



December 2023



Dear Friend,

The holidays are here, a time when thoughts turn to family, friends, and the traditions we hold dear. But sometimes those stories don't always have a happy beginning.

At Aging Care Connections we meet remarkable people who have needed help to obtain their happy ending. People like Adrian Charniak who is a client in our Grandparents Raising Grandchildren program. This is Adrian's story.



*My story started in 1998 when my grandson Joey was born to a drug addicted mother. Our son, Joey's father, knew that his wife would never be able to raise Joey, so my husband and I began the process of gaining guardianship. It was long, expensive, and emotionally draining, **but we knew we had to save Joey.***

We spent over \$100,000 of our retirement savings on legal fees to make sure we could raise our grandson. His life depended on us. Our son Raymond, who passed away in 2009, depended on us.

*In 2008, when Joey was 10 years old, I read an article in the local paper about a group for grandparents raising grandchildren. The group was facilitated by Aging Care Connections. **It was amazing to have people who understood our situation and provided the support and resources we needed.***

Through the grandparents' support group, we were able to get information on many topics, including guardianship, adoption, nutrition, housing and raising children in today's environment. Most importantly, this group is a safe place where grandparents can vent. In many cases, they have no one to talk to about what is happening in their family.

*Aging Care Connections also provides many necessary resources for grandchildren. Things like backpacks full of school supplies, a Christmas party to provide gifts, coats, boots, clothing and holiday meals. As you can imagine, the cost of things has grown exponentially and there is not a lot of extra money when you are on social security. **This program helped to meet a real need.***



Aging Care Connections has helped me and so many other grandparents raise their grandchildren. My grandson Joey is now 24 and has grown up to be a very strong and active young man. Aging Care Connections has given us a family that now has hope. On behalf of our family and all those who have been helped by Aging Care Connections, we all thank you for your support. You are changing lives each day and for that we are extremely grateful.

In addition to this program, Aging Care Connections works all year long to ensure older adults and their families have the resources and services they need every day. Resources such as adult protective services, healthy eating programs, and caregiver support. Their stories, their traditions, are what drive us and give our work purpose. Adrian is just one of the thousands of older adults and families we work with each year, to make an impact on their families and their communities.

Your financial support will help make sure all older adults in need get the resources, services, and programs vital for aging well. Would you consider increasing your commitment to this amazing organization?



You can help with a one-time contribution, a monthly donation, a matching gift through your employer, or through a bequest. Please go to AgingCareConnections.org to make your donation. A charitable gift is an effective way at year's end to minimize taxes. Your donations make a difference. **We hope we can count on you.**

Happy Holidays!

Desiree M. Scully

Desiree M. Scully, MA
Executive Director