laude from Albany Law School, where he authored a Government Law Center policy report on kinship laws in New York State. Since 2000, he has presented continuing legal education training's on kinship law. He's also presented at numerous conferences, summits, commissions, and countless local forums, and advised on the drafting of both federal and state legislation related to kinship care. He has provided leadership for state and national campaigns to raise attention on kinship families

He's the recipient of the 2009 Generations United's "National Kinship Advocate Award", the 2010 Brookdale Foundation "Janet Sainer Award" for outstanding service and dedication to Kincare families, and the 2011 Presbyterian Senior Services' Maggie Kuhn Award for service to elderly New Yorkers. In 2012, his NYS Kinship Navigator program received a Children's Bureau grant to operate a demonstration project, one of only seven awarded nationally. In June 2014, he was appointed public service professor at the U. of Albany School of Social Welfare. For more information, visit his [website](#).