Shine on, grandmothers

In April, the Respite Program had its annual weekend for grandmothers raising their grandchildren, including women who have been coming for respite for years and some new grandmothers, too. They came from Allegany, Cattaragus, Erie, and Niagara Counties. Some were married or with partners. Others were single, divorced or widowed. The youngest grandchild was five years old; the oldest 21. Some families have one grandchild; others multiple grandchildren. One family has great grandchildren living in the home. There is lots of blending, that is, couples with children from previous relationships raising grandchildren and stepchildren.

In spite of the demographics being all over the map, the women had one thing in common—they were all tired—physically and emotionally. Even so, they were wonderful company for one another and the facilitators.

We sat down with the women to ask about the joys and challenges of raising grandchildren, and the women were ready with answers. Clearly they had thought about this a lot. There seemed to be agreement that the court system was not in their corner, something we’ve heard over the years of hosting grandmothers. Even though social services prefers family members take on the

Continued on the next page.
If you’d like some quiet time to yourself for a day and a night, the Respite Program continues to offer our alums access to the Center of Renewal (COR) for an overnight stay. Two or three alums can come at one time. The Program may be able to help with transportation.

The Respite Program will cover the cost of a room for one night and up to four (4) meals. If you’d like to extend your stay, you can pay for a second night and additional meals. This is NOT a Respite Program; you will have to entertain yourself. There is wifi and of course the beautiful grounds for walking. We recommend making a reservation at least two weeks in advance. You can stay during the week or on the weekend as long as COR has a room. If you have a date in mind, call Teresa for a reservation: 716/877-6896.
Respite Program alums enjoyed themselves during their weekend in March. Crafts are always a crowd pleaser. You can see their focus in the photos. Because so many women had experienced loss, we held a brief but moving memorial service one night, followed by a group discussion.

“Sometimes I need only stand wherever I am to be blessed.”

Mary Oliver

“I feel lighter, more clear headed, able to think about me and what I’ve been through and enjoy time away from technology.”

“I am so grateful for this program. Being alone in life, raising my kids, doing everything myself gets to be a lot sometimes, and this was exactly what I needed.”

Send us your new contact info.

Women’s Respite Program
1301 Ferry Ave. Niagara Falls, NY 14301
716/893-0931
womensrespite@yahoo.com
womensrespite.org
facebook.com/stellawomensrespite
Save the date!!!

October 13
Meat Raffle

A fundraiser for the Women’s Respite Program
Details to come.

The Weekend for Women Raising Children on the Autism Spectrum is coming up from September 29 to October 1.

If you’ve been before, expect an application in the mail in August. If you’ve never been and would like to come, call for an application: 716/893-0931.

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